

LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, April 3rd, 1916.

BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES IN PARIS.

Sir Edward Grey was the only British Minister at the momentous Paris Allies Conference this week who did not take with him his private secretary. Asquith had his son-in-law, Stanham-Carter, on whom he always says he largely depends. Lord Kitchener had Colonel Fitzgerald, who was with him in India and Egypt, and who is not to be confused with Brinsley Fitzgerald, the well-known stockbroker, who was Lord French's secretary at the front. Sir Edward's chief assistant was O'Beirne, who was officially present as head of the War Department of the Foreign Office. The man in which the conference was held must be familiar to him, for he has there as British representative in 1914 on the Dogger Bank inquiry about Russians firing on our trawlers. Asquith has had two long interviews with O'Beirne, who speaks French fluently, and whose evenings have been devoted to diplomatic conversations as important as the more sensational discussions at the Conference.

RE-BUILDING AFTER THE WAR.

One of the highly-important questions touched upon at the conference of representatives of the Allied Governments at Paris was, I learn, the rebuilding of the devastated areas of Belgium and France after the war—a problem which will come also before the Economic Conference shortly to be held in the French capital. The population of the war-swept areas in Northern France is 7,000,000, while an equal number in Belgium have suffered the wholesale destruction of their buildings, and the effect that reconstruction, on such a colossal scale, may be expected to produce on the building resources of Europe can only be surmised. Rebuilding on such a scale would at any time tax the resources of the forests of Europe, which do not suffice in normal periods to meet the maintenance requirements of the Continent. There are two reasons why after the war European forests will not meet the demand. During the war timber outside of Russia has been cut and destroyed at a rate hitherto unknown in Europe, while elsewhere on the Continent war has exterminated forests. The timber requirements, therefore, will be enormous, and the present is the time to arrange for the supply; but it is probable that, in order to keep prices down and to systematise the work of reconstruction, the purchases will be made through Government channels.

THE KIND LADY AND THE SOLDIERS.

Some of the incidents at the parties given to the wounded soldiers at Buckingham Palace last week are about the town. One is of a Royal personage asking the soldiers from the hospital "And why isn't Miss So-and-so here with you?" referring to a lady who had been rather conspicuous among the zealous at that hospital. "She's in the sack," was the unexpected reply, given shyly yet with an unmistakable twinkle. "She used to take us to motor motor rides in cars lent to us for the purpose, and the rides was her choosing a hat or calling on all her lady friends while we waited outside!"

THE STEEL HELMET.

The steel headpieces for protection against shrapnel, which were demonstrated so dramatically by the officer who jumped from the Strangers' Gallery to the floor of the House of Commons on March 29th, have been very popular in coming to our troops, although the French reported, as the result of their experiences in the Champagne battles, that they have made a deduction in the casualties of almost 50 per cent. Every officer and every soldier in the Champagne offensive wore the steel headpiece. In the Verdun fighting General Petain is never seen without his helmet, Colonel Churchill has his own helmet, and has been seen wearing it out of as well as in the trenches. One cause of the decrease in the number of types with which we have been experimenting, the complaint about the present one is that it is heavy and is worn, I believe, without a proper leather lining. The French helmet is not only serviceable but is also very handsome. Many of the young men at the French front look like statues of Mercury. The Germans have been even slower than ourselves in this matter of helmets.

Mr. Maurice Farqua, whose death in America is announced, was something more than a singer of ditties, for he accomplished a big sartorial development. He it was who, in conjunction with his original colleagues and schoolmaster, Mr. Fisher, introduced on to the stage black silk knee-breeches for

evening wear. It was their inspiration which confirmed King Edward in his personal predilection for this garb, and inclined him to make it etiquette for his private parties. Messrs. Fisher and Farqua also wore red evening tail-coats, and King Edward actually had one made, but did not care for it. The color was not satisfactory for a man of robust proportions.

SERBIANS IN LONDON.

Until recently there has been only a handful of Serbians in London, apart from the staff of the Legation. It has been difficult for us to visualise the brave people who held the pass of liberty in the Balkans. This week some hundreds of Serbian soldiers have come over just preceding by a day the arrival here of the Crown Prince of Serbia, and they are already a familiar part of the war pictures of the streets. They are particularly fine looking men, not very tall, sturdy and hard, bright-eyed, and swarthy. The uniform and the graceful cap are sometimes a light-colored khaki, sometimes a grey blue, relieved by touches of color. Some of the most celebrated Serbian professors and writers and the great sculptor Mestrovic are now in London. Claridge's Hotel, where the Crown Prince is staying, will be the Serbian headquarters for the next week. This discreet and elegant hotel has always been the



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Old Dutch



home of ambassadors and foreign dignitaries, especially those from Russia and the East. General Cadorna stayed here on his recent visit. The visitors' book after Prince Alexander's arrival bristled with noted names ending with "vitch."

A BRAVE CORRESPONDENT.

Edward Marshall, the well-known American war correspondent, who was on board the Sussex, the cross Channel passenger boat which was recently torpedoed with true Hun

savagery, is a famous figure in London journalistic and Bohemian centres and an altogether exceptional character here on his recent visit. The visitors' book after Prince Alexander's arrival bristled with noted names ending with "vitch."

can move pretty quickly. No one else, I believe, has ever recovered from such an injury. Two books have been written in America about his case.

LEGAL HONOR FOR MR. HUGHES.

The Prime Minister of the Australian Commonwealth has been elected a member of Gray's Inn. He is a lawyer by profession, and it is as a lawyer who has won for himself great distinction in the field of statesmanship that this honor has been bestowed upon him by one of the four legal societies comprising the English Bar. The members of an Inn of Court preside over the regulation of its internal affairs. He is not the first Australian lawyer to enjoy this distinction. Sir Edmund Barton and Mr. Deakin are members of Gray's Inn. So is Sir Alfred Laurier, the late Prime Minister of Canada. Gray's Inn has had a sort of traditional connection with the Colonies. When Mr. Hughes goes to dine in the hall with the members of the society he will find several distinguished men among them. His fellow-benchers include Sir F. E. Smith, the Attorney-General; Mr. Duke, K.C.; and Mr. Campbell, K.C. Mr. Redmond is a member of the Inn. Another honor which is most sparingly given awaits the Australian Prime Minister. He is to be the guest at dinner of the Bench and Bar of England in Lincoln's Inn Hall.

Turkeys, Ducks, Chicken, at ELLIS'.—apr19,tf

Large hats are, as usual, in good style.

Keep Off the Grass.



The thoughtless fellows blithely pass, and cut a corner here and there, and wear a grass and fill the owner with despair. I try to have a nice lawn, that will do credit to the town; and thoughtless fellows trot thereon, and break the dandelions down. I set out flowers till I go broke—I buy the richest and the best—and bows owned by thoughtless folk come there and knock things gayly west. And thoughtless people let their cows perambulate the town by night, and on the well kept lawns they browse, and make the scenery a sight. And thoughtless people all keep hens, and roosters with destructive feet, which come a-whoooping from their pens, and spoil my flowerbeds and repeat. There's no protection for the jay, who'd make his home a beauty spot; the thoughtless skates will come his way, and climb all o'er his garden plot, and spoil the grass and pluck the flowers, and bark the trees and crush the shrubs; and it will take him nineteen hours to tell just how he views such dups.

Enjoy your meals by taking a teaspoonful of Stafford's Prescription "A" a few minutes before eating.—may3,tf

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Notes From Doyle's.

Since writing you last things in the conversational way have taken on a new turn, fox catching and selling is no longer the absorbing topic, and save for a few rumbles, as a sort of aftermath of the court proceedings of last week nothing is heard but farming talk.

Speaking of rumbles reminds me of an unusual meteorological happening of last Friday afternoon. A large meteor flashed into our atmosphere with loud detonations resembling the discharge of cannon. Many people who heard the sound, but who failed to see the wanderer from space believed it was thunder they heard, and dark masses of cloud in the south west lent belief to the idea. The strange visitor from out remote space was seen travelling across the valley in a northerly direction drawing its tail of fire across the sky. Whence came it and whither it goes? What part of our sphere, if any will arrest the wild career of the shooting star? These thoughts flash themselves on the mind, and lead the thoughts out into the illimitable regions after the charging mass that maybe was launched on its course ere yet this world of ours was an habitable globe.

Turning again to terrestrial affairs your correspondent would like to record the fact that there lives in this valley an aged gentleman, who deserves to have his name enrolled among those who have achieved a great deal in the matter of agricultural endeavour and done much for the good of the country. By patient effort and more than ordinary skill and intelligence he has succeeded in producing a superior variety of potato. Beginning many years ago with his first cultures, he has by careful selection and rejection at length evolved a stable and entirely new variety. The table and keeping qualities of this new potato are of such kind as to recommend themselves to all who have tried them. They are good keepers, hardy and prolific. Nearly all the farmers about here are now growing "Dan's" potatoes. The old gentlemen, well past eighty years, is still hale and hearty, and is first to have his seed in the ground.

Donald McIsaac, the successful producer of the new tuber, is the father of Mr. Duncan McIsaac, the enterprising business man of this place, Arch D. McIsaac, the genial postmaster of Upper Ferry and several other sons.

Your correspondent begs to suggest as a mark of appreciation of the old gentleman's successful efforts that the new potato be called Donaldii.

This suggestion is made in this public manner to the Agricultural Society of St. John's. It is also suggested that the Society take some means of ensuring that the fame of Donald McIsaac be made more than a mere local event to be soon forgotten even by those who are most directly benefitted by the production.

New Fish Carrier Purchased.

The two topmast schooner Lucania arrived here last evening from Boston, bringing a cargo of gasoline to Job Bros. & Co. The Lucania was lately purchased by Job Bros. and will be used as a carrier and will be an addition to the local mercantile fleet. The Lucania is 104 tons nett and was built at Gloucester twelve years ago. She is fitted with Bridgeport engines. She was brought here by Capt. A. Norris, son of Mr. J. Norris, of Three Arms. He will remain in charge of her.

Infectious Disease.

Two cases of diphtheria, one of which resulted in death, were reported to the Health Authorities during the past week. There are now in hospital 14 patients with diphtheria and 3 persons suffering from the same disease under treatment at home.

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