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LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, July 31, 1920. TOO HOT A PACE. Much carping and depressing criticism would be unexpected if the nation realized that it is using up its zone too abundant supply of public men too fast. The Prime Minister is not the only sufferer from overwork—the continuous over-excitation of the mental faculties which all experience in greater or less measure whose energies are mortgaged to national service. There are other Ministers who are greatly overstrained, and will be unable to go on much longer without a complete rest. Their names had better not be given; but it would be well if the public appreciated that the best service they can give to Ministers generally is to go slowly and worry them as little as possible. Whatever dissatisfaction there may be with the present collection of Ministers, the one thing certain about them is that they are not easily replaceable. New talent may exist in plenty outside Parliament, but new talent without experience in working the machinery of the Constitution and in administration is dangerous. The foregoing hints apply also to such Members of Parliament as discharge their duties to their constituents. The majority do not. The Members of the House of Commons who complain of overstrain is sometimes a humbug. But the fact remains that public life has become almost intolerably burdensome for those in the thick of it, and that this country is using up her statesmen too fast, and the further prolongation of the session has intensified the evil.

THE FATE OF THE SMALL NAVIES. The war is supposed to have shown that you either have a commanding navy or, for all practical purposes, you have none at all. This is interesting to the smaller Powers. The question first came up in the Dutch Parliament, where it was suggested that the whole fleet should be sold as scrap metal and the money thus raised put to social purposes. It was pointed out that the coast defence ships which formed its backbone would be worse than useless for their allotted task of defending the East Indian colonies from Japanese invasion. The suggestion was negatived, but it was stated that in future particular attention should be paid to submarines and mine-layers. Another case is that of the Mexican navy, whose responsible head has just ordered that, with the

exception of one or two vessels kept on the Pacific coast for revenue purposes, the whole fleet shall be converted into merchantmen forthwith. In this case it is to be feared that the reason of the move was not so much the uselessness of the ships for warlike purposes as the fact that, deprived of their guns, they are less likely to get into mischief.

TERRITORIAL RECRUITING. Recent weeks have brought an improvement in Territorial recruiting, but that is not saying much. The total number actually attested, or awaiting attestation, is somewhere about 50,000 after six months' effort, and at the present rate of recruiting, which has been approximately 2,000 per week, nearly three years will be needed to reach the peace establishment of the Territorial Army, allowing, of course, for the wastage which, from various causes, is inevitable. If, during the winter, many ex-Territorials re-join, as the War Office hopes and expects they will, and the publicity propaganda that was recently heard so much about is undertaken with vigour, it is not improbable that the required numbers may be obtained within the next year. But to attain that end, a great deal more will have to be done than is being done at present.

THE NEXT VICTORY OF INDIA. Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, in an interview, makes the challenging statement that the appointment of E. S. Montagu as Viceroy is the only means by which the success of the Indian reform scheme can be assured. The statement will provoke more than one kind of comment. The first, perhaps, is that the reforms must be provided with some other personal foundation, since it is clear that the next Viceroy, who must soon be chosen, will not be Mr. Montagu. The office has never yet been given to a Secretary of State, and it may be taken for granted that the Cabinet is not, at the present juncture, contemplating so great a departure from custom as this would be. None the less, it is perfectly well known in Downing Street that Mr. Montagu would be the first choice of the Indian statesmen who for three years have been working, here and in India, on behalf of the reforms. Not since the Mutiny has the appointment been so grave a matter as it is today. Lord Chelmsford's term has only a few months to run, and it is known that the Cabinet had reached a pro-

visional decision as to his successor before the Dyer debates began. DR. NANSEN'S MISSION. A story just published of how trainloads of men in khaki passing through certain parts of Germany were taken for British soldiers going to Poland and were afterwards discovered to be Czecho-Slovakian soldiers returning from prison in Russia has been the first indication that the work of repatriating prisoners is going ahead. It will be remembered that some few weeks ago Dr. Nansen was appointed director of the international scheme for repatriating all prisoners of war. Dr. Nansen arrived in London last week on business connected with the scheme. He was only here a couple of days but he is said to be well pleased with the progress that the scheme is making. The Czecho-Slovakian prisoners are being repatriated under special arrangements, but men are being sent home from all regions, even from Turkestan, where the problem of their transport presents peculiar difficulties. "I am pleased with the way the work is going," said Dr. Nansen, "but to carry it out properly we must have more money and more ships."

CHEAPER HORSES. It is not known if the horse market is any indication of the fall of prices in commodities that is so eagerly longed for. There is no doubt, however, that horses have become very much cheaper. At Tattersall's (London's famous horse-market established in 1770) horses are now selling in the forty-guinea lists that six months ago would have made double these prices. Good horse—known performers—are still making high prices, and 200 and 250 guineas is not considered much for a well-bred hunter that has been hunted in a good country. The same rules with polo ponies. The known ponies even three parts through the season are making big money, but it is only the cream of this class that can now command these prices, and ponies of humbler description than the best can be bought for less than it costs to keep a pony for a year.

OPEN-AIR CAFES. One of the bright ideas in the discussion now proceeding on the brightening of London is that Trafalgar Square should be turned into an open-air cafe. This is only the latest of a long list of schemes which have come to nothing. The Underground Electric Railway when rebuilding the Temple Station on the Embankment talked of an open terrace restaurant, but talk it remained. The reasons against brightening the streets in this way are chiefly two. One is the implacable hostility of the police authorities, whose mid-Victorian ideas still are that open-air cafes would mean disorders and social laxity. The theory is that British people have not the same tradition of open-air sociability as the French and that there would be abuse. The second reason is less controversial. The most populous London streets are mediævally narrow (the broadest thoroughfare is in White-chapel, the East End Jewish quarter) and there simply is not pavement space for Parisian restaurants. The climate is another point. London weather is probably quite as good as that of Paris, but in Paris there is much less smoke and dirt, and sitting out of doors is undoubtedly pleasanter. There is no question that open-air cafes would be enormously popular. Flocks of young men learned the cafe habit in France on war service, and would be glad to continue it here under more amusing conditions than a seat in a stuffy and crowded teashop or a scramble at a bar.

THE WAIST LINE AND RIBBONS. According to a woman correspondent the waist line of a dress is again an important point, though it does not necessarily mark just where the wearer's waist really is. The loose, trailing sashes which have just come into fashion are pretty, and an attractive finish for them is a small posy of flowers attached to the ends of the sash. Softly-colored ribbon sashes are improved by the addition of a bunch of brighter-hued flowers. Flowered ribbons are being used on afternoon dresses, some of them swathed rather tightly at the waist, and attached in a big bow on either side. Taffeta neatly always lends itself to a good sash line, particularly dark-colored taffetas on which a ribbon sash, combined with a knot of many-colored flowers, is always effective.

Decay of Mourning Wear. Nothing is more remarkable in our social life at this time than the rarity of conventional mourning, says London Daily Chronicle. There are millions of bereaved people in these islands, yet it is uncommon to encounter anybody who wears the "trappings and the suits of woe." We have found a juster way of showing respect for the dead than by changing the line of our clothes. Only at the two extremes, east and west, will you now discover a woman wearing widow's "weeds." Just arrived for Stafford's, two thousand bottles of Brick's Tasteless Cod Liver Oil. Price \$1.20 bottle. Postage 20c. extra

R. N. R. Engineer Gives Facts in Case to Public Says Tanlac Built Him Up So Well He Now Buys It For A Friend.

"I certainly went through some awful suffering before I got Tanlac, but now I'm feeling fine, and I want to get a bottle for one of my friends," said Berk Mitchell, when he walked into Connor's drug store in St. John's, N.F., the other day. Mr. Mitchell is a well known engineer on the grading engine of the Reid Newfoundland Company, and lives in St. John's, at 62 Alexander Street. "I suffered terribly from indigestion and a sour stomach, and my appetite was so poor I hardly ever cared for anything to eat. I would blot up until my heart palpitated so badly that it seemed like it was trying to run away, and I had awful pains in my stomach. I felt tired all the time, in fact, any work I did at all was a big effort for me. I kept on seeing every day where others, who seemed to be suffering like I was, were getting relief by taking Tanlac, so I figured it would help me too. Well I didn't quit on taking one bottle, but kept on until I have taken five, and am feeling well and strong in every way. My appetite is so good that I enjoy everything set before me, and it all agrees with me. For I'm never troubled with indigestion or bloating. My back no longer pains me, and the headaches have entirely disappeared. My sleep is the morning full of energy and ready for a big day's work. I can certainly recommend Tanlac, for it has proved in my case."

"Tanlac is sold in St. John's by M. Connors; by Reg. Sullivan, Pouch Cove; Soun's Island Store, Sound Islands; Dennis Flynn, Avondale; J. J. O'Brien, Cape Breton; J. W. Smith, Baine Harbor; W. J. Burdock, Belleoram; John Morey, Fermeuse; Mrs. Jos. Quinn, Renew's—adv't."

Girls! Girls!! Clear Your Skin With Cuticura. Uncle Sam's Politics.

In this presidential year the politics of Uncle Sam is of interest to all the rest of the world. As is well known the Republicans have chosen Senator Harding of Ohio, and Governor Lodge of Massachusetts, and the Democrats Governor Cox of Ohio and Hiram Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York, as their respective standard-bearers. The Prohibition Party has chosen Aaron S. Watkins, of Ohio, as its candidate for President. It may not be so well known that a Third Party—the Farmer-Labor Party—has been launched, with Hon. Farley Parks Christensen, of Utah, for President, and Max F. Hayes, of Cleveland, Ohio, for vice-President. It will be seen that Ohio figures in all four nominations. Because of the Farmer-Labor movement in Canada, and elsewhere, it may be of interest to know a little more about the movement in the United States. A Convention met in Chicago on July 10th, in an attempt to fuse into one political party a considerable number of more or less radical and extreme elements and groups such as the farmers' leagues, the labor party, the single-taxers, the veteran soldiers and two or three other organizations. The tentative platform was overloaded with sweeping proposals of economic changes. It was thought Senator La Follette would become its leader, but it was too extreme for his acceptance. They then considered Eugene V. Debs, of Indiana, now in penitentiary for his opposition to the draft act and other war measures. He declined because he was a leader of the Socialists and the third-party platform was too general. In a ballot between Dudley Field Malone, of New York, and Mr. Christensen, the latter was chosen. He is a lawyer. After studying law in New York he was a superintendent of education in Utah, then public prosecutor at Salt Lake City, Secretary of the State constitutional Convention, and a Progressive Republican who supported the Roosevelt-Johnson ticket in 1912. He is a bachelor, forty-nine years old. The platform declares for public ownership and operation of all public utilities and natural resources; upholds extreme labor views about the right to strike; is radical to the extreme as regards the rights of free speech and the repeal of war legislation; endorses the Irish Republic, and extends open arms to Soviet Russia; makes a strong bid for the votes of the ex-service men who are demanding the bonus law, and is not in sympathy with the Versailles treaty. The strongest support of this third-party movement is likely to come from the advocates of the Plumb plan of railroad management, and those who believe in the nationalization of coal mines. This Farmer-Labor-Soldier, et al combination is worth following as it develops in the United States and Canada. It is significant that, in the United States, it favors Russian Soviet principles and measures, certainly not a very hopeful sign.—Ex.

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A Silly Tale.

There are very many silly tales in books concerning the old Franciscan Missions of California, but the silliest of them all is that one which is forever cropping up to the effect that many hundreds of thousands of dollars in gold were hoarded in these establishments, says a Los Angeles writer. One has only to ask one's self, Where did this huge store of money come from? California had little traffic with the outside world in the days of the missions. Hides and tallow were traded to Yankee ships for clothing and ornaments, but not for money.

And gold had not yet been discovered here.

Next to Junipero Serra himself, the most respected figure in the early history of California is Padre Lasuen. Surely the word of this venerated man may be taken for truth. When the King of Spain once sent to the California Missions for money, Padre Lasuen answered the request as follows: "Inasmuch as the fathers are placed in poverty by their profession, and the Indian wards by their nature, I think that his majesty does not want of us a temporal offering. I am myself without even a stipend to which I am entitled, and the stipends that my brethren receive they

turn over for the advancement of the missions." Anything that purports to be history must be supported by the testimony of an authentic and reliable witness. And here we have the testimony unimpeachable of Padre Lasuen. There are a lot of lying books that should be fed to bonfires. You can get a nice Tweed Suit, made smart and stylish, for \$60; and you can get some of the best Serges in the country at SPUR-RELL the Tailor, Water Street. aug7, eod, ff Embroideries in paillettes of colored kid are smart.

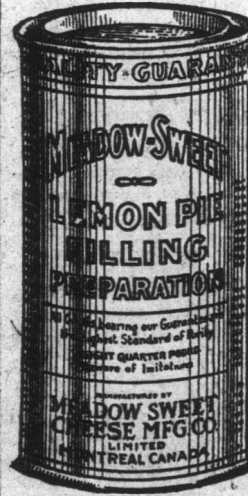
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