

London Letter

By PANTON HOUSE

(For The Canadian Press.)  
LONDON, April 24.—The opening of the British Empire Exhibition by the King on April 23rd, was without doubt the finest spectacle seen in England since the Coronation, nearly 19 years ago. But whereas that more than 2,000 people could follow the King in Westminster Abbey, the Wembley stadium (where the opening ceremony was held) has room for 125,000. No other building in the world could contain such an audience, it covers over 16 acres of ground, and the green British turf of the central playing fields surrounded by a quarter-mile running track. In shape it is a wide and blunt oval, its width being about two-thirds of its length.

At ten o'clock on the morning of St. George's Day, by which time more than half the spectators were in their places the massed bands of the Brigade of Guards, with the massed pipers of the Scots and Irish Guards, appeared in the arena, where they marched, playing stirring airs. At 10.30 arrived the three guards of honor: first the Navy, welcomed by the massed bands with "Hearts of Oak" and "A Life on the Ocean Wave"—50 bluejackets and 50 Marines; then the Army—100 men of the 3rd battalion of the Grenadier Guards, greeted, of course, with "The British Grenadiers"; lastly, 100 men of the Royal Air Force, played in with their own rather less familiar march.

The Royal Dais, or grand stand, covered in scarlet picked out with gold and canopied in purple, carried a semi-circle of 1600 seats for distinguished guests with two big golden chairs of state in the centre. Before it were banks of flowers—dark blue carnations and pale blue hydrangeas. At the opposite end of the stadium were the massed choirs of the great London churches, 10,000 strong, mainly in white surplices, with the Westminster Abbey contingent in red cassocks; and the "Choirs of the Chapels Royal" in scarlet and gold. With them was the band of the Royal Military school of Music.

ROYALTY ARRIVES

A few minutes after 11 the Prince of Wales President of the Exhibition, drove into the arena and was received by the Duke of Devonshire, the whole audience rising to cheer and wave its hats and handkerchiefs. Then the trumpeters of the Guards—whose uniforms carry more gold lace than any other in the Army—blew a fanfare. The first of the escort of Royal Horse Guards, in dark blue and steel, rode in under the archway, preceding three State carriages and the King's coach, drawn by six brown horses in trappings of black and gold and crimson, with postillions and outriders. The King wore the uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet, and the Queen was in grey velvet and fur. The massed bands crashed out the National Anthem, the Royal Standard was broken out on the dais, and the guests of honor gave the royal salute, while the great audience cheered and cheered again.

EXHIBITION DECLARED OPEN.  
The Prince of Wales read his official request that the King would declare the Exhibition open, standing before his father's throne-like chair, in Admiral's uniform. His first few words were lost while the multitude settled down into silence, but all the rest of the speech was heard from end to end of the stadium. The King's reply was even still audible, amplified as it was by five instruments in the child balcony above his head. The Bishop of London recited, first a special collect then the Lord's Prayer. Many of those present say the most impressive moment of the ceremony was this, as more than a hundred thousand voices joined in the familiar words with a reiteration like distant thunder.

The King pressed a gold and enamel button in the globe-shaped golden cast-iron presented to him by the Exhibition authorities. This was the signal for another fanfare of trumpets. All round the top of the stadium flags, each in charge of a Boy Scout, were broken out, and in the grounds of the Exhibition, the flag of each Dominion, Colony and Dependency was hoisted, while an artillery salute of 21 guns announced the opening of the imperial show. Just 80 seconds later a telegraph messenger boy entered by the main gateway and walked to the royal dais where, saluting solemnly, he presented to the King a huge envelope. It contained the King's own message—"I have at this moment opened the British Empire Exhibition—George, R. I." It had passed completely around the world before its reception back at Wembley by Imperial cable through the General Post Office, travelling 31,500 miles in 1 minute 20 seconds by way of Penzance, Halifax, N.S., Montreal, Vancouver, Fanning Islands, Fiji, Auckland, Sydney, Adelaide, Perth, Cape Islands, Rodrigues, Durban, Cape Town, St. Helena, Ascension, St. Vincent and Madeira, and so back to London.

Finally Sir Edward Elgar conducted his enormous choir in his own composition, our second National Anthem, "Land of Hope and Glory." The Royal Salute was given, the King

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Our Dumb Animals

REPORT FROM CHIEF AGENT FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 23RD.

and Queen, and the Prince of Wales took their places in the coach, and the procession wound slowly round the stadium, while the bands played "Rule Britannia" and the spectators shouted and sang.

OUTSIDE LISTENERS.

The number of people who heard the speech in the stadium by the aid of wireless has been estimated at anything from six to ten millions. About three-quarters of a million people in this country hold licenses for receiving sets, and besides all the listeners in private houses large audiences gathered in public places where "loud speakers" had been provided. The speeches were heard, for instance, by 20,000 people at Edinburgh and by 2,000 people at Inverness, 600 miles from Wembley. In London, thousands and hundreds of thousands of people collected round the loud speakers in parks and open spaces, and every little shop possessing a wireless outfit invited passers-by to share the treat. In one of the big stores each department had its apparatus, and buying and selling ceased as customers and shop assistants listened to the King's voice, heard as clearly as though he stood a few feet away. The preliminary music and singing, the orders to the guard, the trumpets and the cheers were faithfully reproduced. Every word uttered by the King and Prince was so distinct that in newspaper offices all over the country a full shorthand note was taken down by wireless.

Hints for the Housewife

Repainting Furniture.  
Polished, painted furniture that has become shabby will need a good washing down, then when dry, fresh coat of enamel. It is a good idea to touch up shabby places first, then when they are dry to give the whole piece a fresh coat. If the furniture is to be used in a nursery, where finger marks will be likely to show, paint the furniture, giving it first a filling or priming coat. When it is dry, give it a good second coat. When that is dry, make any decoration desired, then use a good water-proof varnish. Polish in this way, the marks that appear from day to day may be washed off with a soft cloth wrung out of soapy water. Afterward polish the pieces with a dry cloth.

Removing Grass Stains.  
With the season at hand for grass stains on children's white clothes the suggestion of so simple a remedy as kerosene may be timely. The garments are soaked and washed in kerosene before going into the regular wash.

Stains of Chocolate.  
To remove stains of chocolate or cocoa, moisten with cold water then cover with borax and let stand for a few minutes before you rinse with hotting water.

On the Wringers.  
If the wringer works with difficulty, put a little kerosene oil on the gears and work them for a minute or two, then wipe and put in a few drops of machine oil.

Clean Leather.  
A solution of white soap, to which water and oil have been added, makes a good cleaner for leather.

Plant Disinfectant.  
Clean soapy water is a good disinfectant and if poured on plants or around the roots often keeps a plant free from objectionable insects.

The First Card  
Gentlemen! If it were necessary to open booths in order to take a vote to find out at what store in St. John's the very best Tobaccos, Cigars, Cigarettes could be had, every man entering the booth would surely mark his ballot in favour of  
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Bud Fisher Owns Big Race Winner

FAMOUS CREATOR OF MUTT AND JEFF CLEANS UP \$54,000 IN PLEASANTNESS.

NEW YORK, May 13.—Bud Fisher, nationally known cartoonist, was shaving on the steamer Majestic this morning when he was told that Nellie Morse, his three-year-old filly had won the \$54,000 Preakness at Pimlico yesterday.

"That's great," he said; "but it's no more than I expected. I expected great things of that little filly when I named her after my mother." Fisher said plans had been made to enter her in the Kentucky Derby and added "If Mr. Mutt does not win the Derby, Nellie Morse will." He said he regretted that Wise Counsellor, Saracen and St. James would not start in the Derby. "My entries would have stopped anything in the race," he said.

Fisher said he had not bet on the Preakness and allowed that \$54,000 was enough to win on one race.

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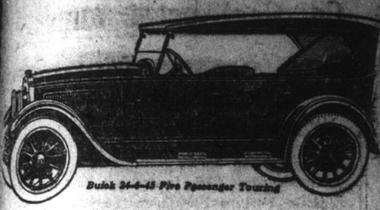
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