

JOHN BANKS AND HIS MONEY

Charities Going On For 200 Years

LAW CASE BEGUN IN 1725

Strange ghosts from the past centuries sometimes flit through the solemn Court of Chancery.

Memories of kind-hearted John Banks, the Master of the Haberdashers Company over 200 years ago, were recalled for an hour or two before Justice Farwell in a recent petition by the Company.

By his will in 1716 John Banks gave all his estate in Westminster on trust to pay a sum of £220 a year in annuities and charities. The property consisted of leaseholds involving mortgage and other complicated arrangements. In 1725 a question concerning the trust came before the Court of Chancery, which took action several times during the eighteenth century; and when a mortgage of £10,000 was repaid in 1792 an order of the Court directed the trustees to pay into Court the balance of the income from that sum so that it should accumulate as provision for expiration of leases.

Various changes have since been made in the investment of the sum in Chancery, and in recent years the annual income from the trust fund has been £1543. The Haberdashers Company came to the conclusion that a larger yield was possible from the fund, and they have persuaded the Judge to pay it over to them again. He consented, subject to certain stipulations.

So, after 200 years the guardianship of the estate reverts to the body which originally held it.

NEW MILLS FOR OLD

Lettuces and Tomatoes in the Weaving Shed

Many a factory has started in the back room of a cottage; and we believe there is one well on the way at the moment.

It is in Great Harwood in Lancashire, where Mr Alan Robinson, finding himself without work after five years at Blackburn's Technical College, and not wishing to wait, like Mr Micawber, for something to turn up, collected enough old parts to start a small weaving apparatus in his room.

His silk table-runners, scarves, and other dainty things sold as if they had no competitors in Lancashire, and soon Mr Robinson had to move to larger premises. He found a derelict garage, and now has three modern looms running by electric power. Towels are now his speciality; and, strange to say, his difficulty is not so much how to get orders as to know who to refuse.

The preparation machinery consists of a gramophone motor and turntable with an old sewing-machine. Two shuttles resting on the turntable give the threads the required twist, while the sewing-machine does the actual winding.

It is strange to read of factories growing up at this time, when so many fully-fledged ones are derelict and dismantled. Only a short time ago we were telling of the different uses to which derelict cotton mills had been put; now we hear of one in Queen Street, Darwen, where thousands of tomatoes and lettuces are being grown most successfully by old mill-hands, who have turned the weaving shed into a market garden.

LONGER LINERS

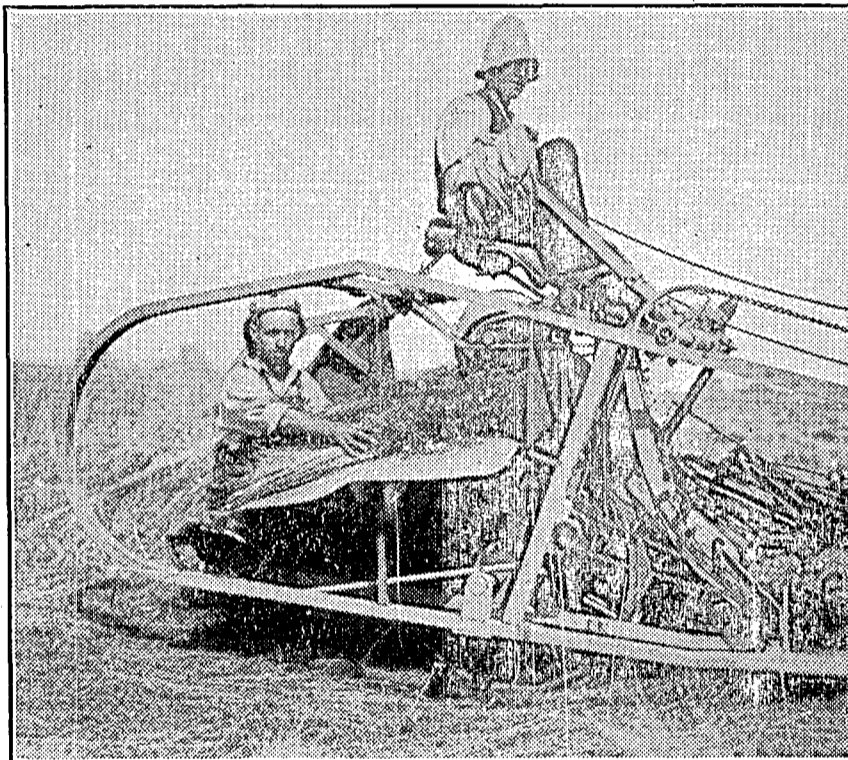
Four big Atlantic liners are to be lengthened each by forty feet.

In spite of the increase in size of the ships the alteration in the shape of their bows will make them travel two knots faster with the same engine power. The work will cost so much that it will only be saved after four years running of the ships, and this only if the present price of fuel is maintained.

THE KING'S FLAX HARVEST



Harvesting the flax



A close view of the reaping machine



A boy finds a shady place

The flax has lately been harvested on the King's estate at Sandringham. The crop is taken to King's Lynn and shipped to Belfast, where it is made into linen.

MOVING PICTURES OF MOVING FEET

Curious Work in the Shoe Business

Some curious work is going on in the boot and shoe business.

The British boot and shoe trades have a special Research Association, and its director told the other day of the work that is to be done with a moving platform on which a man can walk without moving from the one spot.

His feet and their movements, with and without boots or shoes, are to be photographed in motion; and from a study of the kinematograph pictures it is hoped to learn a great deal about the structure of footwear and its possible improvements.

A most ingenious measuring machine has been invented by which the shape of a foot can be recorded with great accuracy. The 'geometry' of the foot is plotted as a diagram, and measurements are made on little recording clocks, which tell the expert bootmaker a great deal more than he could get to know formerly about foot formation.

A DOG—BUT A HERO

The R.S.P.C.A. has fastened a silver-mounted collar, inscribed with the name of Bunty, about the neck of a mongrel dog, a cross between a spaniel and an Irish terrier.

Bunty lives at Childwall, near Liverpool. His mistress is Miss Beatrice Williamson, who lives in Well Lane; and Bunty is happy now, because Miss Williamson is well enough to take him for walks again.

It was while she was preparing dinner one day that the great deed was done. Miss Williamson fell in a sudden faint against the fire. Her clothing caught alight, and most of it was burned off when Bunty took a paw in the proceedings.

He dragged her away from the fire, he tore at the burning dress, and he was patting out the smouldering portions when help came.

Bunty was burned, but he didn't mind that. What he minded was being taken away from his mistress and having to be parted from her for five weeks while she was in hospital.

But now she is home again, and Bunty is a happy dog once more.

THE PIT PONY'S PORTRAIT GALLERY

The C.N. welcomes a pamphlet issued by the Mining Association of Great Britain called the Truth About Pit Ponies.

There is nothing new to the C.N. in this, for we have never contended that pit ponies are other than well cared for, and we have often given examples of the pride some miners take in their charges.

Our contention has always been that the sooner haulage in our mines is mechanised the better; for we do not believe that it is making a right use of animals to send a pony underground, however well treated there.

We are, however, glad to see the pamphlet, for it assures us that the Mining Association has this question well in mind, and that until mechanisation takes place the pit ponies will be well cared for.

The splendid illustrations in this pamphlet are certainly good proof of good treatment.

MR CROW, ENGINEER

The tall poles for the wires for overhead electric transmission seem to have taken the fancy of the crow, for not only have nests been found attached to the overhead lines by pieces of wire, but the crows have in some cases actually used bits of wire in the construction of their nests! In some cases pieces of wire nearly a fifth of an inch in diameter have been used.