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LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, Nov. 25, 1913.
THE AUSTRIAN ARCHDUKE IN
LONDON.

It appears that Vienna expected that the newspapers here would make more fuss about the visit of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand to the King at Windsor than has been done. That more details did not appear is not the fault of the newspapers, who would have sent down special correspondents had they been welcomed. The King, however, was set against any particulars being published, and in this respect he is showing a curious morbidity. He dislikes the very name of "pheasant" to be printed in connection with one of his shoots, and if the number of birds killed had appeared, I understand that it would have been a serious matter for the keepers. He showed marked annoyance that a description of one of the shoots was published in the papers, forgetting that one pheasant but is uncommonly like another, and that probably the correspondent did not even trouble to walk into the park to look at him and his guest shooting the driven birds. I have seen many Royal shoots at Windsor and elsewhere, and must say that the King has tried always to make pheasant shooting more of a sport than anyone else. His birds are arranged with great skill so as to get the birds flying high. Only one or two are shot, and the pheasants are not driven down on the royal demesne. Even then many birds are merely wounded and are overlooked by the beaters, living often days in pain and misery. The pheasants are as tame as barn-door fowls before they are scared by the beaters, and a batue is the only way of inducing them to "show sport." On another point there was much disappointment. The King gave no great dinner party in honor of his guest and his wife. This is not understood above as being an over much liked in society at home.

SCOTLAND AND THE QUEEN OF SPAIN.

People are sometimes surprised that the Queen of Spain does not take more interest in Scotland than she does, it being the land of her birth. A correspondent who is in a position to know the facts writes that her Scottish experiences not only affected and improved her health, but they had some effect on her choice of a religion. At the time when it was known that the Princess was considering the change of her religion before her marriage to the King of Spain, a clergyman of the Church of England had some talk with her on the subject, it being thought more satisfactory by the family that it should be made quite clear that the Princess did not leave the Church of England without due advice, and that she knew very well what she was doing. The Princess said that she had long been very much dissatisfied with the Church of England but more particularly with the Church of Scotland. "You can't think," she said, "what Balmoral was like in grand-mama's time, and what the Sabbaths were like there, with little, old-fashioned good books to read, and the awful tedium of the day." She added that the two established religions of this island had both tended to make her long for something different and more inspiring.

BRITISH MILITARY POLICY CHANGING.

The announcement made to the effect that the Army Council had decided to abolish the two mounted infantry brigades belonging to the Expeditionary Force, is regarded here as one of serious importance. The decision, it may be explained, does not affect the numerical strength of the Army at all, as the two brigades in question do not exist in peace except on paper. Had mobilization taken place previously the brigades would have been formed from mounted infantry battalions made up of ordinary infantry soldiers who had gone through the four months' course at the Mounted Infantry School at Longmoor, and the place of these men in their own units would have been supplied by added reservists. A mounted infantry battalion at war strength consisted of 539 of all ranks, including 26 officers, with 579 horses. It would seem likely that this last-named figure has to some extent influenced the decision of the Army Council, to whom the contingent provision of between 2,000 and 3,000 superior horses for this purpose must have for some time past been a matter of growing concern. But it is also quite probable that the abolition of the two brigades as part of the Expeditionary Force is due to a reasoned conviction that in such work as the force would have ordinarily to undertake mounted infantry is useful if not indispensable as it is in countries like South Africa, for instance, would not be of value commensurate with the cost and loss in fact being the necessary units at short notice. Professional interest in the subject will now be concentrated on the question whether the two brigades of mounted infantry will be replaced to any extent by cavalry, and whether the Longmoor School of Instruction will continue much longer to exist.

PILGRIMS TO AMERICA.

Several of our literary men are leaving this winter for America, where the "lecture" is still an institution. Alfred Noyes, the poet, is already in the United States, and is having a real success with his addresses on literary subjects. Mr. Noyes is a lively, interesting speaker, and in that way quite to the taste of American audiences. Shortly another literary man, Francis Grosvenor, the essayist, goes to America, also to lecture. He goes to a country which he knows well, for he has spent a good deal of his life in America. He has in fact been called in American, but that is a mistake, because he was born in the North of England of Scottish parentage.

FUTURISTS AND BOHEMIANS.

Signor Marinetti, the great Futurist poet and the soul behind the cubist painters, is in London on a visit, and in his various addresses is making his extraordinary creed seem at times quite reasonable. One of his addresses was delivered before the members of the Cabaret Club. This society assembles "At the Sign of the Golden Calf" in a roomy pretentious cellar in a side street off Regent St., London. It is decorated with all the latest notions of Cubism and Post-Impressionism, the modelled pillars painted like the walls in white and primary colors, one by Epstein. The paintings on the wall are by members of the Camden Town group of Impressionists and Post-Impressionists. The floor is covered with little tables at which the fashionable Bohemians, as a rule, people of Oriental opulent aspect, sit in paint and powder and evening clothes. It is an expensive business being Bohemian in London. Refreshments are six or seven times the usual price; if you bring a guest you must buy an expensive ticket for him at the door. You talk French or as much as you can and as the correct thing is to arrive about eleven and leave in the small hours, you have your car outside. All the Cabaret singers and dancers are imported and the casual interloper feels that the atmosphere is all false and artificial. It is not natural for English people to be Bohemian. The room is very low, and badly ventilated, smoky and stuffy, and lit by colored lamps. Among the members are one or two painters whose appearance gives the touch of the Latin quarter, but who must find it an expensive business if they are inclined to be thirsty. Two Spanish-looking women dance an exaggerated tango to the accompaniment of a trio of colored musicians playing a sort of cross between a mandoline and a harjo piano and cello. Against the bright primary colors of the decorations the figures, one in black and the other in the conventional Spanish gipsy get up, stood out pleasantly.

NATAL'S INDIAN CRISIS.

As I write, the Indian trouble in

Natal is reported here to be very acute indeed and the resulting feeling in India itself has not been so excited since the time of the Mutiny. The Home Government's difficulty is not realized by Indian opinion. Theoretically the High Commissioner of South Africa might be ordered to exercise his executive powers independently of the advice of his Ministers. In fact, of course, such a procedure is utterly out of the question. But although the Imperial Government are unable to dictate to South Africa, they have the right on a matter of such importance to the Empire to appeal to the Union Government for their good will and assistance. In well informed quarters here it is believed that the Pretoria Government will do their utmost to relieve the situation, though that Government, again, in their turn would be helpless in the fact of an immovable Natal.

SOCIETY IN LONDON.

The Autumn season in London becomes a bigger feature every year in metropolitan life. The International Motor Show at Olympia now gives it a fillip and all kinds of other functions, public and private, help to build up a necessity for being in town at a period when years of age fortunate folk (the best people) were away. The Sunday rinking club is open and crowded, and a new amusing club with tango tests and afternoon and evening dances is attracting many people. Tango tests are a new feature this year and are given in private houses on occasions or as regular things in the leading theatres and music halls as afternoon shows. The great feature of the autumn in London, however, is undoubtedly dinner-giving. The only change is that dinners are becoming more and more intimate in character, as dances are becoming more and more public. Certain groups of people dine once or twice a week, for instance, at each other's houses for a night at auction bridge. Subscription dances, once the fashion in Mayfair, are now the fashion in Mayfair, and enterprising chaperons, anxious to give their charges a little preliminary practice in the arts of the ball-room are delighted to do so at the small and early dances at the Grafton Gallery or elsewhere given in the name of charity. But the dance is bringing so many people into public halls is also bringing many unexpected people into private houses. A grandee lady who managed her house affairs with a high hand was appalled on reaching home one afternoon, recently to be informed by a youthful daughter that the drawing-room carpet was up and that a few "boys and girls" were coming to dance, that a few cakes had been ordered, and the butler was seeing about the wine. About three hundred people arrived and next day the papers chronicled a "big ball."

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Daily Investment News

St. John's, Dec. 9, 1913.

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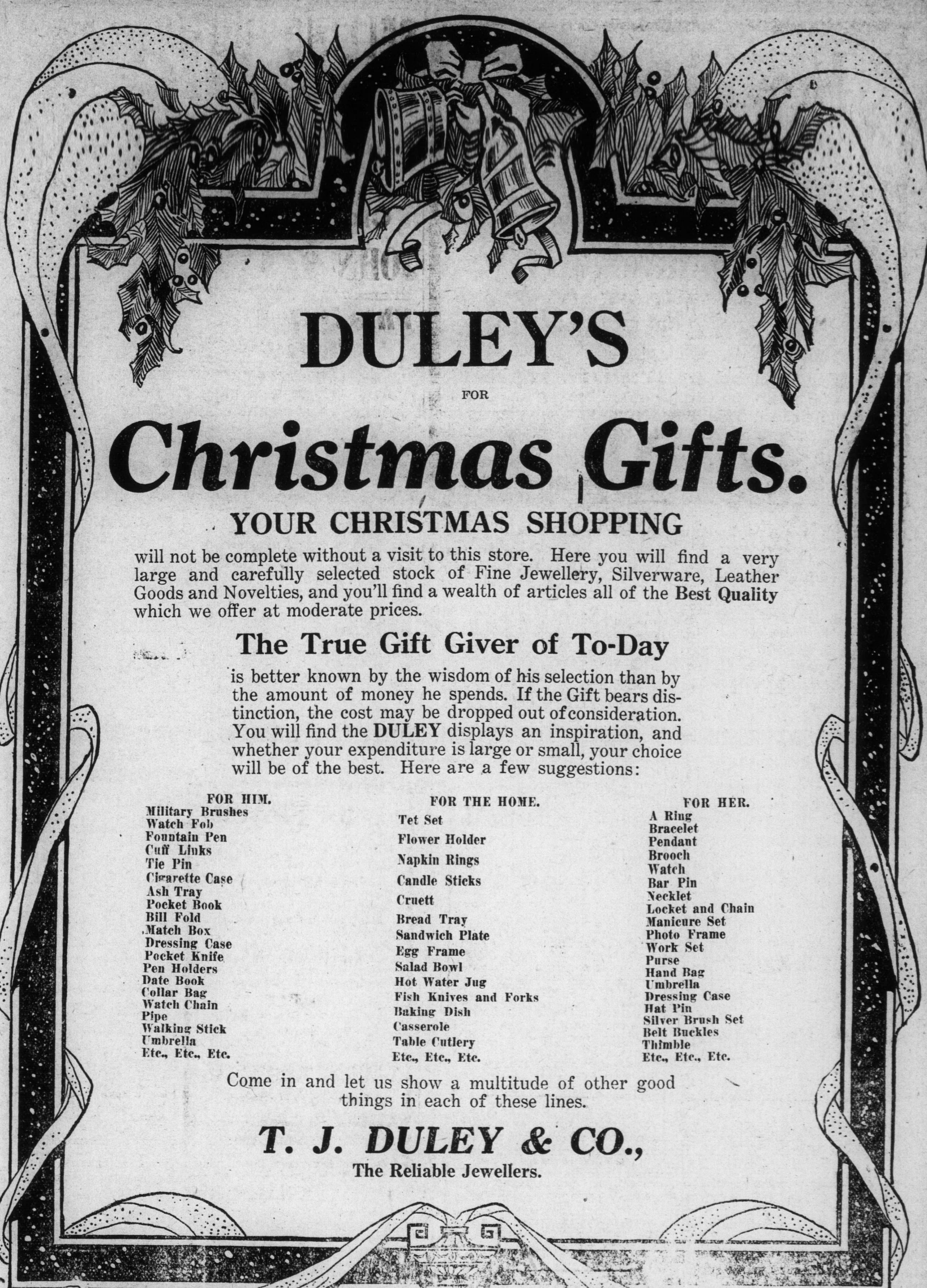
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Much evidence has lately been adduced to show that gas is more useful than the electric light in promoting efficient ventilation of air. It is for this, amongst other reasons, that gas is being frequently substituted for the electric light. The latest example is, perhaps, the Society of Medical Officers of Health, which has recently installed gas on its premises, after experience with the electric light.—Dr. Jamieson B. Hurry.

He would merely add that no member who had experience of their meeting room under the old conditions could deny the improvement that had taken place since gas has been substituted for the electric light and the new system of heating and ventilation had been installed.—Dr. Reginald Dudgeon, before the Society of Medical Officers of Health.

I have in my mind's eye, at the moment, a hall which, in the old days, was lighted by gas, and in which a large audience could, with comfort, sit through an hour's lecture, or with pleasure through a three hours' dinner, but which with the march of civilization had its illumination changed from gas to electricity, the latter being employed with all the latest refinements to effect the lighting under the best conditions, with the result that any large gathering within its walls leads to a state little short of asphyxiation.—Vivian B. Lewes, Professor of Chemistry at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.—Nov. 8.

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