

SHIP'S HUGE CHAIN

2000 Lives Depending
on a Link

THE CHEERFUL SMITHY

Under the spreading chestnut tree
The village smithy stands;
The smith a mighty man is he,
With large and sinewy hands.

Sir William Ellis gave a thrilling lecture the other day at the Iron and Steel Institute on the modern development of the blacksmith's art. The village blacksmith who forges a horseshoe is carrying on the same art as the ten-thousand-ton hammer used in the forging of giant steel crank-shafts for mammoth ships.

The terrible effects that might result from a careless blacksmith's work were instanced by the importance of every link in the chain of a ship's anchor. The anchor chains of the Lusitania were 330 fathoms long—nearly 2000 feet—and the massive links made each chain weigh 125 tons. Every link had to be carefully welded at the proper temperature.

Such work as this requires infinite care, for in no case is the saying truer that the chain is only as strong as the weakest link. On every single link in such a chain the safety of a giant vessel and the lives of perhaps 2000 people may depend.

Replacing the Anvil

The earliest blacksmith's forges known were holes in the side of hills, and these were known as "bloomeries." Then, to make the little fire hotter by means of a draught of air, men found out how to use a jet of air from a bladder of goat skin; and in the fourth century the Romans invented the bellows.

Today huge ingots of steel are heated in furnaces, and the blacksmith's anvil and hammer have been replaced by the hydraulic forging press, where the hammer wielded by the strong arm of the sturdy smith becomes, instead, a hammer equal in weight to one of thousands of tons.

But, in spite of the hydraulic press, the village smithy continues to serve its useful purpose, and will do so as long as horses are used. There is one other use for the blacksmith: he is always ready to mend a child's broken hoop, and so the C.N. hopes that he and his jolly smithy will never disappear.

A NOTE FROM KUALA LUMPUR

What Things are Like in the
F. M. S.

One of our readers, who lives at Kuala Lumpur, the capital of the Federated Malay States, complains that we have not yet given any information about her adopted country, so she repairs the omission.

The people are Malays, Chinese, Indians, and Eurasians. The climate is very hot, but she likes Malaya much.

The industries are tin mining and rubber planting, but trade is very bad just now.

She and her younger brother go to the Chinese Girls' School, but her older brother goes to the Methodist Boys' School, where there are over 700 boys and he is the only European.

She encloses this public notice by the Mosquito Destruction Board about the particular kind of mosquito, the anopheles, which produces malaria. Thus:

If you have malaria in your household anopheles are almost certainly breeding near. Anopheles breed in streams, pools, and swamps. They do not breed in houses. When you find an anopheles in your house inform the Health Officer, who will search the vicinity and endeavour to get rid of them. Remember, 48 per cent. of the deaths from all causes in Federated Malay States were due to malaria, and if you do not kill the anopheles the anopheles will probably kill you.

Is it not a fine example of plain talking to simple people?

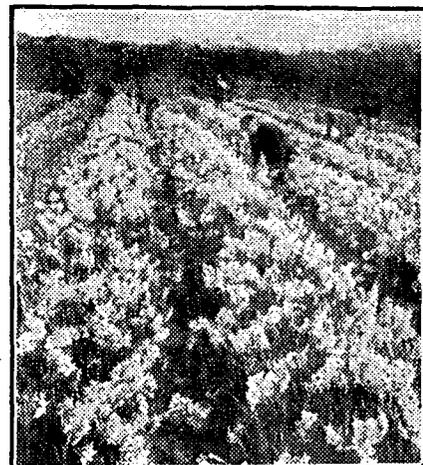
IN THE ISLANDS OF FLOWERS



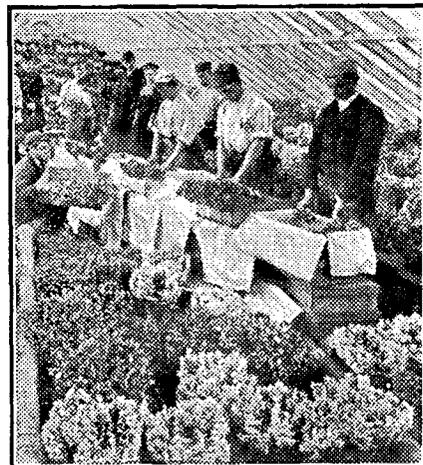
Schoolgirls planting bulbs in boxes



Girls and boys helping to harvest the Arum lilies



Gathering the jonquils



Packing the flowers for market



Taking a boat-load of flowers to the steamer

The Scilly Islands are the Garden of Britain, where millions of beautiful flowers are grown all the year round and sent to England. Flower growing is the main industry of the islands, and in these pictures we see the people busily engaged in gathering and preparing the flowers for the markets

BEYOND CIVILISATION

LIFE AS IT IS IN SOME
PLACES

The Camel Raiders of the Desert

TRAVELLING FRIENDS WHO
FOUGHT LIKE FOES

We forget sometimes, we who live amid all the conveniences and complications of an elaborately civilised society, that there are parts of the world where the conditions of primitive existence still prevail.

Only a few days' journey from the British Isles there happened the other day an exciting chase after a party of camel thieves. It was on the edge of the great Sahara Desert. From an Algerian settlement robbers belonging to another and a wilder tribe, the Touaregs, stole 150 camels and drove them across the sand as hard as they could.

Pursuit was made as soon as the loss had been discovered, but the raiders had a good start, and it was a long time before they were overtaken. Then they put up a fight. But they were no match for the Algerians, and were routed; the camels being recovered.

Tell-Tale Cloud of Dust

Farther away, in the mountains of Persia, the fear of robbers led not long ago—as was told by a lecturer to the Central Asian Society—to an amusing adventure, which might, however, have had painful consequences.

Two British surveyors were planning the track of a railway which will open up trade in grain with Persian farmers, and when they got into the mountains they were warned that bandits might attack them, and were given a dozen soldiers to protect them.

One day the party split up into two sections. Now that there were only half a dozen soldiers to each surveyor, a sharper look-out was kept, and when one party saw a cloud of dust, and then horsemen galloping, they made sure the robbers were upon them.

Strange Discovery

So they galloped also, and when they got to a sheltered position they dismounted and began to fire volley after volley, the other horsemen replying with equal energy.

However, they happened to be at a great distance from one another, about two miles, so that none of the bullets took effect, and this was fortunate, for there were no robbers in the neighbourhood at all; the two sections of the surveying party were exchanging fire, each supposing the other to be bandits!

How often in this world friends are mistaken for enemies!

THE SUGAR-CANE HOUSE

Something New from Chemistry

One of the great romances of modern science is the way in which the chemist is finding uses for waste materials.

A year or two ago half a million tons of sugar cane represented the annual refuse from the sugar factories of Louisiana; today houses are being built with a new material which can now be made of this waste sugar cane as the result of two years of experimental work.

Hitherto, after the sweet juice has been pressed out of the cane, the pulpy stalk has been burned, but by this new process it is sterilised and then beaten to a pulp. It is then compressed by a special machine, which rolls it out into sheets a sixth of a mile long.

Three or four bungalows can be built out of each one of these enormous sheets, and the peculiar quality of the sugar-cane house is that it is proof against both sound and heat, and so provides a quiet home which is cool in summer and warm in winter.