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LONDON GOSSIP.

DUKE OF YORK'S PEERAGE. Prince Albert, who took his seat as Duke of York in the House of Lords on June 23rd, was introduced by his great-uncle, the Duke of Connaught, and the Duke of Northumberland, each of whom wore the distinctive robes of his rank. The Dukedom of York has been invariably conferred. on the second son of the Sovereign since the days of Edward IV. The last holder of the title was the present King, who sat for the first time in the House of Lords as Duke of York in 1892. He was introduced by his father, the Prince of Wales, and afterwards King Edward VII., and his uncle, the Duke of Connaught. Twenty-eight years later it has fallen to the Duke of Connaught to again introduce a Duke of York, and his experience in this regard is unique. If the Prince of Wales had been in this country he would almost certainly have been the senior spensor for his younger brother. The Queen witnessed the ceremony, as Queen Alexandra did in the case of her own second son. The King followed constitutional practice, by which he goes to the House of Lords only in order to open or close a session of Parliament, though in these times it is only to open the session that his Majesty ever visits his own Palace of Westminster.

LAWN TENNIS v. CRICKET IN THE

SCHOOLS. I hear that the head masters nany of the chief public schools have been questioned about the introduction of lawn tennis as one of the regular school sports, and that the replies received have been unfavourable, but not strongly unfavourable. Those in favour of tennis being given the full status at the schools are keen players who are displeased to see the defeats of the English players by foreigners and believe that the tables could be speedily turned if tennis were encouraged at school. But their arguments are much more subtle. Their main point is that cricket is a waste of ground and time in modern school life. It is a waste of time because during many hours of the match the boy is doing nothing, and to set the game in motion at all demands much organising and preliminaries. A cricket field takes up the space of many courts, and with the rising of land this is becoming every term a more serious consideration for schools. It is worth noting that these fairly typical public school men who argument that surely the team work would do no harm as a preparation for this bustling world. Another point they make is that boys are unable to keep in cricket training through the holidays, as cricket is often not available, whereas every boy could keep in tennis training.

A CHARMED LIFE.

Harry Hawker appears to be the figured in accidents which have thrilled half a world and come off scathless. At one time successively the holder of the world's records for height and long duration flights, Hawker's first startling mishap occurred in his flight round Britain in August, 1913. On that occasion his machine fell suddenly into the sea like a shot pigeon eighteen miles from Dublin, and although the passenger with him had his arm broken, Hawker suffered no injury. His more recent experience of being rescued from the sea on his attempt to fly the Atlantic is still fresh in the public memory. At Brooklands, in Surrey, last week Hawker crashed through an iron fence while motoring at a hundred miles per hour, and received nothing more than a severe shaking, adding a third to a catalogue of hairbreadth escapes, which is exciting speculation as to the possible mascot which induces so ef-

NO MONEY FOR MANOEUVRES.

The so-called exercises in the Re serve Fleet, for which preparations are being made, are not to be like the Naval manoeuvres of pre-war days when the bulk of the fleet was fully nanned, as if on a war footing, for operations of considerable strategic interest. The Cabinet having told the Admiralty that there is no this year, all that is being done is to test the system for manning the Reserve Fleet ships. The test will only be made on three battleships and ee light cruisers. It is doubtful whether the ships will go to sea. To ave fuel, while they have their bal-

tained for it were dashed by the vagaries of the weather, promising up to the last minute, but which developed early in the morning into a pitiless downpour of rain. The fine weather during the week encouraged the prospect that the event would bring a revival of scenes equal to pre-war days, and everybody seemed to have made preparations for a record celebration. Measures were taken by the river authorities for dealing with heavy traffic at Boulter's Lock, and boat firms joyously looked forward to a fine harvest. Visitors, of whom many were attracted to the popular reaches of the Thames during the previous week, were greatly disappointed, and

the crowds who otherwise would have made the journey on the Sunday were kept in town by the rain. Many fashionable dinner parties were given in the evening both at private residences and at the clubs. But the river was empty, and the lawns, looking wonderfully fresh and green in the rain, showed nothing of the gay, alluring spectacle which a June sun would have given them. It is expected that the Henley pageant, which opens on June 30th, will be all the greater attraction because of the Ascot Sun

AN OLD LONDON BUSINESS.

day disappointment.

Year by year one notices how the old businesses of London are becoming proud of their history. As the old families die out-and two-thirds of our peerages are names unknown a century ago-commercial pedigrees grow in a state. I have known people who would not buy their things from a shop unless it had been in business for a century, and except for proprietary articles and modernities like bicycles and electric appliances it is comparatively easy in London to carry out such a resolve. One old London business that is celebrating its bicentenary just now is particularly worth a mention. The first charter of the London Assurance Corporation was granted by George I. in 1720. When it was established insurance in all its forms was regarded by serious people as a breach of the Biblical law against usury, and, further, against the decrees of Providence. Others considered it a form of gambling. In its first year the South Sea Bubble burst and the shares of the Corporation became unsaleable. Two centuries later the Corporation found itself faced with losses amounting to a million poungs (\$5.000,000) for the earthare moving in the matter meet the quake at San Francisco. They were able to give that settlement without and unselfishness of cricket have been delay. The original business of the the boast of England tradition by the Corporation was insurance of ships reply that public schools have too and merchandise at sea and the lenimuch of that sort of thing and that a ing of money on bottomry. The petittle more initiative and selfishness tion for a royal charter for the company is said to have been signed b a large number of French refugees It entered all sorts of insurance rate business, and its sign of "The Rising Sun" became a household word in London's banking and financial quarter. The Corporation had personal experience of fires, being burnt out in the great Cornhill fire of 1748. Like the other fire insurance companies, it holder of a charmed life, for he has had a fire brigade of its own, and one of its early engines is still in its head

WATCHES AND CLOCKS.

The fashion for gib watches seems to be coming back again, and instead of the delicate diamond-edged watch, women are selecting the large turning watch of our ancestors. The question of how to carry a watch of any size in these pocketless days then has to be faced, and at present, rather than drag such a burden about, they generally leave them st home. Large round watches, beautifully enamelled are certainly attractive, while goldfaced watches with the hours the signs of the zodiac, and much other information marked on them, are now sold, and should provide occupation for those who attempt to use them. Clocks, on the other hand, became ever more fragile. A beautiful crystal clock will have hours marked in tiny diamonds and diamond-studded hands. The only drawback is that it is difficult to tell the time.

Ominous Yaqui Drums Heard in Mexico City

Mexico City, August 5.- (Associa ated Press)-Once again the mon otonous but ominous tom" of the Yaqui Indians is being heard outside the confines of Sonora Plutarco Elias Calles provisional secretary of war and 600-mile trip from Agua Prieta to Mexico City to assume the duties

Vice-Admiral Sir Henry Oliver, commander the command many of Mexico's other solling the Reserve Fieet, whose diers. Bearing the reputation of flagship, the King George V., is one being a fearless and ferocious aghier, with him to the battlefield. His wife, red they wear around their hats. of the three battleships to have her the Yaqui has frequently been his children, his birds all form part. The routine of their camp life is said to be able to put his en

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AGENTS.

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He carries his home life copper hue and the band of bright ancentral rife and begins the realizate to the battlefield. His wife, red they wear around their hats. tion of his martial destiny.

The Yaqui lad is reared in an ab-mosphere of war. Should his father Monday at Smallwood's Big Shoe