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We are now clearing all our stock of Ladies' and Children's Millinery and Ready-to-Wear Hats. Without exception, all must go. Prices range

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Qualities that are now impossible to procure at any price. A full range of Sizes. Shades of GREY BROWN and FAWN. . . .

LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, Dec. 30th, 1918. NO STOPPING THEM.

Nearly half a hundred American reporters are following the President, to keep the American people in touch with his movements, and when he reached Buckingham Palace (upon the occasion of his brief visit here last week) they went right in, penetrated—most of them—to the grand hall, and watched his reception by the household. To inquiries as to how they got inside, they were tolerant but firm. Their attitude showed they had come to "do the story," and thought that enough explanation for any reasonable man. The King, though so, to, for he had their leaders introduced to him, and they shook hands with Royalty, with cordiality and satisfaction.

FAMOUS ADMIRAL FOR ST. STEP. MEN'S.

I hear that Admiral Hall, the famous Chief of the Navy's Intelligence Department, the man who knew the name of every submarine commander and his exact crimes, the man who sold Germany the plans of an imaginary battle cruiser, the Leopard, with gigantic guns which would take three years to imitate, and would then burst, hopes to stand for Parliament at one of the first by-elections of next year. He retires from the Admiralty soon, feeling that his work is done, and that while men who have been at sea during the war should

hold the command which remain after demobilization, he can promote the sailors' welfare in Parliament. When he gets in we shall hear some very sensible advice about making the navy a more attractive career for the well-educated and ambitious boy from the working-class, for giving the exceptional boy of this class a chance to become a midshipman, for improving the conditions of life aboard ships, and, above all, for maintaining the close association which the war has forged between the Navy and the merchant seaman. A scheme is already developing for giving the man in the fore-castle of a British merchantman more continuous employment with the same line, and also the status and training of a naval reservist. Admiral Hall looks as sharp as a needle, and is so. A humorous and racy speaker, and an expert in cross-examination, the House of Commons will enjoy his company.

THE DOVER BARRAGE BLUFF.

Now, when so many well-known secrets of the war about naval and military matters are appearing in the press, the story of the greatest bluff in the war may be published. When the submarine campaign began in earnest Germany was getting many submarines through the Straits of Dover, despite all that our anti-submarine boats could do against them. A wonderful fixed barrage was then designed with extraordinary electrical appliances of alarm signals and

contact mines and electrified wires and dozens of new secret devices. By some means these designs fell into the hands of German secret agents. It was even said that Germany paid £4,000 for them. The next phase was peace in the Straits of Dover. The new barrage was too formidable and complete for the German submarines in that stage of development. Germany knew when she was beaten, and for over six weeks there was no attempt to break through. There was, however, no barrage except in these designs, which had been foisted upon Germany. We had neither the right mines nor the mechanism ready at the time. I do not guarantee this story, but it is not more astonishing than some of the authenticated naval legends of the Great War.

HISTORY IN WAR STAMPS.

Something like a history of the Great War might be read out of the exceedingly interesting exhibition of war stamps which F. J. Melville is showing at the Philatelic Galleries in the Strand here. Especially noteworthy is his collection of Russian stamps issued since 1914. They range from a beautiful patriotic series produced by the Imperial Government early in the war to a set, which has only reached London during the past few days, of the first issue of stamps by the Ukraine Republic. An interesting and novel method of surcharge has been adopted by the Russian Revolutionary authorities to utilize some of the stamps of the Imperial period by printing a big figure denoting the value over the face of the ex-Czar and his ancestors. Another curiosity in the Russian section is a set of stamps printed on stout card, on the back of

which appears an intimation that in addition to their normal use for postage purposes they may be used for small currency, presumably to tide over a shortage of silver and copper coins. Other remarkable items in the exhibition include Italian express delivery stamps for the aeroplane post between Turin and Rome, a hydroplane series used to keep up postal communication between Naples and Palermo in defiance of the U-boats, and a complete set of Turkish stamps with views of the Bosphorus, Constantinople, and a place called "The Sweet Waters of Europe." The last mentioned are overprinted "Iraq in British occupation." Iraq is the name of the district of Asiatic Turkey Turkey which was the Babylonia of ancient history, and includes the cities of Bagdad and Basra. The British stamps for the use of civilians in Palestine are also shown; they bear the imprint of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

PROBLEM OF FOREIGN TRADE.

West End of London shopkeepers say they understand that many American women are coming over almost at once to London and Paris to see husbands and to buy Paris dresses. Whether they will get French passports I cannot say—the French authorities at Bedford Square here are very strict with English would-be travellers—but I am sure that nothing will keep them out of London, where we already see many neat, demure American Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. women doing "cut" sights. The question whether it will be possible to get out of England this winter without the excruciating business of national importance perplexes many people. With our own hotels asking £2 a night for a room, a holiday on the Riviera would not by comparison seem costly, if it were possible to get there. But our Foreign Office can name no date for removal of the travel restrictions. Nor is it likely to do so until after the Peace Conference; and, speaking without special information, I fancy that even after the Channel steamers may be reserved for commercial purposes, genuine invalids, and for the bereaved visiting cemeteries. Some limitation on the rush of this last class and a Government organization to provide for housing and feeding in the desolated zones may be necessary in their own interests. Unless we have permits and hostels the alternative is discomfort and high prices.

PASSAGE OF THE SCHELDT.

Regarding the announcement that the British Government has intimated their desire to send supplies to the armies in Germany via the Scheldt and Limburg, I hear that negotiations on this matter have been going on lately between the British and Dutch Governments. They are conducted in a very friendly spirit, and a satisfactory agreement will soon be arrived at. The Dutch Government, I understand, raises no objection to the passage through the Scheldt of supplies carried by merchant vessels. I am also told that the Dutch Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Van Karnebeek, may resign, his personal prestige being involved in the Limburg incident. "passage of German troops: As his probable successor is mentioned, Vonkheer de Marees Van Swinderen, the Dutch Minister in London, who was Minister for Foreign Affairs from 1909 to 1913 in the Teunissen Cabinet. If the appointment of Vonkheer de Marees Van Swinderen becomes definite I should not be surprised to see interesting developments in our relations with Holland.

THE DEMAND FOR BOOKS.

Several London publishers tell us that this Christmas established a record in the matter of books, despite the enhanced prices. This may indicate either an improvement in the public taste or an improvement in the public purse; but the general opinion is that the war has created in the

SERVICE!

How Soon Can You Have It Here?

Many are the fishermen who have been delayed in getting their engines, and who have lost hundreds of dollars thereby; also, in waiting for repair parts for engines, which are "here today and gone to-morrow."

Don't Speculate with Placing Your Order

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You won't be disappointed if you buy Rainbow Flour.

Get it from your grocer, or from Royal Stores, Ltd., J. D. Ryan, Steer Bros., or F. McFamara.

You may have to pay a half cent per pound more for Rainbow Flour, but isn't a really good flour worth a little more money?

Ask to see Rainbow, don't take anyone's word. See for yourself how white Rainbow Flour really is.

Who Is It?

This is the rite observed at the interment of the Austrian Emperors in the Chapel of the Capuchins in Vienna:

When Francis Joseph was carried there to rest with his ancestors, the commanding officer of the Life Guards, clad in black and steel, thundered with his mallet hand at the barred gate asking for the body to be admitted.

A monk within, according to the rite, asked in Latin: "who is it?" Thereupon one of the dignitaries answered: "Franciscus Josephus Philaeus, Austrian Emperor, Rex Hungaricus, Bohemicus, Wyrinus, Lodomerus," etc.

The monk answered: "I know him not. Speak again."

A short silence ensued, and then the same dignitary said in a low voice:

Change of Business

On and after the 1st of January, STAFFORDS MACY, Duckworth Street, will be closed for all RETAIL BUSINESS, and in future be a WHOLESALE MANUFACTURING DEPARTMENT, all kinds of DRUGS, CHEMICALS, PATENT MEDICINES, SUNDRIES, etc. All Patrons for STAFFORDS MACY, Duckworth Street, will be replaced if necessary, at Theatre Hill.

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Children's Underwear—splendid lot of Cream and Blue Undershirts with Blue, body attached. Regular \$1.70 pair. Clearance Price

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