£51,000,000 STATE TO PAY RAILWAYS.

END OF CONTROL PERIOD.

The adjournment of the House of Commons was moved yesterday in order to permit of a full report of the Colwyn Committee on the war agreements with the railway companies.

Mr. Barnes, a member of the Committee, said the agreements, and Sir G. Collins, the Geddes agreements having spoken.

Mr. Barnes said the agreements had given the railway companies in a favourable sense a million of money were in dispute between the State and the companies, and the Colwyn Committee was appointed in order that such might, if possible, be arrived at. The Committee for the impartiality of the chairman, Mr. Justice Sankey, had shown. They put the total due to the State at £156,000,000; but, after long negotiations, the Government came to a settlement with the companies by which, after the close of the period of control, the State should pay £60,000,000. Half of this sum, however, be subject to Income Tax, and £20,000,000 would come back to the State in the net sum taxable to the companies, £51,000,000. This was contingent upon the House accepting the main provisions of the Bill which he hoped to bring in shortly.

FIRM AND REASONABLE SETTLEMENT.

Mr. Bonar Law said the understanding was that a part of the money which the State had paid out in dividends should be paid back in Income Tax, and he rejected the idea that millions should be deducted from Excess Profits Tax.

Mr. Barnes maintained that he had stated the principle of the agreements that no payment would be recommended for settlement. If the settlement he stated there would be nothing left for litigation. The agreement did not include, and there were one or two still outstanding. One question was the excess expenditure and another the question of two millions in respect of the maintenance of locomotives and rolling stock in France. These matters were not in the settlement. The Government had come to the conclusion that the terms he had indicated was fair and reasonable, which he proposed to the House, received a large measure of support from the majority of the companies and the leaders of traders. He had also received from the Railway Companies' Association a letter that Labour and the employers had arrived at a considerable measure of agreement.

LOCAL DIVORCE CASES.

RESPONDENT SUPPORTS WIFE'S PETITION.

Yesterday heard the undefended suit of Alice Maud Julia Halford, of Bishopston, Bristol, for the dissolution of her marriage with Thomas Halford on the ground of his non-compliance with a decree of restitution of conjugal rights. Petitioner was married at the Registry Office, Bristol, on March 24, 1917. There were no children of the marriage. The respondent left her on October 15, 1919 saying: "It is no use trying me to return to live with you. Pack up and I am finished with you. I also now what a fool I have been. I intend to go abroad, and I shall never again be a mere plaything in my hands." In March, 1920 she was served with a decree of restitution, but respondent never obeyed it.

The petitioner, read a letter from respondent to the wife's solicitor stating the order for restitution "was all a mistake. I understand clear and I do not the slightest intention of obeying it. I have no intention to live with you. I have not been true to her. I have been in London on several occasions and met a lady recently at the Grand Central Restaurant. I have other interests in London. I know the lady who is waiting for me and I can do exactly as you please." Respondent's intent to commit adultery was clear.

Petitioner identified the signature of the visitors' book of the Grand Hotel, where he had stayed with the lady.

Respondent was willing to give evidence.

Petitioner went into the box and admitted adultery.

The Judge granted a decree nisi to the wife, the evidence of misconduct was not denied, and therefore the papers went to the King's Proctor so that he may make any inquiries that he thought fit.

"WOULD SELL MY VERY SOUL."

Hill granted a decree nisi in Frank Albert Hayward, greengrocer, of Bristol, on the ground of his wife's adultery with co-respondent Sid. Bristow, a traveller, of Bath, against whom decree granted. Petitioner stated he married in 1910 and came to live at Railway, Bath, where he carried on greengrocery. The co-respondent was a fruit salesman, used to do business. He (petitioner) went to Ireland in 1914, and was away except for leave, when he was demobilised. He found his wife told him she loved him, and was going to a friend at Clifton until homes were found for them, and then he (petitioner) left in November, 1919, she wrote him: "Revenge; but spare him as much as you can. My wife knows nothing of this. I would sell my very soul for a kind word from you." Evidence was given of the co-respondent's visits to the respondent, to whom he was kind.

AGRICULTURISTS CONFER.

QUESTION OF THE MINIMUM WAGE.

Lord Ampthill presided over a meeting of the Central Chamber of Agriculture yesterday and adopted a resolution protesting against the inclusion of the Revenue Bill, which, on the motion of Mr. H. R. Darbishire, was amended so that the suggestion was only to be considered by the Government. He thought he could give the assurance that they need not be in a panic.

DOCKING OF HORSES.

The motion of Lord Desborough, a member of the Council, expressing the Council's regret that the docking of Horses Bill should be lost, was lost, the Duke of Richmond remarking that this House had shown now little for agriculture.

CONTROL OF EXPENDITURE.

Lord Ampthill moved a resolution in favour of the practice of passing Acts of Parliament having a skeleton form, leaving a number of important and costly details to be dealt with by means of Orders and departmental regulations, which, as far as possible be discontinued, and that any Bill affecting the public revenue should be accompanied by an estimate of the cost to be presented to Parliament before the Bill was discussed.

It was proposed that legislative proposals involving charges upon the revenue, or the imposition of a financial resolution, should be submitted to Government Departments should be referred to Committees Councils to undertake inquiries. Eg was now being done. Certain special duties had been imposed in respect of matters which were left to local discretion. Lord Ampthill's motion. Sir Henry Fairfax seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

RATES OF WAGES.

Mr. Ernest Bevan proposed that the Agricultural Wages Board be asked to issue an Order that no man should be employed more than 48 hours per week and that Sunday and overtime should be a matter of mutual arrangement between the employer and employee. Mr. Bevan said he was going to interfere with the weekly statutory wages and prices, but greater freedom. He had made inquiries and was favourable to the proposal. A flat rate for overtime.

Mr. Bevan seconded, and the motion was carried.

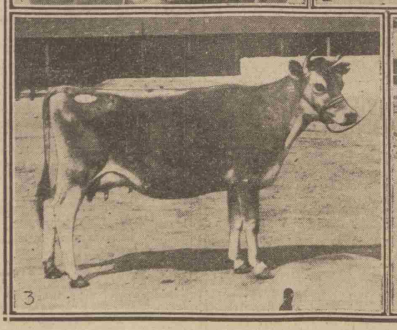
RAILWAY RATES FOR SHELL-FISH.

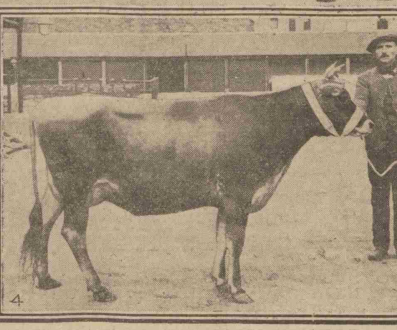
The Fisheries Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Transport resumed its sittings yesterday. Mr. H. R. Johnson, Chairman, Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee, said that the present rates for the common whelk were having a very serious effect upon the Lowestoft industry. A classification lower than that which they would have preferred, but they might make 25 per cwt. instead of about 18 per cwt. Discussion adjourned until to-day.

A HOUSE BY INSTALMENTS.

A Lloyd's San Francisco message of Monday's date says that the auxiliary Kamchatka, vessel and cargo have been totally lost. The crew and passengers were all saved, and landed at Pirate Cove.

BRISTOL SALE OF JERSEY CATTLE.





1.—Mr Crauford (auctioneer). 2.—Gpy s Miranda Beauty. 3.—Patience. 4.—Hunstrete Summer Time.

An important sale of pure-bred Jersey cattle took place at Bristol Cattle Market yesterday, when cows and bulls from the herds of well-known breeders in the district were submitted by Messrs. Hammond, Crauford, and Brown (in conjunction with Messrs Geo. Nichols, Young, Hunt, and Co.). The prices realised were good, and in the case of the cows totalled 815 guineas and the bulls 136 guineas. Mr. Crauford was the auctioneer, and there was a good attendance. The cows and heifers sold were as follow:—Bess (Mrs Colville), whole colour, calved April, 1910, sire Royalty; bought by Miss Garnett, Rownham, for 50 guineas. Traveller's Combination Lassie (Mr Horace Walker), pearly whole colour, calved Nov. 1912; s. Combination's Premier; d. Traveller's Spotty; bought by Miss Robinson, Warmley, 24 gns. Warmley Pallas Noblesse (Mr Weeks, whole, c. July, 1916; s. Pallas Noble; d. Warmley Beauty; bought by Mr Josephs, for 43 gns. Pattern of Fermoy (Mr Hatherell), whole, c. [illegible], 1915; s. Sea Isad, d. Red Pattern; bought by Mr Nicholas, Corston, Bath, 28 gns. Elsie Venner 2nd (Mr Wheadon), c. April, 1915; s. Financial Raleigh, d. Queen Eleanor; bought by Mr Reynolds, 31 gns. Dolly (Mr Horace Walker), whole, c. Dec., 1915, s. Red Rattle, d. Decima; bought by Mr Bathurst, 25 gns. Julia 7th (Mr Somerville), whole, c. April, 1917, s. Sailor, d. Julia 5th; bought by Mr Roberts, 31 gns. Sweetheart (Mr Somerville), whole, c. October, 1917, s. Hilda's Fairy Lad, d. Sweet Dolly; bought by Mr Geo. Kendall, 40 gns. Fleur De Lys (Mr Leyborne Popham), whole, c. February, 1913, s. Fern's Oxford Noble 2nd, d. Dauphine; bought by Mr Nicholas, 30 gns. Patience (Mr Somerville), whole, c. March, 1913, s. General Botha, d. Betty; bought by the Rev. J. Baron, Monkton Combe, Bath, 46 gns. Nancy (Mr Horace Walker), whole, c. June, 1918, s. Beach King, d. Traveller's Combination Lassie; bought by Mr Brunt, 31 gns. Cecilian 7th (Mr Wheadon), whole, c. June, 1912, s. Jerseyman, d. Mr Le Montais's Cecilian; bought by Mr Eaton, 36 gns. Hunstrete Summer Moon (substitute), bought by Mr Bennett, 30 gns. Senlac Fleuri (Mr Leyborne Popham), whole, c. September, 1918, s. April King, d. Highland Floral; bought by Mr Smith, 17 gns. Hunstrete Summer Time (Mr L. Popham), whole, c. September, 1918, s. Wolton Red Bean, d. Rozel's Summer Maid; bought by Mr Weeks, 32 gns. Little Buttercup (Mr Horace Walker), whole, c. December, 1918, s. Beach King, d. Dolly; bought by Mr Nicholas, 34 gns. Hunstrete D.O.R.A. (Mr L. Popham), whole, c. February, 1919, s. Benvelande George, d. Doreen's Favourite; bought by Mr Geo. Bishop, Brislington, 37 gns. Poetess (Mrs Colville) whole, c. February, 1918, s. Minstrel, d. Purple Maple; bought by Mr Reynolds. Gipsy's Miranda Beauty (Mr Wheadon) whole, c. March, 1919, s. Anemone's Boy, d. Gipsy's Miranda; sold to Mr Scott 45 gns. Sleeper's Maid (Mr Wheadon) whole, c. March, 1919, s. Sleeper, d. Augerez Maid; sold to Mr Winstone, Wraxall, 35 gns. Mayflower (Mr Somerville), broken, c. May 1919, s. Gen. Botha, d. Betty; sold to Mr Nicholas 24 gns. Lady Oxford (Mr Weeks) broken, c. October, 1919, s. Lord Oxford, d. Laurel by St. Kilda's Oxford; sold to Mr Lawrence, 18 gns. Sweet Briar (Mr Somerville) whole, c. November, 1919, s. Sweetheart; sold to the Rev. Baron, 19 gns. Warmley Pallas Noblesse, colour, s. Beach King, d. Warmley Pallas Noblesse; sold to Mr Perrett, 16 gns. Zelina's Noble Girl (Mr Wheadon Smith), whole, s. Ebonist's Noble, d. Zelina's Favourite; bought by Mr Bennett, 26 gns. Bluebell 2 gns. Little calf went to the same purchaser for 30 gns. Cyclamen of Hollywood (Mr White Smith), black and white, c. July, 1919, s. Zelina's Noble Girl; bought by Mr Sutton, 40 gns.

The bulls were sold as follow:—Inducement's Cid (Lord Mount Edgcumbe), whole, c. January, 1918, s. The Cid, d. Inducement; bought by Mr Reynolds, 30 gns. Mellitus, Raleigh (Mr Somerville), whole, c. June, 1918, s. Commodore, d. Lady Melinda; bought by Mr Rice 39 gns. Pioneer's Victory of Hollywood (Sir G. Stanley White, Bart.), whole, c. July, 1919, s. Goddington's Pioneer 2nd, d. Cyclamen of Hollywood; bought by Colonel Henry Tetbury. Julius (Mr Somerville), broken, c. January, 1920, s. Gen. Botha, d. Julia 3rd; bought by Mrs Colville, 15 gns. Hunstrete Daisy's Bean (Mr L. Popham), whole colour, 30 gns. Melinda's