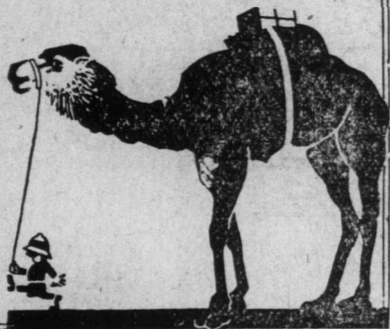


AS THE CAMEL

is indispensable to the traveller crossing the African deserts, so also is SUNLIGHT SOAP indispensable to a careful housewife. A Camel can go for several days without drinking, but a good housewife cannot afford to let a single day pass without putting SUNLIGHT SOAP to some use. The first duty of every housewife is to economise; the duty of

SUNLIGHT SOAP

is to help the housewife to economise. The daily use of SUNLIGHT SOAP is practical economy. It does the most washing in the shortest time, with least labour, and with no discomfort. Use a piece in your next wash, and you will be convinced as to its value.



4220

LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, Feb. 9, 1915.

THE PROPOSED "BLOCKADE."

An officer of a liner on the Western Ocean trade with whom I had some conversation to-day, said that he was surprised about the fuss the newspapers were making about the German announcement that they would torpedo merchant ships in English waters. What else had they been doing or trying to do, he asked, for the past three months? They had done their best; sunk a Belgian refugee ship, missed a hospital ship, and sunk seven or eight slow traders. He did not think that owners or crews of liners would worry about the blockade, and believed that any ship with over 14 knots speed was as safe as before. Tramps would take their chances and travel together, and if the submarine turned up they might barge into it. He thought that if the months of the estuaries were well patrolled so that the submarine could not get the position of a ship through shore marks, the difficulty of hitting a ship steering an irregular course would be considerable. Officers now know what to expect, and would make every effort to keep a wide berth. It would probably mean, he thought, a big increase in armed liners and patrol boats, and that they were able to take care of themselves was seen in the fact that not a single one of these had yet been torpedoed. He thought that these vessels and the torpedo boat destroyers would soon make the voyages either in the English Channel or the Irish Sea very hazardous to the submarine.

THE BRITISH ARMY ESTIMATES.

The unusual if not quite unique form in which the Army Estimates have been issued during the past

week has naturally attracted a good deal of attention. In effect the paper is a blank check presented for signature, for there is no real specification either of the number of men on the establishment, or of the actual amounts to be voted under the various heads of expenditure. The figures given have no greater significance than those of the conventional amounts by which an Opposition occasionally proposes to reduce a Minister's salary. They are a formula merely, and might equally well be represented by the algebraic symbols for unknown quantities and powers. The round total of 3,000,000 given as the number of men on the home and colonial establishments, exclusive of those serving in India, stands for an armed strength which Germany would very much like to know, and which has been the subject of a good deal of unsatisfactory curiosity here. It is not necessary to know the precise total in order to have the best possible grounds for saying that while it is not a larger total than the nation needs at the moment, it is large enough to give the utmost satisfaction to the War Departments both of this country and of its Allies. There have been good reasons for not giving the actual figures, but it certainly has not been because there was the least occasion for dissatisfaction with them. The results when they are known will show how magnificently the voluntary system has emerged from the supreme test. The amounts assigned to the fifteen heads of expenditure are unrepresentative enough to be almost ludicrous. A vice a trifle of fifteen thousand pounds is assigned to each, yielding as the total net estimate for the whole service a trifle of fifteen hundred pounds merely. What the real amounts are likely to be must be conjectured from the fact that we have been steadily working through a war credit of 250 million pounds towards a possible new credit of comparable dimensions.

RECRUITS FROM AFAR.

When such a thing can be done it will be interesting to have a return showing how many adventurous Britons have come from the remote frontiers of the Empire to enlist in the new armies. The number of such recruits is certainly very much larger than any reports hitherto published have shown. Examples which have happened to be conspicuous have appeared in the papers. There was, for instance, the case of the man aged 54 who, however, had the look and the strength of a man of 40, who after seeing several sons join various sections of the Imperial armies managed to get into the New Zealand force. I hear from a private source that no fewer than sixty men have come from the Straits Settlements to join the army. All of them have paid their own travelling expenses. They should make excellent fighters, since the same spirit of adventure which sent them out to this distant outpost of the Empire has now brought them back. There are also the Fijians and the stray adventurous recruits from South America who have voyaged far. It is to be hoped that some record of such efforts as these is being kept. It would have a remarkable value when there is leisure to estimate the value of the ties which keep the Empire bound together.

THE IDENTIFICATION OF SWORDS

Relatives mourning for officers killed in the war, treasure the sword of the fallen, but in many cases the wrong swords have been sent back from the front or from the depots, and the right weapons cannot be traced. It is very simple for an officer to establish the identity of his sword.

The blade should be numbered and the number known to his family. The Wilkinson Sword Company, for instance, engrave a number and the name of the firm on each sword they manufacture, and keep a register of them and of the officers to whom they have been supplied, so that given a number of a sword made by them they can easily trace the name of the owner. The register dates back some seventy or eighty years. The only difficulty has been that swords are frequently provided for a regiment, and the firm do not know to whom they have been distributed, but the regiment could easily meet that point by keeping note itself if the officers themselves did not do so. Before the war there were only one or two manufacturers of swords in this country, and they followed a similar practice. A fair proportion of the supply came from abroad, and there are officers in our army who are using weapons made in Germany. Some firms, I am told, made part of the article and relied on Germany for its completion. English manufacturers are working at full pressure now.

MISS BRADDON.

A striking link between the Victorian age in literature and the novel of to-day is severed by the death of Miss Braddon. The year of her birth, 1837, carries the mind back to such writers as Dickens, who was just beginning his "Pickwick"; Lytton, Lever, and, although they had not yet made their names, Thackeray and Douglas Jerrold. In Miss Braddon's own son, Lieutenant W. B. Maxwell, we have one of the chief representatives of the modern novel, who it will be remembered, came strongly into the limelight owing to the "banning" of his book, "The Devil's Garden," some two years ago. Miss Braddon was an extremely prolific writer, and at the age of 77 she leaves practically one work for each year of her life. Her first story was written in 1860, but it was two years later that she made her name with "Lady Audley's Secret" and her subsequent novel, "Aurora Floyd." The former, which was very successful, was notable for the innovation of having a villainess with golden hair. Of "Aurora Floyd" Stevenson declared that it was to be found in the "limited library" of every skipper of the South Seas. Miss Braddon continued to produce one and often two books a year—frankly sensational stories, but they have been described as veritable triumphs of their kind. On working days her hours were from nine to six, with no time off for meals except for tea, though she fairly regularly alternated working days with riding days, being an ardent and accomplished horse-woman. She always kept abreast of current literature, and in addition to the works of the modern English writers she had a full acquaintance with the leading French, German, Italian, and Spanish authors. It is stated that before her death Miss Braddon had just finished another book.

LITIGATION AND THE WAR.

Like a good many other sorts of business, that of the lawyer has passed through strange vicissitudes since the war began. I understand that in the London courts, where there was a decided slump in litigation when the courts first opened, business has become almost brisk. In the first flush of patriotic excitement there was little thought left for private disputes, and there was a distinct tendency for everybody to leave matters in the status quo, whatever that might be. But the war itself has raised many questions which demand an early settlement, because they affect interests which are war interests and whose importance, therefore, may continue as long as the war lasts. A well-known barrister practising in London tells me that a fair proportion of his present business relates to cases arising out of the war. Unquestionably there is still a widespread desire among those who would ordinarily become litigants to avoid disputes and the risk of loss, though there has been a certain revival of litigation lately. The present hesitation to go to the law is expected to result in a boom when peace comes, and it is obvious that a good many new problems, big with the promise of lawyers' fees, will then come into existence. As an indication of the present feeling that private hostilities should be set aside it should be mentioned that a good many cases already in their first stages have been postponed, not for three months or six, but "until the war is over."

Children Hate Oil, Calomel And Pills

"California Syrup of Figs" best for tender stomach, liver, bowels—tastes delicious.

Look back at your childhood days. Remember the "dose" mother insisted on—castor oil, calomel, cathartics. How you hated them, how you fought against taking them.

With our children it's different. Mothers who cling to the old form of physic simply don't realize what they do. The children's revolt is well-founded. Their tender little "insides" are injured by them.

If your child's stomach, liver and bowels need cleansing, give only delicious "California Syrup of Figs." Its action is positive, but gentle. Millions of mothers keep this harmless "fruit laxative" handy; they know children love to take it; that it never fails to clean the liver and bowels and sweeten the stomach, and that a teaspoonful given to-day saves a sick child to-morrow.

Ask your druggist for a 50-cent bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has full directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly on each bottle. Beware of counterfeits sold here. See that it is made by "California Fig Syrup Company." Refuse any other kind with contempt.

CHANGING SEASONS.



Full soon the shadetrees will be green; the icebergs will be gone; and we shall push the old machine across the whiskered lawn. The furnace, in whose maw we've burned a thousand tons of slate, will have the rest of it savely earned, till Summer pulls its freight. The day grows long and short the night, and man may save his roll, nor cough up for electric light what didn't go for coal. We'll leave the shovel in the bin, among the dust and slate, and in—and late. We'll plant the locust and—and late. We'll plant the locust and the larch, in which the birds will sing, and bless the blooming blasts of March which usher in the Spring. The trees which bear the luscious fruits, we'll guard from posts and snares, and gladly plant our ginseng roots, and groom our Belgian hares. Ah, life is life, when Spring arrives! To stir the scented soil we work our daughters and our wives, and boss them as they toil! 'Tis grateful to the soul, indeed, it soothes the nerves that ache, to watch the women sow the seed, and ply the hoe and rake. It cheers the heart of any man to sit around and smoke, while Julia Jape and Mary Ann plant spud and artichoke.

EVERYDAY ETIQUETTE

"I have just started to mingle with men and women socially and I want to know what is a polite thing to say when women are introduced to me?" remarked Edward.
"You may say, 'How do you do, Miss Hall,' or 'I am very happy to meet you, Miss Hall,'" advised his friend.

NEW SHIPMENT of BABY CARRIAGES

1915 PATTERNS.

These Carriages have just arrived and include the very latest in style and workmanship. Come early and make your choice.

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All well finished and upholstered in various colors. Also in stock: Wheels, from 10 to 16 in. diameter.

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In Heather and Grey *Wool, Leather Bound, Aberdeen make, this week at

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TIME FLIES

AND SO WILL THE

FLANNELETTES

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Pink, White, Cream, Sky, and Cardinal, at

12 cents per yd.

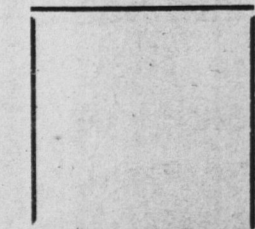
You are not limited to quantity. Buy as much as you want of each shade. Good Value for 15 cents.

MOTHERS! Can you afford to let this chance slip by?

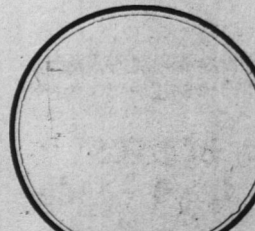
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- By s.s. Durango To-Day:
 - 50 sides Irish Bacon.
 - 10 Irish Hams.
 - 25 cases Hartley's Jams.
 - 10 cs. Hartley's Marmalade.
 - 1 lb. & 2 lb. pots, 7 lb. tins.
 - Bird's Custard Powder.
 - Bird's Egg Powder.
 - Desiccated Coconut.
 - Shelled Walnuts.
 - Shelled Almonds.
 - 20 kegs Selected Grapes.
 - 10 cases Valencia Oranges, large size, 30c. doz.
 - 5 cases Lemons.
 - 20 cases Valencia Onions.
 - Gold Dish Ox Tongue, Glass English Brawn.
 - Eng. Brawn, 1 lb. tins, 20c. tin.
 - Fresh Country Eggs.
 - Fresh Halibut.
 - Fresh Cod Tongues.
 - Fresh Rabbits.
 - Fresh Oysters.
 - Fresh Turkeys.
 - Finnan Haddies.
- TEA PRICES AS USUAL. No advance.
 - Dannawalla50c. lb.
 - Buldog40c. lb.
 - 10 per ct. off 5 lb. lots.

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