

At the Sign of the Maple

A NEWS DEPARTMENT MAINLY FOR WOMEN

Buckingham Palace in War Time

OUR special correspondent in London contributes the following interesting budget of news concerning the war-time regime as touches the personnel of the royal household. Our writer deals first with the Princess Mary, who is standing with the alleged "reluctant feet where the brook and river meet"; who, in other words, is a lately acknowledged "grown-up." But here is the letter:—

"Princess Mary is filling her role as the first daughter of England with great success and is absolutely invaluable to her mother. The Queen, like the King, has scarcely a spare moment at this critical time, and consequently it is a great relief to her that she can relegate to the youthful Princess Mary many duties which at normal times she performs herself. Entertaining at the Palace is suspended for the moment, but there are a great many Royalties in town just now, and Queen Mary has informal tea parties in her boudoir, to which a number of her own friends and ladies about the court are invited. On these occasions Princess Mary often acts as hostess when the Queen has to be absent.

"All the King's private correspondence falls now on the Queen, who devotes each morning and some time during the afternoon to dealing with it, assisted by five secretaries. A great many reservists on joining the colours write to His Majesty assuring him of their loyalty and expressing their pleasure in being called upon to serve him. Every one of these letters, they often run into one or two hundred a day, is immediately acknowledged. While to other people who write to declare their loyalty, a specially prepared circular letter is sent, as it would be quite impossible to answer each one of these in writing.

"His Majesty himself is kept busy all day following the trend of events. Dispatches are constantly reaching him from the War Office, the Admiralty and the Foreign Office. Even the smallest piece of war information of which the Government becomes possessed is at once made known to the sovereign. Early hours used to be kept at the Palace, but now the King does not retire until past midnight, and throughout the night a secretary is in telephonic communication with the Government offices and arouses the King if any fresh news comes in. One of the first obligations of those at Court is to keep strict silence on any matter with which they may become acquainted during the course of their duties. So that there is no chance of the secrecy that is so faithfully observed with regard to the movements of our soldiers and sailors being broken, since those at Court are in honour bound not to reveal anything even to their nearest relatives.

"THE greatest economy is observed in the commissariat department of the Palace, but the Queen has issued orders that no extra supplies are to be laid in. Her Majesty's thoughtfulness has been very evident in the treatment of the royal servants. Rather than they should be deprived of their annual holidays which they generally have when the Court is out of town, the Queen decided that certain suites of rooms at Buckingham Palace which were not being used should be closed. In this way domestic work was minimized and the servants whose holidays were due went away as usual. Dinner hour at the Palace has been fixed half an hour later than usual in order to give more time for the completion of the many extra duties which the unusual state of affairs brings in its train.

"The King and Queen visit Queen Alexandra at least twice each day. The Queen Mother takes an active interest in the doings of the Red Cross Society and goes each day to Devonshire House, its temporary headquarters. I noticed her there with Princess Victoria the other day. She looked perfectly charming and was wearing a practical coat and skirt of fine black serge, prettily braided, and had on with it a dainty corsage of black ninon, exquisitely embroidered with a tracery of black silk flowers.

"Queen Amelie of Portugal is another indefatigable worker of the Red Cross. Like the Queen of the Belgians, who is the head of the Red Cross Society in Belgium, she is a qualified doctor and did a good deal of medical work among the poor in Lisbon, where she was much beloved. In her day the ladies of the Portuguese Court were expected to have at least an elementary knowledge of nursing."

Ill-Timed Arrangement

WHEREAS the English militants as a body have suspended hostilities toward Mr. Asquith and the members of parliament who stand with him in resistance of the demand for woman suffrage, there is still a deal of pen-point militancy issuing from suffrage organs in Great Britain which must needs be considered a reproach to women at the

present time of peril to the Empire.

While the assertion may be perfectly true that "men know nothing by actual experience of the cost in blood and agony of replenishing the race," it is probable that by sympathy they know it; that most men love the mothers of their children. It is not to be doubted, furthermore, that fatherhood accounts its offspring precious. From which, it is unfair to blame male statecraft for the present opposition to the despot as "The Suffragette," London, does in its latest issue.

"The failure of male statecraft is complete," runs the arraignment. "Governments, by deliberately bandaging and closing up one of the two human eyes given to humanity for vision, have lost all perspective. By shutting out women from the councils of state they have lost the sense of the relative values of material aggrandizement and human life." Truly, some vision has lost perspective, but to ascribe so single and circumscribed a wherefore is to proclaim the sight of the writer's self defective.

When the pledge of honour must be kept with blood, the hand of woman must seek her heart in

sight-seeing, having been present in England since July 11th, and their interests included a five days' visit to Stratford-on-Avon, where, by the way, the Shakespeare Fete was not, for the obvious reason. There is little but heel-kicking at present, and thumb-twiddling, for F. R. Benson's players.

Owing to the energy of Mr. Ney and also to the kindness of Earl Grey in making public the plight of the teachers whose travelling arrangements the war had interfered with, there was instant hospitality forthcoming to the extent that all the party was looked after. Several members of the company were nurses and were swift to offer their services for field work.

News in Brief

REPRESENTATIVES of every woman's society in Montreal were called together recently at the Y. W. C. A. to form an auxiliary executive to co-operate with those conducting the local Patriotic Fund campaign. All classes and ages of women attended and flocked eagerly to the platform when the chairman, Miss Helen Reid, asked for volunteers to work under the new executive. Miss Reid was appointed convener of the committee.

A mass meeting of the I. O. D. E. chapters in Winnipeg was recently held at the Industrial Bureau to appoint a committee to work with the men's executive of the Patriotic Fund workers. The ladies' part will be visiting, chiefly. Mrs. Scott, of the Margaret Scott Nursing Mission, has offered the auxiliary the gratuitous services of the mission nurses in any needy cases which may come to light. Convener of the committee is Mrs. S. B. Steele.

The Canadian Women's Hospital Ship Fund, which closed as such on Sept. 1st, has reached a total of \$218,034.61, over twice the amount originally called for. The said sum has been forwarded to the British Admiralty through Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught, and will be used for a supplementary naval hospital at Haslar, near Portsmouth, which will bear the name, "The Canadian Women's Hospital."

The Duchess of Connaught, who, to-day, is regarded as an English Princess, is nevertheless the daughter of Frederick Charles of Prussia, the Red Prince, "whose name the mothers of Lorraine villages invoke to-day as the Scottish peasants of old invoked the name of the Black Douglas to terrify their children." He was a conspicuous figure in the Franco-Prussian war.

Mrs. Arthur Murphy, of Edmonton, president of the Canadian Women's Press Club, known throughout the English-speaking literary world as "Janey Canuck," has recommended to the Women's Press Club all over the Dominion to issue at regular intervals a "home letter" to the Canadians enlisted as soldiers, sailors and nurses in Europe. The Women's Press Club, of Edmonton, was the first to take up the idea. Its officers will issue letters twice a month for distribution among the men and women sent to the front from the Province of Alberta. These letters will contain brief items of news from the various cities, towns and villages and cheery editorials. It is estimated that 20 per cent. of the adult male population of Edmonton, a city of 73,000, has enlisted for service in various branches of Great Britain's army and navy.

Lady Borden, wife of the Prime Minister, expressed her desire to present colours to the Nova Scotia companies going to the front with the Canadian expeditionary force. Colonel Hughes accepted the offer. He did the same with regard to the offer of Mrs. J. D. Hazen, wife of the Minister of the Naval Service, who wished to present colours to the New Brunswick companies.

The gift of Mrs. T. W. Crothers, wife of the Minister of Labour, to the soldiers going to the front from St. Thomas was warm foot covering for use at night when sleeping in the open. These, over ninety pairs, were her personal manufacture.

At a recent meeting, under the auspices of the Household League of Ottawa, it was resolved to advise Canadian women to purchase only Canadian-made commodities so far as possible during the coming crisis. This is calculated to minimize non-employment. Among the prominent women present were Mrs. Adam Shortt, Mrs. Lyman, Mrs. R. H. Coats, and Mrs. J. A. Wilson, national convener, household economics.



MRS. HENRY CROFT, VICTORIA, B. C.,

Who, as Provincial President of the Daughters of the Empire, reported a contribution to the Canadian Women's "Hospital Ship" Fund of \$17,000 for the Province—twice the amount expected from these Chapters. The total amount received at Headquarters was well over \$200,000, likewise double the amount of subscriptions called for.

terror for the race which her business on earth would seem to be to produce and to preserve. But surely balm should be poured from her phial, and not caustic acid, when the war which men have declared is a war of honour. It will be more timely when the holocaust is ended to insist that for the sake of the human race, for the sake of the divinity that is in the human race, women with men must participate in statecraft.

It is for woman suffragists and feminists at large to subscribe to the spirit as well as to the word that militancy has been, at the least, suspended not only in its hatchet and half-brick manifestation, but also in the pricks of its venomous pen-nibs—mightier, no doubt, than either weapon.

The Tourist Teachers

WHILE a few youngsters were naturally tickled that the company of nearly five hundred Canadian teachers, who comprised the "Hands Across the Seas" party under the experienced conduct of Mr. Ney in Europe, were reported "stranded," there were older minds of less prejudiced outlook which were anxious, indeed, at the plight of the tourist school ma'ams.

The teachers, who finally embarked from Glasgow on the Allan liner "Scandinavian," on August 22nd, had been obliged to abandon the finish of their programme—embracing visits to Worcester, Shrewsbury and Edinburgh—owing to Great Britain's military arrangements and the consequent curtailment of traffic. They had previously accomplished much