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LONDON GOSSIP.

THE DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT. GERMAN CROWN-PRINCE TOO TALKATIVE.

LONDON, October 22nd, 1913. As was very necessary in view of her weak condition the Duchess of Connaught, apart from the functions in connection with the marriage of Prince Arthur, has been living in complete retirement here since she recovered from her recent serious illness. When Her Royal Highness left London on October 17 for Canada, in the company of the Duke and Princess Patricia, she had the attention of Sir Edward Worthington, the Governor-General's medical officer, under whose care she made the journey home. The Duke and Duchess have had rather more than six months in England, and the two operations performed on Her Royal Highness took place in April, within a month of her arrival at Clarence House, but she was well enough to make the journey to Bagshot by the middle of June. All the suite, with the exception of the Duke's new military secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Fraquhar, accompanied the Royal party from Liverpool.

AUSTRIAN ROYAL ARCHDUKE TO VISIT ENGLAND.

I hear that the Archduke Francis Ferdinand is looking forward with the keenest interest to his visit to the King and Queen next month, and it is understood that he will be the bearer of an autograph letter to their Majesties from the Emperor Francis Joseph. It is understood further that the Archduke has made arrangements to bring with him for presentation to his host a collection of old silver ornaments for table decoration, while the Queen will be the recipient of some rare and exquisitely wrought lace and brocades suitable for Court gowns. The Archduke's visit, though having no direct diplomatic design, is considered in high political quarters to be of much significance, and the more so because of the somewhat cooler relations which have existed between the Courts of Vienna and St. James's since the Austrian coup in Bosnia in the autumn of 1908. The late King Edward is known to have entertained a keen feeling that he had been treated with a lack of confidence in that regard, but the fault for this was never imputed to the venerable Emperor.

Turning to another Royal heir it is clear that the German Crown Prince is getting on the nerves of the German people. A few years ago he was genuinely popular. His cheerfulness, somewhat simple humor, and enjoyment of sport and outdoor life left a pleasant impression of a healthy, unsophisticated, unspoiled young man, who, if he had not much in him was at all events harmless and very engaging. His first outbreak was at the time of the Morocco crisis, when from the gallery of the Reichstag he loudly applauded an anti-English speech by a rabid Pan-German Deputy. The next indiscretion was his book, "Germany in Arms," in which he gave utterance to the crudest militarist and Jingo views. Last year he inflicted an atrocious insult upon General Hauptmann, Germany's greatest man of letters. There is little doubt that his latest escapade, on the Brunswick affair was at the instigation of his Pan-German and militarist familiars. In two years he has destroyed all the popularity that he once had, and the German papers are seriously discussing the question of putting some sort of a constitutional muzzle on him. But there is a difficulty. When in the fifties the Crown Prince afterwards the Emperor Frederick tried to intervene between Bismarck and the Prussian Parliament, the Chancellor severely snubbed the Prince by informing him bluntly that a Crown Prince had no constitutional status. In Germany they are now beginning to think that it would be better if the heir to the throne had some sort of position in the Constitution that would put a bridle on his tongue and actions. If the Kaiser were to commit an indiscretion the Imperial Chancellor would have to bear the responsibility. A Crown Prince is sufficiently important—at all events potentially—that he, too, it is argued, should be put into some form of constitutional harness.

MEDICAL RECIPROCITY WITH CANADA.

It appears that no immediate steps are contemplated to extend medical reciprocity further between this

country and Canada. At present the qualifications given in four of the Provinces—Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec—admit their holders to the British Medical Register. With the establishment of a Dominion Medical Council it was anticipated that before long reciprocal arrangements for medical practice would be established between the Mother Country and the other provinces. However, I am told that it has been found the medical opinion there, particularly in British Columbia, is averse to the admission of British medical men to practice without obtaining the local qualification. The value of British registration to Canadian medical men in the Eastern Provinces lies largely in the opportunity which it gives in obtaining hospital posts and experience on this side.

IMPRESSING THE PERSIANS.

I should not be surprised to hear that the ambitious French project of an aviation route from Paris to the Persian Gulf will discount to some extent the naval rivalry which for a good many years has been maintained in regard to that region. It may be recalled in passing that in the days when Russian and British spheres of influence in Persia were less clearly marked than they are now, the Russians hit upon the plan of sending a two-funnelled cruiser to the Gulf with a view to impressing the dwellers upon the Persian littoral, and the plan for a time worked admirably.

Accustomed hitherto to gunboats with only one funnel, the Persians argued that a Power possessing vessels with two of these imposing adornments must of necessity be one of predominant strength, and for a season British influence was in danger of declining. But such things are not long hid from the sagacious officials entrusted with the duty of maintaining British prestige in these parts, and with very little delay a British warship with three funnels made its appearance in the Gulf and completely obliterated the impression produced by the Russian vessel. It is possible that some competition of the kind will eventually be disclosed in the matter of aircraft, and it might prove to be a sound political move to attach to the residency at Bushire a dirigible of sufficient proportions to outclass in the native eye even the substantial aeroplanes which will probably be needed to accomplish the route from Paris via Constantinople, Aleppo, and Baghdad, to Busra.

SOCIETY'S TRAVELS.

There will not be much of an autumn season in London this year. People have waited for the Royal wedding to be safely over and are now rapidly making plans for scattering all over the world. "I'm just off to Khartoum—I've been ordered desert air," a young woman was heard to declare the other afternoon, and the statement struck the listener as the very last word in that interchange of guileless and nonsense which occasionally takes place between rich, idle women and their distracted doctors. There is no end to the excuses which people discover nowadays for getting away from everything. "I'm going out to Pekin at the end of the month," a quite young girl announced not long ago. "Indeed? To stay at the Embassy?" she was asked. "Oh, dear no," was the reply. "I want a couple of Chinese dogs—the very rarest species. I cannot get them in this country, so I've got to go and get them for myself." It was undoubtedly the last Durbar which set this fashion. People found how easy it was, given time and money, to take a trip to Delhi, and now an invitation to join a party to Cashmere or a camping-out fortnight in some other remote part is not an uncommon arrival by post.

South African Bushmen in London.

"The recent visit (to this country) of an aboriginal Bushman from South Africa is a matter which will interest not a few of your readers," writes Mr. W. L. H. Duckworth to the Times. "The Bushman is accompanied by Mr. M. P. Epstein, on whose farm near Kimberley he has lived for some seven years past. He was found by Mr. Epstein in the Kalahari Desert. No other human being was seen in the locality at the time. Mr. Epstein states, also, that when discovered this Bushman was in pursuit of ostriches, and that he was armed with the bow and arrow which he still carries. "Having had an opportunity of examining the Bushman, I may say that I believe him to be a genuine representative of his race. His dwarf-like stature (about 4ft. 3in.) and other physical characteristics leave no room for doubt on this point. He speaks no known language."

WOMAN FAINTED. — Saturday a woman was seized with an attack of epileptic fits and fell on water Street. Restoratives were given her and she came around alright.

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