

GUESSING ABOUT BRIDE FOR PRINCE

He Will Make Choice for Himself.

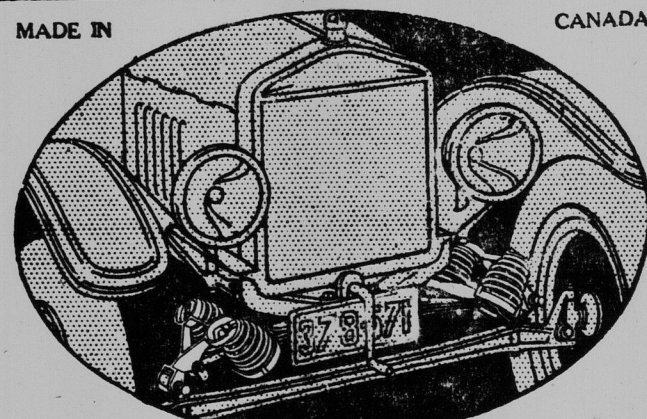
Affairs in Egypt—Echoes of the War—Lord Grey's Eyesight—Topics They are Discussing in London.

(From our own Correspondent.)
London, February 2.—The gossip is still guessing about the matrimonial intentions of the Prince of Wales and, from all I hear, they are likely to remain guessing for some little time to come. Surprise is expressed in some quarters that "the secret" has been so well kept. As a matter of fact there is no secret to keep. In affairs of this kind the "principals" do not usually have very much voice in the matter. It is looked upon as a state affair, and the cumbersome machinery of court and government sets to work to arrange a desirable alliance. That is the usual procedure. But that procedure is not to be adopted in the present instance. On that point the Prince is absolutely firm. He has shown more than once and has avowed many times that he is, on general questions, prepared to waive his own private views in deference to his father's wishes, or even more important, in deference to what may be regarded as the interests of the state. But he makes one reservation. He insists that in the choice of his wife he shall be allowed to follow the dictates of his own heart. It follows that when his engagement is really announced, it will be a love match in all reality. It would be proclaimed such in any case by all the society gossip, who seem to think this is the correct thing to assert in the case of every Royal engagement, even though the contracting parties have scarcely seen each other half a dozen times.

Egyptian Affairs.
The Foreign Office privately blames the War Office, and its refusal to compromise on the question of military occupation, for the breakdown of the recent promising negotiations in London with Adly Pasha. Since then it has become obvious that there is no alternative except independent Egyptian sovereignty or a repressive armed occupation, and the Foreign Office, nervously apprehensive of foreign complications, earnestly desires a settlement with Egyptian intellectuals, whose ambitions have very astutely been fomented by France and Italy, even during the period of our closest war alliance. It is a mistake to imagine that Lord Allenby is to be superseded, or that he favors a repressive policy. His lordship has urged the vital necessity of coming to terms on the home government, and since the Irish settlement there has been no question of his leaving Egypt. Had it been necessary to adopt a big policy of arms in Ireland, Lord Allenby would have been in charge of operations.

Possible Terms.
When Lord Allenby put down the last serious Egyptian rising by stern measures such action was not imperative. It was pretty plainly hinted by the French, that, unless this was promptly done by us, they would take action on their own. The fear of complications of this sort is one of the main reasons for the urgency with which the Foreign Office now regards the situation in Egypt. The real obstacle to settlement is the question of military occupation, which is obviously incompatible with Egyptian sovereignty, and to which no competent Egyptian ministry could possibly assent. The proposal is that, since we must have troops available for the protection of our imperial main artery, and also to safeguard foreign interests against any pretext for intervention by other powers, we should locate our forces across the Canal at Kantara, a rather uninviting desert position, for which step an interval would be necessary in order to provide the needed accommodation. Lord Curzon hopes for a compromise on these lines.

Echoes of the War.
The talk was in the great bay window of a famous club in St. James' street, and as it was among men of military age, it turned on the war and concentrated on that ever debatable subject—the March retreat of 1918. There were men with D. S. O.'s, and other honorable attachments to their name who had been in the area of the battle. And, as it will, the criticism of the staff work was unsparring. "Do you know," said one disgruntled Major, "that, with the exception of the front line, there was not a single line of trenches between the Allies and St. Quentin? We had only the Engineers' marks where the other trenches should have been." A Captain of Horse capped this by the luridly expressed description, imbued by personal experience, of three Cavalry Divisions engaged in manning French farm land, warts, of course, they should have been digging trenches. Even the great advance which ensued with the Armistice did not soothe these critics of the staff. The Armistice, they held, was concluded because the staff's arrangements were so bad that the advance could scarcely have proceeded. As a matter of fact it was at one time secret history, this is less than just to the staff. It can now be said that the reasons for the conclusion of the Armistice at the particular time chosen were political rather than military. The ultimate decision lay in the advice of that very wise statesman as well as soldier, Foch. In summing up the situation, the Marshal held that while the Allies and associate America could, without the least doubt, overrun Germany up to Berlin, the last stage, owing to the depletion and exhaustion of the French and British armies, would have to be left to our consins. There would have been the army to make the triumphal entry and the triumph would have been the appearance of the real winners of the war. It was decided that this would give the Americans an undue power of dictation in the settlement of the European situation.



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And so we had the Armistice on November 11th, instead of the early into March in the following spring.

Bridge of Sise.

Occasionally some queer adventures occur to card players. Usually these are in the case of men who pay in promissory company, merely sordid tales of card sharpening and pigeon plucking. But a club friend of mine, a famous journalist who is comfortably well-to-do without being at all wealthy, told me this morning, while he was in the city, that he figured, which had none of these usual of Scotland on a professional crand, and put up at a good hotel in a

comparatively small town. After dinner one evening he observed three elderly gentlemen in the almost deserted hotel lounge, earnestly conversing and unmistakably looking in his direction. Presently one of them, a real old Scottish laird in appearance and speech, approached my friend and asked whether he would mind making a fourth at Auction Bridge.

Now a London Journalist, who specializes in sport, is not exactly the sort of man to be caught napping by card sharpeners, however cleverly camouflaged. But this gentleman, besides being one of the best Auction hands in Fleet street, has a strong sense of adventure. He replied quite politely that as a rule, though he played Auction regularly at his club, he avoided chance games, but what were the stakes proposed? The Scottish laird smiled. "Such, we usually play for a shilling." As my friend was in the habit of playing for anything from half-a-crown to five shillings a hundred, and was well in funds on his journey, he agreed to a rubber, thinking there could be no great harm at a shilling a hundred. As luck would have it, apart from the fact that the three Scottish seniors played rather feeble Auction Bridge, though they were evidently keen as mustard on the game, the visitor had the most amazing card. The evening found his side well up on the score, and then, to his bewilderment, he found the stakes were, not a shilling a hundred, but a shilling a point, or five pounds

a hundred. His winnings amounted to nearly twenty pounds, and, so far from being at all upset, the Scots were delighted with their night's play. They insisted on his making up the fourth on the two remaining nights of his stay, and, of course, he could not refuse. Altogether he won thirty-five pounds and left his Scottish friends in fair transports over his agreeable company and expert play. They said—especially his partner—he was "Just grand."

The Geddes Axe.
One of the little problems set a government department by Sir Eric Geddes' Axe Brigade—Reduce your allowance of three-quarters of a million to three hundred and fifty thousand pounds, and include in this a new expenditure of £200,000.

Lord Grey's Eyesight.
The extent to which Lord Grey's eyesight has improved by the special treatment he has undergone has, I believe, been rather exaggerated by those who are hailing him as our future Prime Minister and suggesting a new Coalition under the joint banner of the Foreign Secretary and Lord Robert Cecil. It is quite true that Lord Grey is now able to walk freely without assistance and without the conspicuous colored glasses which he used to wear. But for a man of his age and his long career in public life, his eyesight is still far from perfect. I hear that on a recent semi-public occasion his signature to a scroll of honor, Lord Grey readily assented, but his hand had to be guided when he took up his pen.

Eccelestical Pen Pictures.
Impressionistic sketches of living celebrities are having a tremendous vogue just now, and tomorrow another volume will be published from the intriguing pen of "A Gentleman with a Duster." This time prominent religious leaders are the subjects of this sprightly series, who is generally believed to be Mr. Harold Begbie, and he runs riot among the lights of the established Church and Nonconformist circles with entire impartiality. The worst of this kind of writing is that it is purely subjective, and those who have come in contact with some of the eminent divines here portrayed will find themselves in violent disagreement with the author. For myself, I find the sketch of Dean Inge the most satisfying thing in the book, but I am not sure that I have a keener sense of delicacy in ascribing what he believes to be the motives behind his character. Methods such as these are all very well when dealing with politicians, who are made to be shot at, and are rarely the virtue of holding sincere convictions by witty writers of all kinds, but it seems that no public man, what he is, can expect to be treated with restraint in print now-a-days.

The Bowmen of England.
Coincidentally with the loss to the topos of the Bowmen of England, I hear of a movement which may portend a revival of archery, not as the polite sport of the favored few, but as a real popular pastime. A Scoutmaster in the Home Counties was faced with the problem of how to keep his Scouts fit and healthy, and as expense alone rules out the miniature rifle, this man had the happy inspiration of "archery." His troops, with bows and arrows, were taken up enthusiastically by the Boy Scouts of the neighborhood, and quite recently the Chief Scout, Sir Robert Baden-Powell has also been at pains to safeguard his great movement against any charge of "militarism," hence the absence of weapons from the Scouts' equipment. It is a pity that this troop that he has given his blessing to the bow as the Scout's arm and this year troops all over the country will take up the royal and ancient pastime. For this relief.

The latest news from Washington is immensely reassuring. The long delay in definite conclusions to the high negotiations occasioned by some real anxiety in London. Before the Conference assembled huge purchases were being made in this country and on the Continent for the Far East of all sorts of material, especially for aeroplanes, which could be intended only for war preparation. So the contracts were still being proceeded with even after the Conference began its deliberations, and up to the recent announcement of the Washington agreements. But now the agreement on the much discussed Article 19 really sets at rest all fears of war in the Pacific. It can now be stated that the fears, before the settlement now happily reached, were strongly entertained in the most authoritative quarters. And the menace of another great war between America and Japan rested heavily on official minds in London. It is no mean achievement in history-making that the suspicions mutually entertained by Japan and America have now been laid to rest. Before this Washington Pact Japan and America were building and equipping for war against each other quite on the approved European pre-war pattern. The Japanese spirit of the people should be seriously cultivated, which is the familiar way of fanning warflames into open conflagration. And because of the American peril, as Tokyo viewed it, the Japanese military clique had its hands greatly strengthened, so that the task of the Japanese democrats of modifying the Government policy in accordance with modern ideas, was made more than usually difficult. We shall now see the time spent on both sides of the Pacific die down, the crushing burden of armaments lessened, and Japanese politics and policies given a more progressive expression.

U. S. WILL WAIT
Washington, Feb. 17.—The response of the United States government to the invitation to participate in the Genoa conference, it is understood will be delayed until some results are achieved by the British and French economic experts who are to meet next week in London

Wrecks For The Dominions.
With the departure from Devonport for India of the sloop Canotus and a couple of patrol boats, all the great Dominions have since the war received gifts for their navies from among the surplus war-time vessels. In making these presentations, the Imperial Government has done the Dominions a good turn, because the vessels have been selected with a view to the utility for the services required of them. Thus while Australia has been presented with six destroyers, fittingly headed by the Anzac, and six submarines, South Africa has preferred a surveying vessel, the Crozier, and two mine-sweeping trawlers, the Eden and Foyle. New Zealand has accepted a light cruiser, the Chatham, but Newfoundland's special need was better supplied by a sloop, the Iphigene. Canada has received a handy little naval unit composed of the light cruiser Aurora and the destroyers Patriot and Patricia. It should be pointed out that very little sacrifice to the Exchequer is occasioned by these gifts. The vessels were surplus requirements, they would have absorbed men and money to keep in repair, and, if it had been desired to dispose of them, they would not have fetched very high prices in the present state of the ship-breaking industry and the slump in the market for steel scrap.

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10 P. M.

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BACTERIA FACTOR IN PLANT LIFE

Tiny Organism Draws from Air Nitrogen Needed to Promote Growth—How Science Helps.

Dealing with practical applications of scientific principles with regard to both injurious and beneficial bacteria in relation to soils and plant growth, Dr. F. C. Harrison, principal of Macdonald College, delivered an illustrated lecture at the Physics Building, University of Toronto, under the auspices of the Royal Canadian Institute. Dr. Harrison, who has spent years in the study of bacteria, delivered an illustrated lecture at the University of Toronto, under the auspices of the Royal Canadian Institute. Dr. Harrison, who has spent years in the study of bacteria, delivered an illustrated lecture at the University of Toronto, under the auspices of the Royal Canadian Institute. Dr. Harrison, who has spent years in the study of bacteria, delivered an illustrated lecture at the University of Toronto, under the auspices of the Royal Canadian Institute.

The microscopic life of field and forest is of invaluable importance and should provide a fund of interesting information for those who enjoy a ramble through the country so that they may understand the problems of agriculture and gain an insight into nature's great secrets.

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JOE PRINTERS IN QUEBEC STILL OUT

Quebec, Feb. 17.—Although the strike of the job printers here seemed on the eve of being settled on Thursday night fresh differences cropped up today and resulted in holding up the negotiations. The employers and representatives of the strikers met today and after a long conference the negotiations were referred to another meeting which will be held on Monday morning next.

A Profitable Profession for Women

McLean Hospital Training School for Nurses offers a three years' course in the care and treatment of nervous and mental diseases, with affiliations that also offer training in medical, surgical and obstetrical work. Instruction consists of lectures and practical work on the wards. Board, room and laundry are furnished and an allowance of \$80 per month for the first and second years, and \$45 per month for the third year. This course is open to young women who have had one year or equivalent in high school. Entrance at any time during the year. For information apply at once to DR. F. H. PACKARD, Superintendent, Waverley, Massachusetts

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