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LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, April 25th, 1917.
ROYALTY IN THE AIR.

King Albert of Belgium has now added to his many distinctions that of being the first Sovereign to make an aeroplane flight over hostile guns in action. That is so like the Belgian King that nobody is very much surprised. So far, the Kaiser has confined his air exploits to a trip in a Zeppelin in peace time; if he had done anything bolder we may be sure that it would have been advertised. His brother, Prince Henry, of Prussia, also had a little flight with Count Zeppelin in those happy days.

GERMAN INTRIGUES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The report of the commission appointed to investigate the causes and circumstances of the South African rebellion has just reached this country. It states that the part played by Germany in the plot was important and far-reaching. The rebel leaders, consciously or unconsciously, served as the tools of Berlin. The Germans in South-west Africa were perfectly prepared with their plans in the event of hostilities breaking out in Europe, and they believed that the Boers would be only too eager to join in a fight against Great Britain. Shortly before the present war began German military officers travelled round the country districts in the Transvaal and Free State on bicycles, in the guise of piano tuners, watch repairers, and commercial travellers, eliciting information and distributing arms, ammunition and money. One of these officers, it came out in evidence, used to arrange with the farmers for the purchase of their horses, which he agreed to pay for and take delivery of at a later date, but he did not return to redeem his promises.

DUELLING IN ITALY.

An authority who has just arrived here from Rome says that a decree has been prepared, and only awaits the signature of King Victor Emmanuel II, prohibiting the practice of duelling in the Italian army and navy. This decree follows hard upon one issued recently forbidding the practice, to which non-commissioned as well as commissioned officers have been subject, until the end of the war, when it might be resumed for the adjustment of private quarrels. It would now seem that still stricter counsels have prevailed, and no doubt is entertained that the King will append his signature to the new decree, prepared by the Minister for war, as soon as His Majesty returns to Rome.

GERMAN SUBMARINES AND SPAIN

As the result of communications which have passed between the British and Spanish Governments, evidence has been obtained, I am told, of the use by the enemy of one of the smallest of the Canary Islands as a submarine base. The island is little more than an uninhabited sea-girt rock, and the evidence of the use to which it has been put has followed the recent discoveries of floating stages for submarines at several points along the main Spanish coast. The Spanish Government are determined to put an end—and peremptorily if need be—to these attempted violations of a neutrality they throughout have scrupulously observed, and German secret agents will have short shrift from the authorities wherever and whenever their machinations are further found out.

WOMEN MUNITIONEERS.

Managers and foremen of shell factories are receiving invitations to a show specially arranged for them by the Ministry of Munitions at the Royal Colonial Institute, and opened on March 26th by Mr. Kellaway, Member of Parliament, of "The Ministry." Dr. Addison's staff has brought together hundreds of photographs showing women munitioneers at work, and a wonderful display of actual work done by women. It is not a show for the public, but to demonstrate to those who control munition factories how much women can do. It seems as if they can do anything. Big shells they make as easily as little ones. Huge air torpedoes with grisly flanges, parts of tanks, and amazingly carved cylinders for aeroplane engines are all within their power. One sees pictures of them doing such typical men's work as moulding or working a 300-ton press or aiding riveters on board ship, and they do it as competently as they turn and gauge fuses or small parts for Vickers' guns, or make the new body armour which is issued to bombers, or the new chain mail visors for the infantry's "tin hats." The biggest surprise is to learn that girls now erect and set big lathes and machine tools. Looking at the faces in the photographs—faces of women of

quick intelligence, often of obvious good breeding, and almost always a cut above the old factory types—one realizes that the Munitions Department has added immensely to the nation's capital by tapping and training this great army of intelligent female labor. By this exhibition the Munitions Ministry want to make managers and foremen realize the full value of it and the importance of teaching and trusting women workers instead of pitch-forking them into factories to do only dull elementary work.

INSURANCE FLUCTUATIONS.

Apart from the insurance of war risks considerable fluctuations are being recorded by insurance companies as a result of the present situation. Large increases are being made in the sums insured against fire, and to a considerable extent the policies represent furniture and effects acquired by the industrial classes during the present period of high wages. In many other instances supplementary insurances have been effected by property owners, largely under Government war risk conditions, but also because it is realized that no building will for years be replaceable at its pre-war cost. While, however, fire departments are showing active results, there is a general decrease in the amount at risk in the accident departments. This is due in the main to the reduction in the volume of private motoring. With the imminent scarcity of petrol there is no doubt that thousands of accident policies, as they become due for renewal, will be allowed to expire, and the cars which are their subject matter be laid up.

THE KAISERIN'S JEWELRY.

The news that the German Empress is selling her jewellery will probably create some little excitement among the diamond merchants in neutral countries. On State occasions of the Court the Kaiserin has often worn jewelled ornaments valued at a quarter of a million sterling. Many of them are heirlooms of the Prussian Crown, and can be worn only by a reigning Queen, but, apart from these possessions, the diamonds alone, which are the Empress's private property, are worth at least a hundred thousand pounds. Most of them were left to her by the Empress Augusta. The bequest included several dazzling necklets, forty superb diamond rings and numberless bracelets, brooches and pins. At one grand ball attended by the Empress the Court Jeweller calculated that her train was beset with diamonds worth six thousand pounds, while her dancing shoes were valued at five hundred pounds. Two of the least of the Kaiserin's ornaments are hardly likely to be seen in the sale rooms. The first, which she prizes above all her possessions, is the diamond which was found in Napoleon's triangular hat under a tree after the Battle of Waterloo. The other is the insignia of the Order of the Swan, of which she is the only holder in the world.

Use "Cascarets" for Liver and Bowels When Constipated.

When bilious, headachy, sick, for sour stomach, bad breath, bad colds.

Get a 10-cent box. Take a Cascaret to-night to cleanse your Liver, Stomach and Bowels; and you will surely feel great by morning. You men and women who have headache, coated tongue, a bad cold, are bilious, nervous, disordered stomach, or have backache and feel all worn out. Are you keeping your bowels clean with Cascarets—or merely forcing a passageway every few days with salts, cathartic pills or castor oil?

Cascarets immediately cleanse and regulate the stomach, remove the sour, undigested and fermenting food and foul gases; take the excess bile from the liver and carry off the constipated waste matter and poison from the bowels.

Remember, a Cascaret to-night will straighten you out by morning. A 10-cent box from your druggist means healthy bowel action; a clear head and cheerfulness for months. Don't forget the children.

Everyday Etiquette

"When a woman has been invited to a party through the influence of a friend who was previously invited, should she call on the hostess after the entertainment?" asked Ruth. "Yes, a call should be made whether the woman accepted the invitation or not," said her aunt.

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THE WEE ONE!

The time is now at hand to fit out the "little one" for the coming summer, and this week we direct your attention to the fact that we are selling little pearls of value in Children's

HATS,
BONNETS
and COATS,
to suit ages from 2 to 4 years' old.
For Examples See Windows.



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