

Conditions of the Present Cotton Crisis in England

Great Britain's Greatest Industry Sadly Hampered for Lack of Raw Material.

LANCASHIRE—England is anxiously looking forward to the new cotton crop from America. The partial failure of last year's crop and the high price demanded for this staple product brought dire disaster to Lancashire industries from which it is hoped the new crop will rescue them.

Statistics tell us that the cotton industry is England's greatest industry; but a visit to Lancashire will bring home the truth of that statement more convincingly than any array of figures. It is only necessary to see the gigantic warehouses of Manchester and the long processions of "hurries" piled up with hydraulically-compressed shirtings and calicoes through its streets, to realize what is the magnitude and importance of the industry of which Manchester is the center. The number of mills in Manchester itself is more comparatively limited, the tendency being to separate the places of production and exchange. How vast and complicated is the process of the disposal of the manufactured article a glance into the huge cotton exchange which stands in the heart of Manchester will show.

Good citizens of Manchester point with pride to the size of the exchange and its 2,000 members who swarm on the floor and overflow into the adjoining streets. Practically, only manufactured cotton is dealt with in Manchester, dealings in



WORKERS IN A LANCASHIRE COTTON MILL.

"spot" cotton—that is, cotton in bales, ready for delivery—being confined to the Liverpool exchange. Liverpool, curiously enough, has never been a manufacturer of cotton, and sees cotton only in transit on its way to and from Manchester in one form or another.

To see cotton in the process of manufacture it is necessary to leave that not very lovely city and journey to towns even less lovely. The visitor can take his choice of 50 good-sized towns within 20 miles of Manchester. He may go to Oldham and find a town the size of Edinburgh quivering with the vibrations from countless mills; he may go to Bolton and find a town larger than Dundee, with mills in almost every street. Ashton-under-Lyne, Heywood, Middleton, Castleton, and Rochdale will give him ample opportunity of a further study of the process of manufacture, if his education is not yet completed. One thing he will find difficult to decide is, which is the ugliest of all these swarming hives of industry. The cotton trade has brought many blessings which exist beyond the prettiest counties in England. How pretty it was may be judged from the few remaining spots of beauty which the cotton mill and coal mine have left untouched.



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In every respect the cotton trade is unique, but perhaps its most striking feature is the relations which exist between employers and employed. In no other industry is there the same mutual confidence and respect between masters and men. Since the great strike, and its settlement by the Brooklands agreement, there has been peace, and the terms of that agreement seem to render any future strike out of the question.

Under that agreement the representatives of the men have access to the books of the employer, and so the sliding scale of wages can be easily determined without friction or suspicion.

Much misconception prevails with re-

gard to the cause of the cotton crisis, and much indiscriminate criticism has been passed on the American speculators in "futures." Although the action of those speculators has been detrimental to the trade, inasmuch as their dealings have tended to unsteady the market and cause unnecessary fluctuation, speculation alone is powerless to fetter a great industry. The causes of the crisis are to be traced back far beyond the handful of gamblers in the New York or the New Orleans "pits." The direct cause of the depression was the shortage in last year's crops. Within recent years there has been a tendency towards shortage, and that tendency was last year accentuated. Even if there had been no larger shortage, sooner or later a crisis would have come. The producing power of the world has grown, and the area of cotton cultivation has not kept pace with the growth of the manufacturing capacity.

In a way the stoppage of the Lancashire mills may in time hurt the price of American cotton. England has for some years been experimenting in a small way with the growing of cotton in its African dependencies. A small degree of success has been attained along the west coast of that continent and also in the Sudan, but so long as the American supply kept the spindles going the experiments attracted but little interest or attention. Now both the manufacturers and the government are clamoring for the development of the cotton

resources of Africa. They are calling the present crisis a sharp lesson in "latent imperialism," and say that had the latent cotton-growing regions of the empire been developed the crisis in the cotton industry could not have occurred. Government officials point to the fact that cotton of good quality has been grown for centuries in West Africa. Cotton, too, of a promising quality has been coming from the Sudan in small quantities, but Lancashire, satisfied with the American supply, and failing to foresee the "lean years," forgot to "think imperially." She has belied her proud boast of anticipating the thought of the rest of England, and her want of foresight has cost her dear. But the lesson has been learned, and with characteristic energy Lancashire has lost no time in taking steps to guard against disaster in the future.

The shortage from which Lancashire is now suffering has perhaps only called attention to a problem which will be solved in time to avert a greater catastrophe to Lancashire and the empire. When the manufacturers of Lancashire found themselves face to face with the crisis that is now before them, with its admirable courage and energy. They instituted general short time—that is to say, it was agreed that the mills, instead of working 64 hours a week, should only work for 48 hours. Recently it has been decided to still further reduce the working hours to 40. The object of this reduction was to reduce the demand for raw cotton and prevent the price from rising beyond a certain point. Had manufacture proceeded at the ordinary rate the price of cotton would have risen to such a point that manufacturers would have been unable to sell their products at a profit, and financial disaster would have overwhelmed Lancashire. Moreover, the reductions of output tended to minimize any of the evil effects of the speculation of the "cotton kings" in New York. The hardships entailed by short time have been borne without a murmur by the men, who are, naturally, the first to suffer from the crisis. Indeed, it is not alone the men who are the sufferers. In all branches of industry women labor play an important part. It is a common thing to find husband and wife and children working practically side by side in the same mill. The workers, both men and women, recognize that the steps which the masters have been compelled to take are in their ultimate interests, and they cheerfully bear the immediate loss for the sake of the future. Normal times are shortly expected to return. In the opinion of those best qualified to judge, the mills, on the arrival of the new crop, will be able to resume full time in October, and the crisis, the severest since the great cotton famine during the civil war in the United States, will be over.

His Credit Was Good.
"What was the price of it?"
"Five dollars."
"D'you pay him net?"
"No; I paid him nit."—Houston Post.

GOSSIP FROM SKANDINAVIA

A Pan-German summer festival was held in Berlin, and the Scandinavians seem to have cut a big swath through the program. The Scandinavian society furnished several musical numbers, and Scandinavian pieces were declaimed. Prof. Forster made an address of welcome especially to the Scandinavians, enthusiastically advocating the Pan-German propaganda and emphasizing that the countries of the North are fostering pure branches of the Germanic tribe; that the genuine Germanic liberty is enjoyed there to a greater extent than elsewhere; and that the great works of art and literature of our times are produced in those countries. The speaker proposed the establishment of a Pan-German association reaching from the Arctic ocean to the Adriatic sea. The professor's fiery plea was received with great applause. Mr. Ostquist, a Swede, responded to the address, expressing the thanks of the Scandinavians for the marked attention paid to them, and he assured the audience that the nations of the North are very kindly disposed towards the Germans.

The Scandinavian fisheries exposition recently held at Marstrand, Sweden, clearly brought out facts which will be valuable lessons to the fisherman of many parts of Scandinavia. A Norwegian who was asked what he had learnt at the exposition gave the following succinct answer: "Well, we have learnt that the Norwegians catch the most fish and make the least money, that the Danes catch the least fish and make the most money, and that the Swedes fish the best and sail the greatest distances." One of the main objects of the exposition was to demonstrate the value of petroleum motors of the most recent types. But a thousand other questions were also asked and answered. Everybody realized that the Danes had made the greatest progress in making the trade profitable by means of co-operation, by facilitating the speedy transportation of the fresh fish to the consumers, and by reducing to a minimum the will effects of the caprices of the weather. The Swedes were perhaps the most eager to learn and to adopt the improvements made by other nations, and very many of them are fortunate enough to own the gear which they use. The Norwegians are a little of everything, but they have their "grahals" with great profits, but also great losses, and most of the profits go to the dealers, so that those who actually catch the fish do not get much for their trouble. The interests of the fishermen who fetch the fish out of the deep and the interests of those who dispose of the goods in the markets of the world, are often antagonistic, and the relation between the two has no striking counterpart in Sweden and Denmark.

The population of Denmark, Norway and Sweden increased 13.20 per cent, 11.55 per cent and 8.23 per cent, respectively during the years 1893-1903. Norway had the largest percentage of emigration, almost 12 out of every 100 persons emigrating to foreign countries during the decade. In Sweden, only 22.3 per cent of the population live in cities, while the corresponding percentages are 23.1 for Norway and 38.6 for Denmark.

By way of comparison it may be mentioned that the urban population of England is 66.2 per cent and that of Germany 47.2 per cent.

SWEDEN.
The movement started a few weeks ago for organizing the farm laborers of southern Sweden into labor unions is hailed with delight by the old labor unions in the cities, and the latter have raised thousands of dollars to encourage the movement. If the land owners fail to make substantial concessions, their employees may join the social-democratic party en masse. So far there is no uniformity of action among the land owners, some of them yielding on this point, others on that, and some not yielding at all.

Some spaces has already been devoted to the new textbook which Prof. Johanson of Lund is going to write for the religious instruction in the public schools of Sweden. But the subject is of such importance that we do not hesitate to return to it whenever a new phase of it is discussed in the Swedish press. Prof. Johanson, in his closing lecture of the catechism at the Lund summer school, laid great stress on the importance of making the necessity of a virtuous life very prominent in the new book. This indicates that the purely emotional side of a Christian's life will not appear to be of secondary moment in the new book. The author does not expect his book to crowd out Luther's catechism, but he wants it to be used as a religious primer. He has not stated what form his discourse will take; but it is supposed that narratives will take the place of the questions and answers of the ordinary catechism.

The lingon (cloud berry) crop of goods and the blossoms were destroyed partly by frost, partly by drought last spring.

Bishop Rohde was asked for an opinion on the custom of practicing on the target on Sundays, and he replied that the efforts of the voluntary rifle clubs are praiseworthy from a patriotic point of view, and for he one did not think that the Sunday was any too good for such efforts.

Johan Bergman may be a candidate for grand chief templar at the meeting of the town, grand lodge of the I. O. G. T. next year.

While a thunder storm was passing over Thornorsborg the grown people stepped out from a house for a few seconds. A blinding flash of lightning and a deafening clap of thunder struck the house, and when they entered the house the child was found dead, also a kitten with which the child had been playing, both having been killed by the thunderbolt.

A horse-flesh restaurant will soon be opened in Stockholm. Horse-flesh and fish will be the only animal food served at this place. The price of a dish of horse-flesh, with potatoes, bread and milk, will be about 14 cents.

The stockholders of the Krag-Jorgensen rifle company was dissolved by a unanimous vote. This step was due to the fact that the United States government no longer procures Krag-Jorgensen rifles.

The work of excavating the remains of the Viking ship at Jonsberg is progressing, and the search of the burial chamber is completed. Among the most interesting objects found are two posts, on which heads of animals are carved.

Captain Ingebrigtsen, who has just returned from a whaling expedition to the Arctic seas, caught 70 whales. Such enormous quantities of sprat have been caught lately that the Stovanger canneries are unable to consume the fish. Herring, on the other hand, is scarce.

The dwelling house at Skjagemoen, Vaka, north of Trondhjem, burned down in the night. The fire started in the house the child was found dead, also a kitten with which the child had been playing, both having been killed by the thunderbolt.

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Many of the Stanc farm laborers who went on a strike have returned to work, and some of them have signed contracts not to be members of labor unions.

General G. A. Brakenhielm, commander of the first division of the Swedish army, has expressed himself in favor of the continuation of the sale of beer on the military grounds of Sweden.

The Separator Manufacturing Company of Stockholm has discharged 80 men because certain parts of separators for the American market are to be made in America. The company made change in order to become more independent of labor troubles in Stockholm.

It was claimed by certain parties that Minister of Foreign Affairs Lagerheim would resign at a recent cabinet session on board the Drott, the king's pleasure steamer, while it was anchored at Marstrand. But that matter was not brought up at all. The Morgenpost states that Lagerheim is going to remain in office until the riksdag has acted upon the proposition to establish a separate consular service for Norway.

John Froberg, of Finspong, who prints more envelopes and fancy cards than any other firm in Scandinavia, has celebrated the 25th anniversary of the establishment of his business. During these 25 years he has sent out 750,944 packages and money orders through the mails, and 25,395 packages and boxes by rail. The establishment now employs about 100 persons. About \$80,000 have been paid out for advertisements. Mr. Froberg gave a supper to 300 persons on his twenty-five year jubilee, and a souvenir in the form of a costly album was presented to him.

The infernal machine which almost killed Mr. Lundin, the manager of a factory in Stockholm, was not completely destroyed by the explosion, and what remains of it indicates that it had been made by a man who has had the advantage of a scientific education. Otherwise the affair is said to be shrouded in mystery.

Some Finlanders have been contemplating the purchase of the famous Ljung estate in Ostergotland as a retreat for the notorious Frau Helene von Mecklenburg, is ready to make a formal transfer of the property.

NORWAY.
The postponement of the necessary steps towards the establishment of a separate consular service for Norway is causing ill-concealed discontent in Norway.

A number of Henrik Ibsen's letters will now be published in Berlin and Copenhagen. The Neue Rundschau contains interesting fragments from his letters to Georg Brandes, and these are discussed by the German press. The Berlin Lokalanzeiger says that they complete the picture of the great man and poet as he appears in his dramatic works, and they also give some new features. The Berlin Tageblatt claims that the letters will cause a greater stir than a new Ibsen drama would have done. In these letters appear with his mind's glaring lucidity, with his uncompromising honesty in handling great questions and with the careful refinement of the man of the world, behind all of which there is warmth of feeling. Friends and foes alike must admit the earnestness of his thoughts and the monumental clearness of his expressions.

The letters embrace the time from 1860 to 1898, and illustrate the development of the poet during that period. One of the letters Ibsen says: "I experience the sensation of continual development. Where I stood when I wrote my different books there now stands a tolerably compact multitude."

In a letter dated Muenchen, 1888, the following occurs: "The national consciousness is dying out, and in its place comes tribe consciousness. I have at least passed through this development. I commenced by feeling like a Norwegian; I have developed into a Scandinavian; and now I am a member of the Germanic tribe." In a letter dated Kristiania, 1897, he writes: "I would like to settle down near Oresund, at a free and open place, where I could see all the sails of the world, and stay, in the different meanings of that word, and all sources of disturbance are plugged up tight. My dear Brandes, a man does not live in vain twenty-seven years out there among the islands of the North Sea. I have a liberating conviction of a great, liberal and liberating future."

Consul Thorsbjorn Waage exported 60,000 barrels of herring from Stavanger and Haugesund to Archangel, Russia, during the past season.

A woman living in Kongraden, Drammen, was anxious to keep a pig. But this could not be permitted on account of the sanitary rules of the city. Then she wrote a strong letter to the mayor, asking him to interfere in behalf of herself and her intended pig. The king sent the letter to the authorities, and when they had made an investigation they returned it to the writer with the information that there was no remedy for her case. This is the way she found out that the king is not so strong as she took him to be.

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His Son Was Alive.
The body taken from the river in St. Paul is not that of Chris G. Urness. Urness is alive and hearty. He is working in a Minneapolis boarding house.

The body was identified by John Urness of Mondovi, Wis., as that of his son Chris who came to the Twin Cities during the fair week for the purpose of seeing the fair. The absence of certain birth-marks was accounted for by the partial decomposition caused by the water.

While the father thought the body taken from the river was that of his son he did not stop his search for him thinking there was a possibility of some mistake. What was his joy later to discover that his boy was still with the living, and working in Minneapolis well and hearty, while for two days the aged father was weeping over the supposed body of his son.

MINNESOTA NEWS.

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Held Up Gambling House.
As Patrolman James Nolan rushed up to the door of the Ansoner gambling house in Minneapolis, where he had been called by a shooting affray, a masked man, who had just held up a policeman, ran out and without waiting an instant, raised his revolver and shot the policeman two times.

Turning from his prostrate victim he saw Frank McCormick running toward the door of the gambling house, and then as McCormick placed a revolver against the highwayman's head he broke away and escaped, while the other snapped a broken revolver.

The shooting occurred at the entrance to the gambling room over McCormick's saloon.

The place, which is the finest equipped in the city, was filled with men at the faro tables, roulette wheels and poker games.

The highwayman secured only \$13. Policeman Nolan was not seriously hurt.

Lumber Shipments.
Shipments of lumber out of Lake Superior ports last month were 150,308,000 feet, and for the season to date they have been 493,324,000. This is in comparison with 123,443,000 and 576,118,000 for the corresponding periods of the two years.

The later opening of navigation, and the fact that business commenced in 1904 it has been it has been greater than for the same period in 1903. Shipments are going along rapidly from all ports and will make up a good deal of the losses of the early part of the year, but the total cannot be expected to reach 1,000,000,000 feet.

Four-ninths of shipments of the lake are from Duluth and Two Harbors. Ashland comes next.

Cases are Ended.
If the motion offered by the county attorney when the case against A. A. Ames was called, is granted by the judges of the district court, the former mayor of Minneapolis will never be brought to trial upon a corruption charge. The motion, was in brief, to nolle all the indictments now standing against the ex-mayor, ten in number.

One of the indictments is for offering a bribe to a police officer, another for conspiracy, another for extortion, and seven for receiving a bribe. Mr. Boardman in moving that the indictments be dismissed, gave full reasons.

Precarious accident.
Arthur Smith of Lockhart met with a precarious accident and it was at first thought the accident would prove fatal. Together with some neighbors he was preparing to go hunting and just before starting they drove up to a shock of oats and were going to throw some bundles for feed. Smith threw out the pitchfork and then jumped out of the wagon. In some way the times were upturned and in jumping out of the wagon Smith landed on the fork, the tines entering his body full length, taking two men to extract the fork.

The chances are favorable for his recovery but the accident is a very serious one and it will be some time before Mr. Smith will be able to be around again.

News in Brief.
The Northern Pacific received four tourist cars of a new type. They are larger than those now in use and the interior furnishings are much finer than usually found in such cars.

Thomas H. Loyd of the firm of T. H. Loyd & Son, of Fairbault, is the oldest hardware merchant in Minnesota. He came to this state from Tompkins county, New York, in 1853.

Not a democrat in Washington county filed for legislative, commissioner or other county office nor for city treasurer.

Max Voelk, aged 78, was found dead in his room at Monticello. Death was caused by heart failure.

The new No. 4 wheat grade established by the state grain inspection department was put into force at the Minneapolis chamber of commerce. The new grade is between No. 3 and rejected, and was made because of the damage to this year's crop. The qualifications call for a weight test of from 49 to 53 pounds.

ROUND ABOUT THE STATE.

The Mower county fair has two thousand entries.
More than 1,500 homeseekers pass through St. Paul.
The body of a Minneapolis man is found in the river.

Electric storm causes considerable damage at St. Paul.
A Minneapolis chess player wins mid-summer tournament.
A food inspector in Minneapolis is nearly mobbed by women.

Harold P. Bend wins the golf championship of the town and Country club.
Congressman McClary challenges R. J. Miller to a series of joint debates.
Mrs. Ada Updegraff of St. Paul is burned severely by the explosion of gasoline.

The state normal board of review grants licenses to fifty-three to teach in Minnesota.
The commissioners expect that the new capitol will be ready for use on the first of the year.
Henry Weingarth of St. Paul is pounded to unconsciousness by highwaymen and robbed of \$100.

Bemidji has a new town pump capable of lifting several million gallons of water in a very short time.
A state fair visitor, supposed to be Orono Colrud of Rosholt, Wis., is killed by a St. Paul street car.
Extensive improvements are being made by the Great Northern on its tracks, yards and depot at Fosston.

There is a fight on to a finish between the railroads entering Minneapolis over the question of shipping charges.
A shed filled with grain on the farm of William Corcoran, near Witoka, was struck by lightning and was destroyed.
The big financial venture of former Senator Charles A. Towne and his eastern associates in the Beaumont oil fields has burst.

Hastings will hold a street fair and carnival on Oct. 5, 6, 7 and 8. The T. C. Cash Carnival company of St. Paul will furnish attractions.
St. Paul carried off the honors in the market garden display this year, defeating the Minneapolis market gardeners by a score of 896 to 643.
The rails spread under the weight of a logging train south of Menahga and a bad wreck was the result. All traffic was delayed about eighteen hours.

Peter Olson, county commissioner of Sibley county, lost his barn, two horses, hay, feed and harness by fire. The total loss is \$3,000; insurance, \$1,000.
R. Reiser, a brakeman for the Burlington railway, was mangled to death under the wheels of a freight train below the fish hatchery, St. Paul.

In attempting to put on a belt while the machine was in motion, Henry Kahler, a threshing man near Cottonwood, had his arm broken and scalp cut.
Search is continued without result for the body of James Mearns, who was killed in the acetylene explosion which wrecked a Cass Lake building.

Inspired by the success of bandits who prey upon the country folk, a Minneapolis progress arrived here with a revolver and held up Albert Anderson, a stranger.
Under instruction from the county commissioners, the county surveyor has re-surveyed school district No. 123 of the town of Plymouth, known as the Bass Lake school.

Several well-known Minneapolis merchants reported to the police that they had been duped by a pretty young woman, who had an unlimited supply of counterfeit bills.
While Sam Larson, a Golden Valley milkman, enjoyed an afternoon nap at his home, sneak thieves invaded the house and separated Sam from a roll of bills amounting to \$139.

The latest from delivery carriers appointed for Minnesota routes: Courtland, route one, R. W. Zimmerman; Eden Valley, route one, E. Welliver; Long Lake, route one, J. H. Amlaw.
A ruling has been made by the state insurance department that all companies writing tornado insurance must state in the policies the insurable value of the buildings insured.

A. P. Blagik, deputy game warden, has been engaged for two weeks in putting back into the Mississippi thousands of fish fry that have been caught by the falling waters and left in pockets.
It is now stated that the committee which has been dealing with the Cretaceous library site is an illegal body, and a new one will have to be appointed and all the work be done over again.

From reports received of the progress on the new Soo line road to Winnipeg it is expected that the line will be completed and through train service started between St. Paul and Winnipeg by Nov. 1.
John Williams and John Higgins, who are wanted on a charge of burglarizing J. W. Berg's hardware store in Little Falls, two weeks ago, have been arrested at New Hampton, Iowa, and will be brought back.

Mrs. Charles Edison, residing about a mile and a half north of Pine Island village, committed suicide by hanging. She made a loop out of some cloth and fastened it to a doorknob. In a semi-sitting position she then strangled to death.
Former Postmaster E. E. Price of Marey postoffice, at Highland, has been arraigned on the charge of sending inaccurate statement of the number of stamps cancelled at his office with a view to increasing his compensation. Mr. Price furnished a bond and was released from custody.

Dr. Ohage reports that 185,886 people bathed at Harriet Island, St. Paul, during the season.
Buried for six hours under several thousand tons of ore, 150 feet below the surface, Joseph Stobloz, Henry Krenzig and John Keswice, all Finland miners working in a drift at No. 2 shaft of the Adams mine, are today thanking Providence that their lives were not crushed out instantly.

In the history of mining on the Mesaba range, no case has ever come to public attention which more closely resembled a miracle than this one.
The state fair managers may ask the legislature to appropriate money for a stadium in which to hold the cattle shows.

From the Inside of a Torpedo Boat Destroyer

What Happens on One of These Mighty Engines of Naval Warfare When in Action.

HE wasps of the ocean; such are the torpedo boats and torpedoes of the world. These wasps of the Japanese and Russian navies have played such a prominent part in the present war that they have aroused a new and keener interest in themselves on the part, not only of the naval authorities of the world, but of the lay public. This interest is reason enough to warrant the printing of an article describing these infernal machines of the deep.

Let us begin as she first puts to sea in quest of her prey, and outstrip everything that is going her way. If it should be your privilege, as it has been mine, to be aboard, you feel the joy and pride of the young commander into whose keeping a destroyer is given, because you know that under your feet is a ship which is the swiftest, most destructive and most merciless of all the ships of war that float.

Very soon you get into the open sea, rushing past wobbling lightships and slow-going craft which you overhaul so quickly that they appear to lie inert on the water. The destroyer seems to sense the battle with the weather from afar. She pants eagerly on.

From time to time a wave slaps heavily against the bow, and you feel the shiver of it throughout the ship's frail length. A destroyer is flexible in her construction and is built to "give" to the seas. After all, she is simply a thin skin of steel on a light framework, and sometimes you can see her ribs showing through their covering, like those of a lean, sinewy and enduring runner.

By this time you are in oilskins—which you need badly—and when you proceed along the deck at all you do so crabwise, and grip with tenacious affection anything that will save you from a fall. You have tumbled instinctively into the way of destroyers, which is one demanding that you should put all dignity and stiffness aside, and obey all her whims and fancies, which are many. Her purpose is to hurry and oppress, and, being a ruthless mischievous, she harries most those who serve her best.

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of life which seems to represent the very lust of destruction.
In the stokehold an astonishing revelation awaits you, especially if you have had experience of other similar dens. I have been in the stokeholds of a good many steamers, from a Cunarder—in which I gasped and shivered for nearly two hours before resigning my post—to a North sea trawler, and have marvelled that men could endure it and live. I expected the destroyer's stokehold to be a perfect oven; and, lo! it was quite cool and comfortable, and marvelous in its devices for saving labor and safeguarding life and limb.

She is doing her top speed, and you may know it by the mad rush of the water past you, the metallic rattle which almost deafens you, the crazy trembling of the deck beneath you, and the furious belching of the smoke from the funnels, to say nothing of the showers of



LOOKING FORWARD THROUGH A PORTHOLE IN THE CONNING TOWER.

fine cylinders which are shot out of the stacks and are carried overboard or fall in myriads on the deck.
In the brain of the ship—appropriately situated in her head—is the commander. This brain is the conning-tower—that circular structure under the forward gun-platform, just ahead of the bridge, which is more than likely to escape the attention of the enemy's visitor to a destroyer. It is made of armoured plate thick enough to resist rifle bullets and small missiles, and just large enough to hold two men and the necessary machinery for guiding the ship.