



## Speeding Up

### Electricity in Rail Services

IT is now possible to coal engines in 90 seconds by pressing a button; give trains a shower bath and clean a coach in 90 seconds; clean out engine boilers in half an hour by electrical machinery, instead of 10 hours; repair heavy engines in 47 hours instead of two and a half months, as formerly; make a new twelve-ton truck in 25 minutes, and seven new coaches in a week.

The London and North-Eastern Railway, for instance, has installed a new system of coaling engines, which, by the mere pressure of an electric button feeds a tender with five to six tons of coal in 90 seconds. Six months ago it took 30 minutes to load the same amount of fuel.

Eleven thousand tons of coal fuel are now being handled every week by machinery at our chief centres, a London and North-Eastern Railway official told a "Sunday Express" representative. One man can load a tender, register the tonnage, the time taken, and the number of the engine by one movement of his forefinger.

Then there are the shower baths. The Flying Scotsman, after the long journey along the east coast route, is now cleaned at the rate of a coach every 90 seconds. This is made possible by the installation of a simple system of whirling rags and a high pressure spray of water. The train is drawn through a "guard of honour" of rotating wet rags at a speed of a mile and a half an hour, and finally given a drenching spray of clean water. It is made spick and span without one touch of the human hand.

## Electricity Speeds Up Hatching

BY hanging electric lights over trout pools at a Colorado hatchery, a way has been found to provide the fish with an extra supply of food on which they thrive and grow larger than in pools without the light. The rays of the lights lure mosquitos, moths and other insects which fall into the water and are devoured. The plan has reduced the cost of feeding the fish, and the benefits reaped from the system are reported to be such that they more than offset the expense.

## Science v. Nature

### Artificial Lighting

AT an illuminating conference recently held in New York, windowless factories, lighted by artificial means, were advocated. It was asserted that not only would the omission of windows save five per cent. in building costs and forty per cent. of maintenance expenses, but control of heat and circulation of air would be facilitated, and the efficiency of workers increased.

Dr. E. E. Free, consulting engineer and scientist, stated: "The lighting in a factory illuminated by daylight is changing constantly, so that only for short periods every day will each machine, desk, or work-bench receive that kind and amount of light best suited to the eye. Artificial lighting, however, does not mean the equal of present average daylight illumination, but from five to ten times that amount as required."

## Motor Exhibition

### New Models Displayed

THE exhibition staged by General Motors of New Zealand, Ltd., is a comprehensive one. Its attractions were added to on the opening night by a parade of mannequins, and music was nightly dispensed from the stand of a local music house.

The motor caravan is a centre of general interest. It is luxuriously fitted to comfortably accommodate five people, with folding tables, sofas, convertible into bunks, upholstered in moquette. A tank ensures an adequate water supply; there is a cooking stove, lighting facilities, and a wash basin for toilet purposes, enclosed in a neat cabinet—in fact, all the requirements of a complete home. Quaint stained-glass casement windows enhance the appearance.

Impressive as is the gold sedan car, upholstered in velvet to match, it lacks without the dignity of the state coaches of other days. That in which their Majesties the King and Queen ride to open Parliament and use for other state functions, for instance, is also gold, but the plate-glass of which so much of it consists lends to it the qualities of a Fairy Tale coach. An air of romance clings to it, which no car, however regal-looking, has yet attained.

## But Electricity Intervenes Who Should Make the Fuss?

AT the annual conference of the Women's Division of the Farmers' Union, the difficulty of obtaining and keeping domestic help in country districts was again bemoaned. It was stated that New Zealand girls able to perform the duties required of them preferred town work to country life.

By enlisting the aid of electricity, not only is the housewife to a large extent enabled to dispense with domestic help, but where such must be employed it becomes more readily obtainable.

With the drudgery taken out of milking, the washing-up in the shed, and

## When Day. is Done

THE following little story from a contemporary is not without its application here:—

"I went home dog-tired the other night," said a husband recently. "I made so much fuss about how many things I had had to do that day that my wife and I got into a good-natured argument over it. What she said, and what I said, set me thinking.

"We took a pad and pencil, and each set down a list of the things we had done that day. Then we took another sheet and set down the things we thought the other had done. That last sheet, when compared to the actual list, was an eye-opener.

"I thought about all she had done was prepare meals, dust and clean, make the beds and look after the children—certainly a good-sized job. But I found that the present-day homemaker has a many-sided job calling for all the skill and training of a big business executive. And usually she has no staff to whom she can delegate the details!"

THIS is all too true. The homemaker to-day, in addition to all the old routine duties that are still to be met, needs to be a marketing expert for one thing. She buys the groceries and meats, the furniture and furnishing, the clothing for the family; bargains for the services of plumbers, painters and repairmen of all sorts. She must keep abreast of the times, too, or her home-life is threatened with disaster.

When her husband comes home at night, he is through; he can relax and rest. But the homemaker's day is not done until the dishes are out of the way and the last curly head has been safely tucked in.

And yet, husbands look to the wives to make this fag-end of the day—serene, frictionless and happy.

Most husbands, we know, are anxious to do their share, and many would help more with household chores if they could. But they can do their part to relieve the burden and lighten the labours of wife and mother, and they can best do it by securing for her the best of all modern aid. Ask any woman the most efficient time and labour-saver. She will say electricity and modern electrical appliances. She knows.

## DEVOTION

When the dream mists flutter softly  
Down the edges of the sky,  
And the blossoms, pale and fragrant

With the wind go drifting by,  
When the moon's a silver bubble  
All a-tremble in the blue,  
Then the night, my dear, is paying  
Its homage unto you.

Do you hear the whirring quiver  
Of the fireflies as they pass?  
Do you see the dewy cobwebs  
Upon the shadowed grass?  
Do you see the wraiths of star-dust

Go scattering down the sky?  
They are waiting, waiting, waiting,  
Till your gentle feet go by . . .

When the last lamp fades in shadow,  
And the beetles drone and whirr,  
When the moonmoths glow with silver

And the leaves are all a-stir;  
When the countless stars are golden

And a dreaming wind drifts through,  
Then the night, my dear, is paying  
Its homage unto you . . .

—A.N.I.C.

time saved by cooking and cleaning electrically, country life assumes a new aspect. The work becomes interesting and not too arduous for either mistress, New Zealand or imported help. We feel sure that it is to the amenities of life which electricity provides, that housewives and employers must look to solve the difficulty of keeping the young people on the land.