

British Gossip

THE Colonial representatives who will be in England for the Conference next month are Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada; Hon. Alfred Deakin, Premier of the Australian Commonwealth; Sir Joseph Ward, Premier of New Zealand; Dr. Jameson, Premier of Cape Colony; Hon. F. R. Moore, Prime Minister of Natal, Sir Robert Bond, Newfoundland; Dr. Smartt, Cape Colony, and Sir William Lyne.

King Edward has granted an interview to Mark All, the champion pedestrian of the world who started out on August 6th, 1900, to walk 60,000 miles in seven years, meanwhile earning his living by the exercise of his trade of working engineer. He completed his appointed itinerary with six months to spare.

The guarantee fund for the Winchester festival to be held in 1908 already amounts to nearly five thousand pounds. There is every prospect of the Colonial Bishops who will be attending the Pan-Anglican Conference visiting Winchester on one of the days of the pageant.

Ailsa Craig, the great rock in the Firth of Clyde, is threatened. The island is the property of the Marquis of Ailsa who is understood to have granted a lease of it for quarrying purposes.

Mr. McKenna, the new President of the Board of Education, has a bill dealing with the scope of the new technological college so far as London University is concerned. The new institution is to be on the lines of the famous German college at Charlottenburg. The late Mr. Alfred Beit bequeathed a large sum towards it and Lord Rosebery, Lord Strathcona and Sir Ernest Cassel are prepared to give it financial aid.

A small allegorical figure of "Dawn," the work of the late Mr. G. F. Watts, R. A., was recently sold for three thousand dollars, showing that modern art values are not declining.

Lord Brassey, who is generally known as the owner of the yacht "Sunbeam," has reached the age of seventy-one. He has eight yachts in all and is probably the only colonial governor who has piloted himself out to a distant part of the Empire to take up an appointment. He was Governor of Victoria from 1895 to 1900.

There is a project on foot to have the freedom of the City of London conferred upon Mr. George Meredith. It is intended that this honour should mark a special celebration of his eightieth birthday. A letter has been addressed to the Lord Mayor, who is a friend of the novelist, asking him to accept the chairmanship of the committee considering the matter.

The Marquis de Villalobar, Councillor of the Spanish Embassy in London, who was the guest at dinner of the West India Club, is related to the descendants of Columbus and he stated that his uncle held the titles of Admiral of the Indies and Marquis of Jamaica.

The Channel Tunnel is still an absorbing topic. The possibilities of fast travel are stated by a London railway authority. When the Channel Tunnel is built the Trans-Siberian express will start from London instead of from Moscow. In those days it will be possible to make a world tour via the Trans-Siberian express, Daly, Yokohama, Vancouver, Quebec and Liverpool in about thirty-five days; while a mere run across to the Far East will be but a question of fourteen days. Even as matters stand at the present, it is possible to encircle the globe in forty-one days.

King Edward has given special permission for several hundred Lancashire working men to be shown over the State apartments at Windsor Castle on Good Friday. By favour of the Windsor town council they will have dinner in the local guildhall.

Prince Henry, the husband of Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, is for the first time popular in his wife's country. The determined heroism of his repeated efforts to rescue the unfortunate sufferers on the stranded

"Berlin" has made a successful appeal to the Dutch populace. In England there is a feeling of warm admiration for the Prince Consort's action and King Edward never did a more popular deed than when he conferred on the royal rescuer the Grand Cross of the Bath. Curiously enough, ever since Christmas there has been a fashionable "craze" for Dutch silver, pictures, lace and flowers, which shows no signs of abating.

Prince Alexander of Teck was sent to Holland to confer the honour on Prince Henry; and the toast of Queen Wilhelmina to British Royalty at a recent dinner at The Hague given to the English guest has been the cause of much favourable comment in the British press.

An English publication announces an article, "Why I Go to Prison," by Christabel Pankhurst. Another periodical mildly suggests that Miss Pankhurst went to the "Habitation Enforced," (to borrow one of Kipling's titles) because she was forcibly conveyed thither in one of His Majesty's dark-hued Marias.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain is proving himself a valuable debating member among the forces of a somewhat depleted Opposition. He shows the inherited Chamberlain interest in the fiscal question but his views and his manner of placing them before the members are recognised as his own.

It is rumoured that King Edward and Queen Alexandra will go over to Ireland in May to the opening of the Irish Exhibition which has been in preparation for the last four years. The "lace ball" given by Lord and Lady Aberdeen was so successful that the Irish industries are likely to be the object of fashionable patronage.

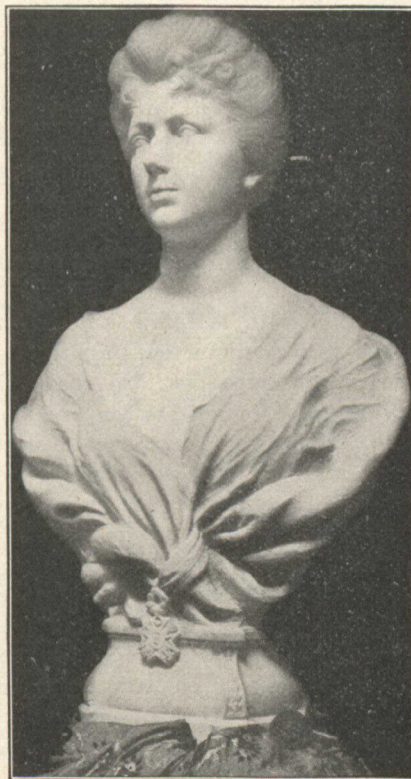
Lady Russell, widow of the late Sir William Howard Russell, the famous war correspondent, has been granted by royal favour a suite of apartments in Hampton Court Palace.

The South African Exhibition in London is proving highly popular. A similar affair was opened last week at Amsterdam by Queen Wilhelmina.

The cult of the orchid is more popular than ever, judging from the first great orchid sale of the year when more than two hundred duplicates from the Earl of Tankerville's Chillingham collection realised a little more than sixty-five dollars apiece. All the great orchid specialists of England and many from the Continent were represented.

The report of the Rayner trial in London induces comparison with New York's delay and dallying. The murderer of Mr. Whiteley committed his crime on January 14th and was sentenced to death last week. The counsel for the defence said that he was going to show that Rayner was insane in the legal sense. But the plea of tainted mind did not seem to affect the jury, who, after being absent for nine minutes, returned a verdict of wilful murder. The British public does not err in being maudlin over criminals.

Seventy-six suffragettes who were arrested for creating a disturbance were sentenced last week to a month in prison.



The Queen of Spain.

A Bust presented to King Alfonso by the Women of England.