

LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, July 27th, 1919.

THE KING'S ROYAL YACHT.

His Majesty's favorite racing yacht Britannia is still in the berth at East Cowes which she has occupied since August, 1914, and the probability is that she will remain there until next year. At one time it was believed that the yacht would be commissioned this season. Orders for her fitting out were actually given, but subsequently they were countermanded.

LONDON'S WATER PAGEANT.

Full advantage promises to be taken of the Thames Embankment—both the Albert Embankment between Vauxhall and Westminster on the south bank, and the Victoria Embankment between Westminster and Blackfriars on the north—by the many sightseers who will crowd to witness the promised mercantile marine pageant from Battersea to Greenwich. The river terrace of the Houses of Parliament will be peers and members general and our legislators will have a special advantage over the ordinary citizen in that they will be able to retire to the committee rooms and the show under cover if the weather proves threatening. The suggestion is to be heard that if any of the city livery companies still possess the state barges which were accustomed to be used on festive occasions when the Thames was the recognized highway to the city they should figure in the coming pageant, together with the King's state barge, which was last used at Henley Regatta, the barge used by the Lords of the Admiralty, and one or two others which continue to be moored upstream. Down to the middle of the seventeenth century, when coaches and sedan chairs were becoming generally adopted, the Thames was the recognized medium of Metropolitan traffic, as many an allusion by Samuel Pepys in his Diary will recall; and it would be of interest if the Select Committee now considering the problem of London traffic were to recommend that some measure of relief of the present congestion might be obtained by reverting to this method of getting about.

A SMALLER NAVY.

The midsummer Naval promotions indicate clearly that the Government intends economies in the Navy, and will maintain a much smaller force in commission. During the war 30 new captains were promoted each half year, and 60 commanders. The new lists only name 20 new captains and 40 new commanders. Many of these, moreover, were noted for special advancement on account of war services. With fewer chances of promotion in their own service, Naval officers will look in increasing numbers for openings in commerce.

SMOKING IN THE HOUSE.

The detection of a member smoking in the House of Commons may not be the first incident of the kind in the annals of the British Parliament, but it is certainly very rare. Recently an effort was made by certain members to get this harmless little relaxation allowed to members attending grand committees, but without success, though it was permitted, I believe, on certain occasions before the war. It is interesting to note, however, that it has long been one of the privileges of the members of the House of Representatives in the United States to smoke during the sittings of the House. Lord Bryce in his book on "The American Commonwealth" describes how certain congressmen, "tired of sitting still, rise and stretch themselves, while the western visitor, long, lank, and imperturbable, leans his arms on the railing, chewing his cigar, and surveys the scene with little reverence." Later on in the same chapter, Lord Bryce remarks that smoking shocks the Englishman who visits the American Lower House in session, but adds that it does not shock him any more than the English practice of wearing hats in both Houses of Parliament shocks the American.

FLAGS.

The most striking thing about the peace demonstration after all the flags, I had not conceived that until coming into London at Waterloo Station. Most of the little country stations had their Union Jacks, but at Wimbledon the number began to grow unusual. Passing Clapham and Battersea one was aware of flags in places where they had never been seen before, such as on the top of gasometers and factory chimneys, where the placing of them must have meant much organization, work and danger. Nearly every mean street one glimpsed had a row of flags across it, and most of the back windows showed flags to the railways. The big blocks of flats and offices in Piccadilly and Westminster had flags almost in proportion, and nearly every back garden and court had a small flag of some sort. There was nothing like it even on Armistice Day. An interesting point was the prevalence of Belgian flags. Many of them were no doubt bought early in the war, and many also looked too new for that. The only flag that seemed too small for the place and the occasion was the flag over the Houses of Parliament.

M. CLEMENCEAU AND THE MOTTO.

Just before the signing began at Versailles, Bonar Law called Lloyd George's attention to the motto painted on the ceiling over M. Clemenceau's head. It ran, "Le Roi gouverne par lui-même." Lloyd George chuckled and pointed it out to Clemenceau saying, "You might have written that." "No," the "Tiger" answered, "I should have written 'I rule by myself.'" It is true, Clemenceau's power in France, at the moment, depends entirely on his own personality and his own achievements. He seems just as vigorous as ever and spoke with great force on Peace day. France expects that he will see all the Peace Treaties signed and then retire from office. But he is not worn out, and is fit to endure

many months of diplomatic and political strife.

SURVIVALS.

The City of London "chop-shops" are almost curiosities now, and one by one they are dropping off. But there is still Pim's, which is famous for oysters and House of Commons waiters, and Simpson's, where they still guess the weight of cheese every day, but during the war the champagne was not served out to all the company at the expense of the house when a lucky guest guessed it right. Champagne had become too precious, and only the guesser and a few of his friends were rewarded by a magnum. Then there is the old George in the Borough, the only example of an old coaching inn left in London, and there an ordinary begins at one o'clock and is mostly attended by hop merchants. The Ship and Turtle is changed out of all memory. No longer do the turtles floating in their tanks adorn one side of the smoking room. Birch's little green shop at the top of Cornhill still survives, and has revived its old delicacies after the war, and in a long, narrow, plain, mournful room upstairs it still serves turtle soup, and turtle soup only. Fleet Street still has The Cheshire Cheese, and sometimes Americans are so scarce that even a Fleet Street man can get a share of what it believes to be a famous pudding or a famous pie.

COATS AND SKIRTS.

Well-dressed women are beginning to think about ordering a good tweed suit for wear in August and later. Ready-made suits for women are to be had at a price, but with tweeds, even more than other materials, it is much better to get the stuff from a good firm and have it made up. Tweed costumes are being made very short, very straight, and with a superabundance of pockets. No decorative buttons or stitchings are allowed. The woman who has worn uniform during the war now rules such things out when she orders civilian dress, and her example is followed. Pockets are used on the skirt as well as on the coat. Belts have become rather too common for them to be necessary. On the better-made suits collars are made so that they can turn up and button round the neck.

THE GOVERNMENT AND RUSSIA.

The Government's policy in regard to Russia, concerning which a full explanation may be given in Parliament this week, continues in accordance with the principles already laid down. These are not to extend operations in that country, but gradually to withdraw British troops as safety and honor allow. There has at no time been an intention to occupy even a portion of the country permanently, the only desire being to stand by those Russians who through-out the struggle proved themselves Britain's friends, and to assist to stabilize the state of affairs for the security of Russia as a whole. The task has been a tedious and thankless one, and it is with relief that the end will be welcomed. The withdrawal of the British troops from the Caucasus and the North of Russia will prove the beginning of that end; but the whole affair has been so productive of misunderstanding, not only at home but abroad, that the full statement of Government policy which is now indicated as assured, will be welcomed all round.

Napoleon at St. Helena.

St. Helena, the island whose specialty is the entertainment of deposed monarchs, has good economic reasons for its reported desire to have the Kaiser for a prisoner, says a bulletin from the National Geographic Society's Washington headquarters.

Napoleon was its most famous and best paying "guest" though not the only one. Dintzula, a Zulu king, was a more recent exile, sent there after he led a rebellion against the British in the Transvaal in 1889. While Napoleon was at St. Helena "profferting" at the expense of the Bonaparte household and the numerous members of the garrison sent to guard him, was reduced to a fine art by the island citizens. The withdrawal of the British troops from the island, Sir Hudson Lowe. Instead of living within the 8,000 pounds sterling allowed for the maintenance of Bonaparte and the half hundred members of his entourage the bills for a year amounted to three times that sum. Upon complaint of the governor, which Napoleon resented, the ex-monarch executed a bit of "play to the galleries" by ordering his silver sold, and his bed broken up for wood, which, when reported, in England, created so much criticism of the governor, already none too popular, that further remonstrances were not made.

Napoleon's Wants Few.

Napoleon's principal luxury was books, his diversions were chess playing, and digging in his garden. Like the former kaiser he spent many hours with the Bible. He professed no play, however, frankly admitting that he was making a study of certain Old Testament books to show that monarchies had divine

sanction, and he also spoke of wanting to write a monograph on "The Campaign of Moses."

Since St. Helena is some 700 miles from the nearest land, Ascension Island, and 1,200 miles from the nearest African port, the extreme precautions taken by Lowe to prevent the escape of the man who once had ruled half of Europe created considerable amusement. Sir Hudson was greatly disturbed one day to find a newly arrived Corsican priest riding horseback in a coat similar to Napoleon's, believing the compatriot involved in a plot to deceive the guards.

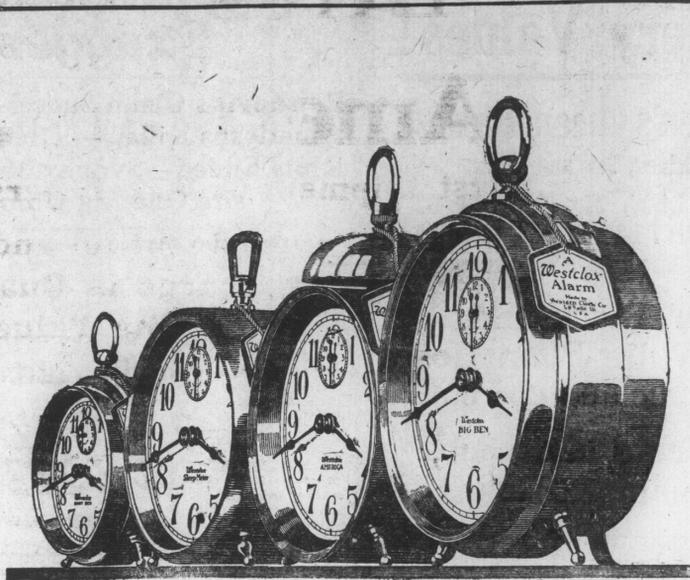
Beans' Color Offended.

The French commissioner complained that the sight of a passing dog was enough to induce the governor to plant a new sentinel on the spot, but perhaps the most extreme of the many amusing stories of Lowe's solicitude was the occasion of his protest against Napoleon's planting some white and green beans in this combination of colors a subtle allusion to the white flag of the Bourbons and the distinctive green uniform of the general.

Ignored "Keeper"

At first the exile rode horseback but soon abandoned this rather than have an English guard along. His seclusion is best attested by the fact that for five or six years' stay he did not exchange a word with the governor; and of the three commissioners—Russian, Austrian and French—sojourning there by the provisions of a treaty to assure themselves of his presence, one saw him through a telescope once, a second looked into his face for the first time when he was to be buried and the third saw him not at all.

Napoleon's days at St. Helena were not wholly devoted to killing time. He dictated his voluminous memoirs and military commentaries,



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