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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JULY 17, 1920

## How Lord Curzon Got Away To Ascot Races

Postponed Debate on Mesopotamia in House of Lords — Disraeli's Life in Book—The U-Boats and the War—News Topics of Week in London.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)  
London, June 24.—Ascot has passed with extraordinary brilliance. Every one is full of praises of the arrangements which have made it much the most comfortable of English race-meetings. Indeed, if it were only nearer London, the racing would be at least as good, if not better, than the racing in the Bois de Boulogne.

It is curious how completely the king is left to himself to do the ceremonial side of a meeting of this kind. I do not suppose since Lord Roscher's premiership and prime minister has gone to a big race in England. Certainly Lloyd George has not. Last year in Paris, when the peace conference was sitting, M. Clemenceau several times tried to persuade the prime minister to join him at Longchamps, especially on the occasion of the Grand Prix, just after the signature of Peace, when President Poincaré and M. Clemenceau attended in state. Lord Derby was there, but there was no Lloyd George, indeed, he confessed to M. Clemenceau that he had never been at a race meeting in his life. Perhaps he will start sometime, and it was possibly asking too much of him to combine racing with Sabbath breaking.

the Grand Prix being run on a Sunday. Mr. Balfour was a fairly regular attendant, but then all forms of sport appeal to him.  
The sole ministerial representative at Ascot has been Lord Curzon, and there hangs a tale. That day there was to be a debate on Mesopotamia in the House of Lords, but it was postponed, at Lord Curzon's request, because he had to attend a meeting of the Council of the League of Nations on that day, and Lord Curzon duly decorated the royal enclosure at Ascot. The whole incident was a pleasant little trait in an otherwise somewhat austere character, and will be welcomed by thousands of people who got away from their businesses for a day's racing, with nothing like so ingenious an excuse.

### Men, Women and Dress.

Broadly, it is true that men go to Ascot for the sport, and women for the fashion. Very few of the fashionable ladies really pay much attention to the racing, any more than they do to the actual cricket at Lord's, when the meeting of the rival blues there makes the pleasant grounds a cloth of gold. And, on their part, very few of the men pay



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much attention to the fashions worn by their women-folk. So, perhaps each sex may regard the other as living in a most foolish glass house, and no stones had better be thrown.

But I have heard some typical Ascot men criticising the fashions worn there by the ladies, and, though it may sound rather ungentlemanly and rude even, I am bound to say my own casual observation bears it out. This criticism was the blunt effect that the younger and prettier women were the simpler and less expensive frocks, and that the more extravagant and elaborate confections are invariably displayed by ladies who are hopelessly past, and whose physical intractableness their ultra-fashionable dresses merely accentuate. This has always been the case, no doubt, to some extent. Count de Garmont's quaint reminiscences contain other examples, besides the famous Lady Muskerrey of his day, whose husband was in constant terror of his spouse's fantastic fashion anachronisms. But certainly this feminine weakness is sadly emphasized nowadays by the prevailing short-skirted, low-necked habit. There have been many spectacles presented at Ascot, that were simply pathetic in their comic misapprehensions of face, figure and fashion. There is something to be said for the Victorian fashions for middle-aged and elderly ladies. And there is something worse than being what the modern matron sometimes calls "dowdy."

### Old Time Fire Fighters.

In these days when motor fire engines dash through the streets and London boasts the first fire brigade in the world, it is a little difficult to envisage the days when fire fighting was largely left to private enterprise. We are to have a reminder of those days during the present week, when both the Royal Exchange Assurance and the London Assurance are celebrating the bi-centenary of their foundation. Which is the older of the two is a little doubtful, since the records of the Royal Exchange were lost by fire many years ago. In my case, the point at issue is a purely sentimental one, since the charters were issued on the same day and neither company can probably claim precedence of more than half an hour over the other. In those

days fire insurance was a much more precarious business than it is now, and to safeguard their interests as far as possible, the companies organized their own fire brigades. Judged by the modern standard their aspect must have been extraordinary since in the first instance they were given a uniform of yellow, lined with pink, which, but for the leather covered caps, crow bars, and pick-axes, with which they were equipped, must have given them rather the aspect of a twentieth century jockey. The companies fixed their fire marks to buildings in which they were financially interested, from which it is to be assumed that no great deal was displayed in extinguishing fires in buildings which were not so distinguished.

Disraeli's Book.  
The sensation of the week has undoubtedly been the publication of the life of Disraeli. Now that George Russell is dead, there are few people actively going about London who had anything like regular social relations with him. After all, he has been dead nearly forty years, and forty years is a long time. The chief of them, I think, must be counted Queen Alexandra, about whom

there are some very pleasant things in the book, and with whom the statesman was on cordial and friendly terms.

Everybody whether they remember the statesman or not, is excited by the revelations which the book gives of his

correspondence with certain old ladies, and particularly with Queen Victoria. (Continued on page 14, first column.)

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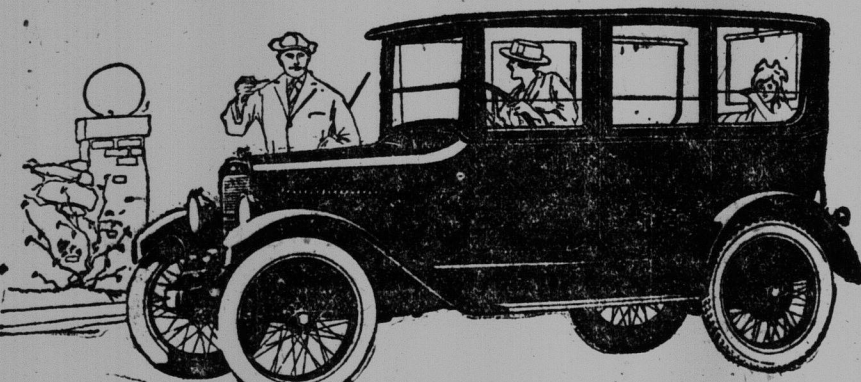
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## Cox's Chances of Winning the Presidency

While Senator Capper's Topeka Capital (Rep.) considers Republican victory at the polls not even in question, declaring that "after November the Democrats will know that a political party can not carry a presidential election in this country by sprinkling a little booze on its clothes," other Republican papers agree with the New York Tribune that it "would be most foolish if they (Senator Harding's supporters) did not frankly recognize the formidableness of the Cox and Roosevelt ticket." The Chicago Tribune (Rep.) says that the bosses nominated Governor Cox because they thought he was "the best vote-getter and the best goat-getter Democracy had."

If you would obtain a practical idea of Governor Cox's chances of winning the election, as pointed out by newspaper editors of all shades of political opinion, you will do well to read THE LITERARY DIGEST for this week—July 17th. The leading article is a careful summary of American newspaper opinion of the Democratic nominee and the advantages and the disadvantages that will be his during the campaign.

Other articles of almost equal interest in this fine number are:

### The Prospects For a Third Party

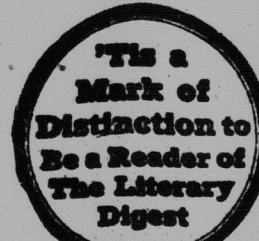
The Elements of Discontent with the Present Political Situation and How They  
May be Welded Into a Third Party at the Polls in November

The Fighting Creed of the Democrats  
Our Decreasing Population Increase  
The Greek War on Turkey  
Britain Too Pro-American to Suit Japan  
Hustling Bulgaria  
Another Soviet Confession of Failure  
Anti-Japanism in California  
Science as a Curse to Mankind  
Paper Shoes  
American Artificial Silk  
When "Picking Flowers" is a Crime  
The Universe in Miniature  
Our Debt to Negro Sculpture  
New Record by a New German-Designed Monoplane  
British-American War Over Language  
The Menace of the "Dope Doctor"  
Religious Harmony in Jugo-Slavia

The Golden Rule vs. The Rule of Gold  
Foreign Trade of the U. S. in 1920  
Geo. W. Perkins, "A New-Fashioned American"  
Tom-Cat Vibrators, "Hamlets," and Ordinary "Reds"  
Mexican Invaders Relieving Our Farm-Labor Shortage  
Commencement Addresses by Some Recent Graduates in "Americanization"  
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