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LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, April 28, 1919.

KING AND AN ANGRY VANMAN.

The King had an unpleasant experience the other day of one phase of the London traffic problem. His Majesty was motoring home from St. Paul's Cathedral, and as his car came to a standstill at New Bridge Street, a two-horse van threatened to obstruct progress. The royal chauffeur attempted to pass, and the vanman, resenting what he no doubt imagined to be an infringement of the rules of the road, expressed his opinion of the chauffeur in a vituperative volley uttered in a penetrating voice. The chauffeur ignored the angry driver, but His Majesty, who had heard every word of the tirade, turned his head sharply and gave him a disapproving glance. Whether the man was aware that he had incurred the royal displeasure is doubtful, but in any case he did not say more, and the King's car passed on its way.

RETORT TO THE KAISER.

London has kept St. George's Day (April 23) as an English festival in very quiet English manner, and in English weather hovering between rain and wet. Plenty of roses were for sale, some offered by pretty sellers for charity, some by the flower-men of the West End of London, the bulky, rubicund ladies who wear haws and straw hats as insignia of their trade. However, the majority of the people one passed in the streets were neither rose nor flag, and I was not a good proportion did not know that it was St. George's Day or Shakespeare's birthday. Naturally the chief appeal of the day was as the first anniversary of the Zebrugge attack, that splendid piece of daring which, although it did not fulfil our hopes and bottle up all the German submarines which were in the Flan-der bases, had an amazing effect on German nerves, and made the enemy war for his bases. Hughes, speaking at the New Gallery on the 23rd inst., told how the Kaiser said to a British officer taken in the Zebrugge attack: "You had a hot time last night. Not so hot as you had," replied the Englishman. I saw many American soldiers in town wearing the flag with the cross of St. George. The absence of demonstrations on a national holiday passed them.

RAPID LEGISLATION.

In reviewing the last two or three months no fault can at least be found with the Government so far as its legislative programme is concerned. Perhaps never before in Parliamentary history have so many bills been crowded into so short a period. When the session opened no time had been available for the preparation of schemes, and observers noted with disappointment that for a time there was little evidence of the Cabinet's recognition of the national demand for the immediate production of the many schemes the country had by its votes at the General Election demanded. Pressure was, however, applied and bills came tumbling almost bewilderingly rapidly into the House. Land bills, housing bills, the Aliens Bill, health bills, the Transport Bill, that unfortunate necessity the Military Service Bill, and a host of minor measures descended upon members in a regular deluge. Well pleased with the efforts of the Government, members shouldered the heavy burden without flinching. Before the war the burden would have broken the Parliamentary machine, but the extension of the Grand Committee system was opportunely provided, and the result has been eminently satisfactory, at any rate from the point of view of pace. Critics of the new system allege that the House is passing ill-digested legislation. There is no proof as yet to support this charge.

CLUBS OLD AND NEW.

Many London clubs closed their doors during the war, and others were kept open, not in the ordinary way by entrance fees and subscriptions, but by donations from their members. Now that the war is over, new clubs are springing up to take the place of the defunct. But they are not quite the same as those they seek to replace, for the old exclusive atmosphere of West End Clubdom is to find no home in these new institutions. The new spirit is suggested by the secretary of one of the most popular of London clubs, who says: "The club of the immediate future must be informal, comfortable and happy. So long as it is that, and you give your members the best, it doesn't matter what prices you charge them."

SPRING FOLLAGE.

Sycamore trees are in leaf, and the horse chestnuts and elms have opened some buds. The Forsythia, that lovely tree jasmine, is covered with lemon-coloured blossoms, and London is about to enter her most lovely period. Already the shrubs in the

squares and parks are green. We had our full share of showers during the past few days, but not enough to stop the Australians in town from resuming their summer habit of lounging on the granite rims of the fountains in Trafalgar Square. They have an unlimited capacity for leisure these long-limbed Australians, and never tire of doing nothing. Americans hustle round on foot doing the sights of London with a Young Men's Christian Association guide, but the Australian, although willing to take a drive to the Albert Memorial in a wagonette, much prefers to sit in the sun and let the world go by him.

CIVIL AVIATION INSURANCE RISKS.

Risks to persons and property in the United Kingdom from aircraft other than that engaged in hostile operations, are now being insured at Lloyd's for a premium of sixpence per cent. The imminent inauguration of civil aviation (for, be it known, civil aviation will be freed from Government control on or after May 1st) brings this question of insurance very close to the ordinary citizen. The risks include not only the actual impact of aircraft, but that of falling matter of any kind. These pertain to persons when within their own dwellings and land, as well as when traversing the highway or open land, and to stationary and portable property of every kind, including live stock, standing crops and orchards. Many business men here think that to require the whole nation to take out air risk policies at this rate would be uneconomic, but sufficient data do not yet exist to justify a final conclusion.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AS LIMPETS.

There is a growing agitation—and it threatens to rise to a storm—against the continued occupation of business premises by Government departments. Important business premises are extensively held in thrall, and there seems to be no immediate prospect of the evicted tenants being restored. This is conspicuously so in the case of many of the splendid shops and office blocks in Kingsway, whose aggrieved tenants are being informed, five months after the end of hostilities, that they may not get back for two years yet. Obviously the remedy is a more speedy demobilisation of Government war staffs and the concentration of as many of those remaining as possible in the well-built temporary wooden structures which adorn erstwhile beauty spots such as the Embankment Gardens and St. James's Park.

THE ANZACS FAREWELL.

It would be invidious to make comparisons between Friday's march through London of the Anzacs and the recent procession of the Guards. The latter moved with British military stiffness and erectness; the Anzacs lounged along with their long, lean limbs in a way that spoke of great open spaces. But it may be said that the Australian parade was more spectacular in two respects. In the first place their cavalry were well mounted. The dismounted giants of the Guards were not so impressive as the sturdy horsemen from the Antipodes on their prancing steeds. The other distinction was the display of aerial acrobatics. London has long since become blasé in regard to aviation stunts, but London was frankly amazed, and not a little apprehensive, at the almost reckless daring of the fliers. There were about a dozen machines in the air over Australia House in the Strand. The larger ones were sedate enough; not so the others. The smaller planes in their erratic flights emulated the erratic flight of a flock of swallows. One in particular, the more easily distinguishable because it was painted red, excelled the others in its mountebank feats. One moment it looked like being impaled on the spire of St. Clement Dane's Church; the next it was somersaulting apparently within inches of the roof of Australia House. Meanwhile its companions were performing equally perilous dives and loops, and the crowd below, with its heart in its mouth, forgot about the procession passing in the street. The exhibition served to confirm the popular conception of the spirit of fearlessness animating the Australian soldier; but it was somewhat of a trial to the nerves of those who witnessed it.

Great Britain The Bulwark.

(New York Times.)

Whatever may happen in other countries of Europe, we are assured Great Britain never will succumb to Bolshevism. As she was the defender of civilization by her navy against the barbarism of German undersea warfare, so she is now the chief bulwark against the spread of anarchistic doctrines. With an Empire stretching over the world, she is the most democratic of nations; and her laboring men are pursuing a constitutional course to obtain their share of the benefits arising from the general advance in wages.

"Stafford's Phorphone" for Coughs, Colds, Sore Throat, Bronchial Troubles, Croup, Loss of Voice.—Feb 14, 1919

Middle Aged Women

Women should take warning from such symptoms as heat flashes, shortness of breath, excessive nervousness, irritability, and the blues—which indicate the approach of the inevitable "Change" that comes to all women nearing middle age. We have published volumes of proof that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is the greatest aid women can have during this trying period.

Read About These Two Women:

Fremont, Ct.—"I was passing through the critical period of life, being forty-six years of age and had all the symptoms incident to that change—heat flashes, nervousness, and was in a general run-down condition, so it was hard for me to do my work. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound was recommended to me as the best remedy for my troubles, which is surely proved to be. I feel better and stronger in every way since taking it, and the annoying symptoms have disappeared."—Mrs. M. GORDON, 222 Napoleon St., Fremont, Ohio.

Urbana, Ill.—"During Change of Life, in addition to its annoying symptoms I had an attack of grippe which lasted all winter and left me in a weakened condition. I felt at times that I would never be well again. I read of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and what it did for women passing through the Change of Life, so I told my doctor I would try it. I soon began to gain in strength and the annoying symptoms disappeared and my Vegetable Compound has made me a well, strong woman so I do all my own housework. I cannot recommend Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound too highly to women passing through the Change of Life."—Mrs. FRANK HANSON, 1316 South Orchard Street, Urbana, Ill.

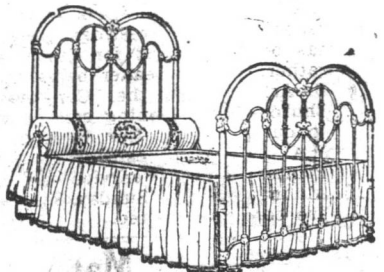
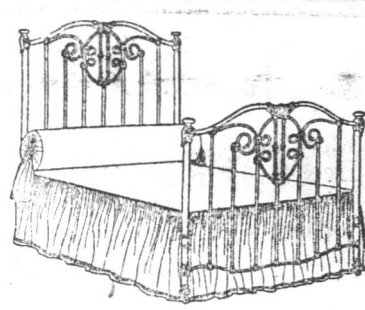
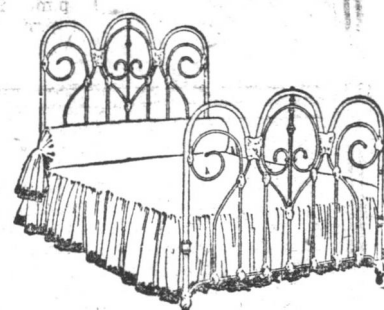
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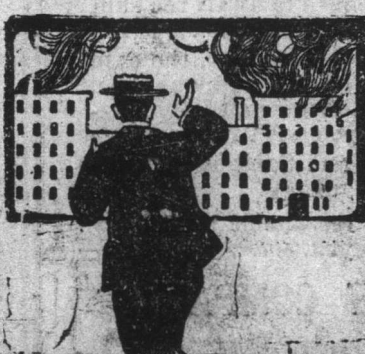
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