CLIPPENS OIL COMPANY—THIS AFTERNOON.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Clippens Oil Company (Limited) was held to-day in the Company's Office, 27 Royal Exchange-square—Mr. William Mackinnon, chairman, presiding.

The directors' report, which has already been published in the *Citizen*, was held as read.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that it gave a full account of the affairs of the company, and the troubles encountered during the past year. When they submitted their report last year they had gone through a long and protracted strike, and they had in addition an inflow of water into the pits, which had a very adverse influence on the year's operations. Happily this difficulty had been overcome, though at considerable expense and large capital outlay. The works were now in full operation with a fair outlook for the future. The output of shale in March, which amounted to 25,000 tons, has since been fully maintained, and when the water lying in the lower levels of the pit was removed, the capacity of output could be raised much beyond requirements. It was difficult to estimate accurately the loss arising from the water during the year, but it was serious. The second adverse cause had been the fall in prices. The difference in the fall of paraffin wax alone amounted to £22,064, but against this there was a gain of £4724 in lubricating oils, &c., leaving a net decrease, as compared with the previous year, of £17,340 in prices. Notwithstanding the difficulty arising from the water, it was satisfactory to find, that even with the drop of about £18,000 in the prices obtained for their products, the year's trading operations showed somewhat better results. It pointed to the savings and improvements that had been introduced aggregating a large sum. Further savings were anticipated in the coming year, as compared with the past, arising through the working under the normal state of things. The total cost of retorting at Pentland during the past year amounted to 19·364 pence per ton; the cost during the past month had been reduced to 16·9 per ton, and this represented a saving of £3200. At Clippens refinery the cost, owing to the irregular supplies of crude, was high—amounting to 1·393 pence per gallon. It was now reduced to a trifle over a penny per gallon, which included all refining charges, wax-refining and tar fuel used. This should give a saving of about £5000 in a year of steady through-put. The pit costs for shale have been high, and the anticipated savings during the current year shall be considerable. The Straiton refinery continued to show a low rate, and not much could be looked for in further economy, the cost being under 1d per gallon. In the matter of cheaper barrels and savings in general outcost changes from a steady throughput of 300,000 tons, the normal quantity, instead of 200,000 done last year, considerable saving may be expected. To obtain these results the strictest economy in all departments are and have been necessary. Though the price of products have fallen during the past four years about 51 per cent., the rate of wages remain about the same. The rise in prices still left the prices considerably below those ruling three or four years ago. The stocks of oil [illegible]

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

WALTER CRANE.—Mr. Walter Crane is said to be unable to sleep unless the embroidered design on his pillow-case is of sufficient artistic merit to satisfy his sense of fitness.

ILLNESS OF MR. JOHN ROCHE.—It is stated that Mr. John Roche, of Woodford, who is undergoing sentence under the Crimes Act in Galway Jail, is seriously ill.

RHODA BROUGHTON.—One of the strongest admirers of "Robert Elsmere" is Miss Rhoda Broughton. The other day she wrote a most enthusiastic letter to Mrs. Ward.

THE PROFITS OF "TIT-BITS."—Mr. George Newnes, M.P., the proprietor of *Tit-Bits*, has recently bought a house and grounds on the most elevated part of Wimbledon-common for £30,000.

FORGERY BY A BANK MANAGER.—At the Leeds Assizes yesterday, George Chappell was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment for forgery and defrauding the Carlinghow Penny Bank, which he managed.

LORD CARNARVON.—Lord Carnarvon has just returned from his tour in the colonies, looking much better and stronger for his long absence. He was away more than eight months, and during that time travelled more than 30,000 miles.

MR. GRANT ALLEN.—Mr. Grant Allen, who is in danger of his health being seriously injured by overwork, has just returned from a sojourn in Algiers, the benefits from which are not likely, it would seem, to be of a permanent character.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN AND TITHES.—Mr. Chamberlain writes to a correspondent:—"I entirely agree with your conclusion that the tithes are national property and ought, after fair compensation to life and vested interests, to be applied for national purposes."

MURDERING A SWEETHEART.—A Coroner's jury at Liverpool, yesterday, returned a verdict of wilful murder against William Fowler, who was committed to the Assizes charged with killing his paramour, Sarah Ellen Halsall, by strangling her with a silk handkerchief.

JEWS IN JERUSALEM.—Jerusalem is rapidly becoming again the city of the Jews. In 1830 there were, probably, not more than 5000 Jews there; now there are more than 30,000. The recent persecutions in Russia have led thousands of them to seek a home in their ancient city.

HARBOUR SHED ACCOMMODATION AT DUNDEE.—Yesterday, the Works Committee of the Dundee Harbour Trustees agreed to extend the shed accommodation at Camperdown Dock at the cost of £1450. The proposed extension will give a total floor area at the dock of about 33,500 feet.

"THE LEAVENWORTH CASE."—Anna Katherine Green, the author of the celebrated novel, "The Leavenworth Case," is living in a bright and comfortable house in Buffalo, where she is engaged in writing a new detective story. Her famous book has now reached a circulation of 250,000 copies, and still finds a ready sale.

ON THE TOP OF THE PROVOST.—Bailie Lawson having twice found fault during the Hawick Town Council meeting on Tuesday night with the action of Provost Milligan, first, in reference to the Highland Society's Show, and again in regard to the fire engine, the Provost exclaimed—"It's a most singular thing that Bailie Lawson is always on my top about paltry things of that [illegible]

[illegible]

...were of no value. It is further stated that the reports with regard to the increased watchfulness of the police over the safety of the Prince of WALES and Mr. BALFOUR are unfounded.

At to-day's meeting of Town Council, a deputation of University Professors, headed by the Principal, urged the Council to withhold their consent to the St. Mungo College Bill. In the course of some remarks, Dr. CAIRD declared that, if passed into law, the bill would throw the whole of the Scottish University system into confusion, and would in many ways be detrimental to the city and the country.

Though he has very largely busied himself in the course of his life with watching and considering the ways of the ant and other insects, Sir JOHN LUBBOCK has not forgotten that "the proper study of mankind is man." One section of humanity that has particularly interested him is that section which is confined in shops. We cannot but admire the sympathy he has shown for the overworked counter-assistant, and the anxiety he has exhibited to work reform. The method, however, which he advocated in the Commons last night for the cure of shopkeeping ills is, in many respects, not admirable, but the opposite, and the House showed good sense in rejecting it by an overwhelming majority. The proposal of the honourable baronet is that all shops, except public-houses, refreshment-rooms, tobacconists, and newsvendors, should shut at eight o'clock on five days of the week, and at ten on the sixth. Were such a proposal to be passed into law, a number of shop-assistants would benefit in the way of acquiring increased leisure hours. Yet the number, compared with the great army of assistants throughout the country, would after all be comparatively small, as at the present time the big majority of the largest firms close before the hours specified by Sir JOHN LUBBOCK. No doubt every humane person regrets that so many shop-assistants require to work and wait a longer time behind the counter than what is good for them. But to place a measure of this description on the statute-book for the betterment of their lot would be to adopt a remedy worse than the disease. The Shop-Hours Regulation Bill passed in 1886, and which expires in December next, [illegible]

A MIDSUMMER DAY'S DREAM.

[SUGGESTED BY THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE GLASGOW INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.]

I.

From bustling thoroughfares I museful stray
To a new world of fairy round me spread,
Where classic Kelvin winds its sombre way,
The busier waters of the Clyde to wed.
O glorious sunburst of a summer's day!
What domes are these in Eastern brilliance rear'd?
What Kremlin with its mosques and minarets
Has in grey Scotland like a dream appear'd?
And lo! what gala throng the scene besets!

II.

Here let me rest upon this tranquil seat,
And ask where now is that song-haunted grove,
Where youths and maids were wont well pleased to meet
For happy interviews of honey'd love?
Ah me! the old simplicities are gone;
The woodland choristers are scared or dumb;
But the same sun that then in glory shone
Flings down its gladness from the heavens above,
While jubilant harmony of trump and drum
Makes other music than the cooing dove.

III.

Green lawns, inlaid with pleasant beds of flowers,
Which way I walk from breadths of sunshine peep.
Cool shadows cower for shelter 'neath the trees,
And cling half-hid about their barky stems.
Gay fountains bid the clouds take back their showers,
And, ever breaking in their upward leap,
Spangle the air with jets and plumes of gems.
Joyous with rival flags—red, blue, and gold—
The Kelvin swims with mimic argosies;
And in their midst what sight the gazer greets—
A tall-prow'd gondola from the floating streets
Of the ocean-city of the Doges old!

IV.

O wide-spread scene of festal happiness!
From stately Gilmorehill grave learning looks,
And in the living world descries not less
True theme for study than an anchorite
Might reach through delving in deep mines of books.
But most I mark those temples of delight,
Of modern years new-started in the van.
Scarce were Aladdin's Palace hues more bright,
Nor even the pleasure-dome which Kubla Khan
Built in the goblin realm of Xanadu.
Was e'er such vision seen 'neath northern skies?
Could sprite of Wonderland unfold to view
A picture painted for enchanted eyes
To match that day-dream of ambitious man?

V.

Golconda treasures, cull'd from many a field,
Enrich these mansions of Minerva's love.
O goddess! wise to instruct, and strong to shield!
Watch o'er thy votaries who worthy prove,
[illegible]

HIGH COURT PLEADING DIET.

THE MORNINGSIDE ASYLUM TRAGEDY.

EDINBURGH, Thursday.—This forenoon, at a pleading diet of the High Court of Justiciary, held in the Edinburgh Sheriff Court, James Crawford, a middle-aged man of respectable appearance, was placed at the bar in connection with what is known as the Morningside asylum tragedy. It may be remembered that, on the 17th March last, the accused and several other inmates of the asylum were working together in the asylum grounds, when a dispute arose between the prisoner and another patient named Christopher Gardner, which ended in Crawford striking him on the head with a shovel. Gardner fell to the ground and died in the course of the evening. A post-mortem examination revealed a small fracture on the deceased's skull. Mr. Turnbull, solicitor for the panel, stated that the accused was insane and unable to instruct counsel for the defence, and that he was not a fit object for trial. Sheriff Crichton said he would note the objection, and remitted the case to the High Court for disposal on the 14th May.

FOUND DROWNED.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS, Thursday.—This morning the body of a man named Joseph Rae, 54 years of age, was found floating in the Devonshire Dock, Barrow. Rae has been missing since the beginning of February, and when last seen was going in the direction of the docks in company with another man. The body when found presented a shocking spectacle.

TRADE DISPUTES IN WALES.

RUABON, Thursday.—The proprietors of the Pantog Steel Works have to-day issued a writ against the workmen now on strike, claiming £2000 damages, for stopping the works. The case will be brought for trial at the Quarter Sessions. Upwards of 600 workmen employed at the Cilfynydd Collieries, Rhondda Valley, have brought up their tools from the mines in consequence of a wages dispute with the coal owners.

REPRESENTATION OF ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN, DUBLIN.

C.N. Telegram.—This morning the Speaker's warrant to issue a writ for the election of a member of Parliament for St. Stephen's Green Division of Dublin, in the room of the late Mr. E. Dwyer Gray, was received at the Hanaper Office, Dublin, and the writ will be placed in the hands of the Sheriff during the day.

United Ireland says:—Mr. Dickson's selection will reassure the Presbyterian party, and show that bigotry and intolerance have no place in the ranks of Irish Nationalists. His return will be specially gratifying to Mr. Gladstone.

The *Freeman's Journal* says:—Mr. Dickson, who returns from London to Dublin to-day to prosecute his candidature, has one conspicuous title to the support of every Nationalist—from his earliest connection with Irish politics he has been closely identified with the case of the Irish tenants.

RENT ARREARS PAID.

C.N. Telegram.—Messrs. Dudgeon & Emmerson, Lord Massereene's solicitors, received two years' rent on Tuesday from the parish priest. The [illegible]

THE GOVERNMENT SHIPMENTS AND PORT DUES.

(Special Telegram from our own Correspondent.)

IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT CONCESSIONS.

LONDON, Thursday.—Some two months ago an influential deputation, introduced by the Marquis of Hartington, and representing all the ports of the United Kingdom, waited upon the First Lord of the Treasury, to protest against the exemptions from port dues claimed by the Government for all rails sent from this country to the Indian State railways. They claimed this under the Harbours and Piers Act, and Glasgow endeavoured to promote an Act to do away with this injustice. Mr. W. H. Smith, however, said they would never allow a private bill to override a public statute, but promised to take the whole subject into consideration.

The Marquis of Hartington will this afternoon ask the Government whether they have come to any decision on the subject, and it is understood the First Lord of the Treasury will reply that they have decided not to claim the exemption in future, but will in all cases pay the dues.

Several of the Clyde Trustees who are in London at present are greatly pleased at this result of their labours, for it was upon the Clyde Trust that the whole work of getting up the representations lay, the active part in the agitation being taken by Provost Browne of Crosshill and Mr. Mitchell. I may mention that the Clyde Navigation Trustees will benefit by this decision of the Government to the extent of £2000 a year.

THE CROFTERS' AGITATION.

THE THREATENED DEMONSTRATION AT LOCH ALINE.

STORNOWAY, Thursday.—In view of the crofters' demonstration on the Aline Forest on Saturday the Seahorse sails early on Saturday morning, with a company of marines on board, for Loch Seaforth, which skirts the Aline Forest. It is not, however, anticipated that the meeting will be held, or, if held, that any disturbances will take place.

The crofters are now engaged in labouring their lots, and others in preparing for the prosecution of the herring fishing at the end of the close time, ten days hence.

Owing to the stormy weather of the last few days, very few boats ventured to sea, but excellent prices were obtained for the catches landed.

DEPARTURE OF H.M.S. FORRESTER.

Instructions have now been received for the gunboat Forrester to leave Stornoway and return to her station. Consequently she leaves to-morrow morning for Greenock in the first instance.

THE POPE'S EDICT.

MONSIGNOR PERSICO STILL IN IRELAND.

DUBLIN, Thursday.—The *Union* to-day states that Monsignor Persico, the Papal Envoy, is still in Ireland, and will remain in Ireland, in order to report to Rome upon the effect produced by the Pope's rescript.

ARCHBISHOP WALSH.

Archbishop Walsh, on arriving in Rome was told that the Pope desired three interviews with him. He has only received one summons, and cannot leave Rome until the other two interviews have taken place.

CONFIDENTIAL CLERK CHARGED WITH EMBEZZLEMENT.

[illegible]

GLASGOW TOWN COUNCIL—TO-DAY.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Town Council was held to-day in the Chambers, Ingram-street—Sir James King, Lord Provost, in the chair.

ST. MUNGO'S COLLEGE BILL.

A deputation from the Senate of Glasgow University, consisting of Principal Caird, Professors Leishman, Veitch, Stewart, and Jack, were introduced, in connection with St. Mungo's College Bill.

Principal Caird said that they, as representatives of the Senate of the University, and as guardians of its welfare and prosperity as a great educational institution, requested to lay before the Council certain grave objections which they had been led to entertain to the St. Mungo College Bill. He was afraid that the proposal of the bill was to the ear a popular rumour. He was ready to concede at once that the object aimed at was a laudable and desirable one. He was also aware that their opposition to it might be discounted on the ground of their own interests being implicated in the proposal. They might—and they had been, he feared—be represented as monopolists who were up in arms against an important university reform that proposed to attack their our pecuniary interests. They recognised no other than disinterested motives in the promoters of the project before them, and he thought that, as a body of men whose whole life was associated with education, and with the progress of learning and science, they might ask for a similar credit to themselves. But he would point out that even if the project in question failed to take a single shilling from the emoluments of existing professors, it was one surrounded by conflicting difficulties, which, he thought, had not been fully considered. It prejudged a question which he thought ought to be carefully determined and settled prior to any attempt at legislation, and if passed into law in its present form it would not only throw their whole University system into confusion, but would in many ways be detrimental to the city at large, and to our country. He would leave to his colleagues to state any detailed objections to the scheme, and he would confine himself to one preliminary objection which he thought should deserve serious consideration, even if the scheme were as excellent as he conceived it to be crude and ill-considered. As they were all aware, a Bill was at present before Parliament dealing with the whole university system, and giving powers of affiliation, incorporation, or unity of colleges—duly incorporated, no doubt—to the existing universities. Every one of the questions dealing with university administration would be carefully and fully discussed in both Houses of Parliament before this bill passed, and the views and arguments of parties would be listened to, and they hoped the result would be a large, comprehensive, and successful scheme of university reform. But on every one of these points of administration the St. Mungo's College Bill anticipated legislation, and its proposals involved the reorganisation of our national universities. As to the case of affiliation, alone, he thought it might be seen at a glance it was not a simple one that could be settled offhand by cut and dry measures, but one which commanded careful consideration as a whole. The problem this principle of affiliation was intended to solve was this—How the Universities should avail themselves of the various educational forces that are growing [illegible]

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