

Clothes and an Empress

That aged and sombre woman who recently died at the age of ninety-four—Eugenie, once empress of the French—had worn her mourning garments and lived her shadowed and disappointed life for so many years that it is hard to remember her as being in the days of her power and prosperity the most beautiful sovereign in the world and the greatest lady of fashion.

Such she undoubtedly was, nevertheless. Her admirable figure, perfect features, auburn hair, brilliant dark eyes and exquisitely fair complexion needed no enhancement; however simply attired, she was a radiant creature. But she loved dress for its own sake and loved to employ it spectacularly. Her court was extravagant, and she led it in extravagance. Sometimes, realizing that the people murmured, she would try to shift her responsibility. When magnificent new costumes or elaborate new designs were submitted for her approval, she would shake her head and declare:

"No. They would say I am extravagant; already they do say so. No, really I cannot; but after some one else has first displayed such a costume, then I will have one also."

Reluctance of this sort was only occasional. It was she that introduced the cumbersome crinolines; she that popularized the vogue of tulle, gauze, tulle and other vaporous and filmy fabrics that were often intricately embroidered. At other times such fabrics were combined with richer and heavier ones, as in one of the empress's evening costumes, which a fashion writer of the sixties described as "an apricot silk puffed all round the bottom with apricot tulle, founced from the waist, the flounces worked with silver, fuchsia pattern, and trimmed with Venetian fringe of white silk. Over this an immense train of white satin, softened by apricot tulle, worked with silver fuchsias, and with fringe round the borders."

Eugenie displayed three or four dresses in the course of each day, and even the most expensive and superb were never worn more than twice. The furs, fans, jewels and lace that she accumulated were incredibly numerous and costly. She received twenty thousand dollars of pin money every year—a sum far more imposing fifty years ago than today and of double the purchasing power; and this she invariably spent to the last sou; and

frequently she overdraw her account.

She had a dramatic gift for playing the Lady Bountiful. The bridal gift that she received from the city of Paris, to be spent for diamonds, she accepted only on condition that she might use it to found an institution for the education of young girls; and of this institution she remained a faithful patroness. Twenty thousand dollars of a gift of fifty thousand from her husband at the same time she spent in charity; and she made, during her reign, many other gifts to charity, science and art.

It is an ironic circumstance that, when, after Sedan, it had been resolved that in order to rally the royal and discourage revolution she should mount her horse and ride through the streets of Paris to dissolve the shameful and unpopular legislature, the plan failed for lack of clothes! It would probably have failed anyhow; but that one last chance which her beauty, spirit and the appeal of her sex might possibly have secured was lost for lack of a simple riding habit. A severe black habit, with only the cross of the Legion of Honor upon her breast, was what she meant to wear. But there was none in her wardrobe; there was only the picturesque dress of the royal hunt, a gorgeous garment of sweeping length, of green cloth embroidered with gold, and a dashing three-cornered hat to match. Obviously that would not do; it was altogether too theatrical.

The next day the mob stormed the Tuilleries, and the empress fled just in time. At the occasion of her last appearance before her own court she did possess the proper costume. She wished to show herself to those faithful members of the household who had stood by her to the last.

"The door of the white drawing-room was thrown open," wrote an eyewitness, "and the empress appeared for a moment on the threshold—an inexpressible touching little figure in her simple black dress and white collar. She made a curtsy and waved her hand, trying hard to smile, while many, not all of them women, sobbed aloud."

So passed the lovely lady of fashion from the throne that she never should have occupied. France, the glorious and great republic, revoked her exile and forgave her in her saddened age for the splendours and errors of her glittering prime.

Pleasure Essential to Life

Some people seem to think that there is a sharp dividing line between "essential" and "nonessential," and that an equally sharp dividing line separates "pleasure" from all the world activities that are not generally called "pleasure."

Nothing could be further from the fact. What is not essential to one person may with equal justice be most essential to another person. And what is pleasurable to one person might be positively painful to some one else.

Even ignoring the difference in people's tastes and laying down an edict on some arbitrary measure alone—as when war boards tried to determine what was essential to winning the war—even then no just classification can be made. For soldiers demanded cigarettes and chewing gum, which are neither food nor clothing, and are certainly not munitions, and officers required "pleasure" cars in pursuit of duty. These things were real necessities to them.

Supposedly a necessity is something that contributes to the bare preservation of life. But, on the other hand, if you are merely going to preserve life, we may well ask, "What for?" A life without pleasure is no life at all, and would not be worth preserving.

Our wise men find only two states of human existence—pleasure and pain. You are always experiencing one or the other. An effort has been made to show that there is a third state, a sort of zero condition from which both pleasure and pain are absent.

Logic at Work.

Teacher—"Thomas, will you tell me what a conjunction is, and compose a sentence containing one?"

Thomas (after reflection)—"A conjunction is a word, connecting anything, such as 'The horse is hitched to the fence by his halter.' 'Halter' is a conjunction, because it connects the horse and the fence."

Soot weighing one ton may result from burning one hundred tons of coal.

A Bird's Barbed Wire Fence

In Central America are many strange birds with strange habits, but probably none is more interesting than a little brown wren which may be seen along the roadside or on the fences. This little bird, about the size of a canary, builds a nest out of the proportion to its apparent needs. He selects a small tree with horizontal branches growing close together. Across two of the branches he lays sticks fastened together with tough fibre until a platform about six feet long by two feet wide is constructed. On the end of this platform nearest the tree trunk he then builds a huge dome shaped nest a foot or so high, with thick sides of interwoven thorns. A covered passageway is then made from the nest to the end of the platform.

It has been estimated that 80 per cent. of the total annual produce of Canadian farms is consumed in Canada.

Over seven hundred gardeners are already employed in tending British soldiers' graves in France and Belgium.

—and the worst is yet to come



SEALING INDUSTRY OF THE DOMINION

ORIGINATED IN 1763 IN NEWFOUNDLAND.

Canada Draws Revenue From Seal Fishery on Both Atlantic and Pacific Coasts.

The seal pack in the Northern Pacific waters is considered to be the most valuable herd of wild animals in the world. Its value being placed at \$75,000,000 and yearly increasing.

After a conference in 1911 between the United States, Russia, Japan and Canada, all of whom are interested in sealing in these waters, a close season was established for fifteen years and pelagic sealing forbidden. According to the treaty signed at the same time, Canada received fifteen per cent. of the catch of these waters. The Dominion's credit has been allowed to accumulate, and when a settlement is made, which will probably be done at the end of the present year, it is expected that Canada will receive something like \$800,000 as her share of the catch since the opening of the season. With the beneficial effect of the protection of the herd has had and is still experiencing, it is predicted that in a few years Canada's revenue from this source will be in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000 a year.

The Hair Seal.

All the year round, hair seals, which are great roamers, have been in the habit of infesting the Fraser River and the Gulf of Georgia, inhabiting inaccessible flats, and by consuming large quantities of fish already taken in nets, have constituted themselves a general nuisance. Various methods of combating this pest have been tried unsuccessfully, and experimentation is continuing, in the belief that a successful method of trapping will not only terminate the mischief these animals are doing but result in the creation of a new and important industry on the Pacific coast.

The hair seal is valued partly for its hide, which is used in making various kinds of leather, for oil which is extracted from its carcass, and, on the Pacific coast, for use in the manufacture of fertilizer. The hair seal is a particularly valuable animal at the present time, his hide selling for as high as \$175. A recent development in the seal industry is the utilization of the skins of old males, a hitherto unprofitable section, which considerably enhances the value of the seal catch to any country. Canada draws revenue from seal fishery on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and the amounts accruing from these is, at the present time, naturally of gratifying proportions and will be more so in the future.

It has been computed roughly that one million seal skins are marketed every year, and to this aggregate the largest single collection is contributed by the sealers of Newfoundland operating on their own coast and off the shores of Labrador. In the year 1913, Newfoundland's share of the seal fishery accounted for \$1,293 seals with a market value of \$278,000. The industry on the island accounts for the employment of 1,685 men, and numerous vessels take part in the often hazardous undertaking.

Newfoundland, the Pioneer.

The seal industry originated in Newfoundland in 1769, and for some years after that the annual catch did not exceed three or four thousand skins per season. With the increasing demand for oil and skins, however, the industry grew, and more men and vessels came to engage exclusively in it. By the beginning of the nineteenth century, the annual catch exceeded 60,000 skins, and larger and larger vessels

were built for the pursuit, till later these were superseded by fast steamers. At the present time, though there are some sailing vessels still engaged, the steamer is the big unit—in the activity and accounts for five-sixths of the catch.

Up into years the seal catch of Newfoundland has fallen off somewhat, due to the heavy toll and indiscriminate killing, which is now regulated by legislation. The 1908 catch, for instance, numbered 213,863 seals, and that of the following year 289,320 animals. A single vessel has been known to bring into St. John's a catch of 42,000, and a total of nearly 700,000 seals have been taken by the entire Newfoundland fleet in a single season.

A Novel Trapping Method.

A novel method of hunting seals, under the auspices of the government of Newfoundland, is to be introduced in the spring by two Nova Scotia aviators, which, if successful, may revolutionize the entire industry. The party of three men, with two aeroplanes and dirigibles of the type used so successfully during the war to "spot" submarines, will sail from Montreal early in January to join the Newfoundland sealers at St. John's, the augmented party of thirty-five or forty leaving for the Labrador ice-fields.

Hitherto the locating of seal herds has been done by men in the rigging of ships whose range of vision is naturally limited. This work it is intended to do with planes, "spotting" being possible by this means within a radius of fifty miles. The method then is as follows. The aeroplane, which carries five men besides the pilot and mechanic, descends to the ice where the animals are despatched by bullets from machine guns. The skins are then packed in bundles about the base of poles to which a flag is attached. This kind of hunting continues to the end of the season when the ice breaks up, the hunters proceeding from place to place, transported by plane as new herds are "spotted." At the close of the season the vessels visit the ice-breakers and pick up the bundles, being materially assisted by the planes in locating and signalling.

Once upon an announcement of the projected activities of these aviators, there arrived in St. John's two "blimps," or war airships, a present to Newfoundland from the Imperial government. These it is intended to use in the seal fisheries in the same manner, the cost of operation, estimated at \$60,000, being borne jointly by the Newfoundland government and the owners of the sealing vessels assisted in their catch.

The co-operation of the government in this new venture would augur a belief in the practicability and success of the novel enterprise, and doubtless their success, which is highly probable, will have a marked effect upon sealing on both coasts and tend to bring about a revolution in hunting methods.

A Gentle Dentist.

Two dentists were talking "shop." One remarked:

"My treatment is so painless that it often happens that my patients fall asleep while I am attending to their teeth."

The other dentist gave a deprecating shrug of his shoulders.

"Poh, poh, my dear man! That is nothing!" he cried. "You should see my place, with all the latest improvements. Why, my patients nearly always ask me to send a messenger to fetch a photographer so that they can be photographed with the expression of gladness which my patent dental treatment alone can give them."

Chinese in London.

The Chinese population of London is increasing rapidly and the district which has been appropriated by the celestials is becoming overcrowded so that they are encroaching on the neighboring districts.

British West Indies Want Home Rule

A movement for home rule is on foot in the British West Indies, says the correspondent of The London Times.

In Jamaica, and, indeed, throughout the British West Indies, crown colony government has become repugnant to all classes, and the movement for representative institutions is now well nigh irresistible.

At the legislative elections last year in Jamaica every member was returned with a mandate to press for a change in the constitution, and now a committee of the Legislative Council is engaged in preparing a memorial to the Secretary of State for the Colonies asking that a royal commission should be sent to Jamaica to inquire into the political, in addition to other, conditions obtaining there. Early this year three members of the Legislature will proceed to London to present the case of Jamaica to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Lesser Antilles have already prepared plans for a like deputation with the same end in view.

Desire for change from an antiquated system of government, centralization, in British Guiana, the Leeward and Windward Islands, Trinidad and Jamaica, and friends of constitutional government are everywhere hopeful that the imperial government will consider and formulate a scheme by which this can be brought about. The present system is criticized, as stifling the voice of the people; crown government, it is declared, is auto-

cratic and the government may flout the wishes of the people even though the people's representatives press them ever so ardently.

Before 1866 Jamaica had a constitution, granted by Charles II, which was a representative one. It consisted of a governor, a privy council, a legislative council and an assembly of forty-seven members. In that year this constitution was surrendered and a Legislative Council established consisting of an equal number of official and unofficial members. In 1895 a change was instituted whereby the council consisted of the Governor, five ex-officio members, and other persons not exceeding ten, and fourteen persons to be elected, with a Privy Council which is the Executive Council.

This experiment in crown colony government has proved expensive. Nor can the enlargement of 1895 be considered an improvement. The Privy Council is an added burden. It is made up of officials, the commander of the forces, and a couple of planters. There is no representative of the people at its sittings, no one to advise in matters deeply affecting the taxpayer or check extravagance. In the hands of the Privy Council the Governor himself is more or less a puppet. However well disposed or otherwise he may be to projects of legislation, he must act clearly on the advice of the council, though, as it is continually urged in the colony, this body does not represent the people of Jamaica as a whole.

Lights of Home.

The lights of home, the lights of home.

That glimmer through the orchard trees.

Of all the lights of all the world.

There are no other lights like these.

The sparkling lights of city streets.

How they bewitch, enchant, enthrall.

Yet, measured for their truest worth.

What very shallow lights withal!

The starry lights that shine afar.

Majestically burn and gleam.

But, through the mighty realm of space.

How vast and far away they seem.

The sunlight dancing on the waves.

The moonbeam's mellow, mystic light.

The beacon light upon the shore.

The camp fire glowing in the night.

The fairy light the dewdrop holds.

The dazzling brilliance of the snow.

The soft, luxurious sheen of silk.

The radiance that jewels show:

I love them all, and yet to me:

There is a fairer light than these;

It is the golden, welcoming stream

That glimmers through the orchard trees.

For everything I hold most dear

Is there, behind that streaming light;

"Home, and the folks you love the best,"

This is the greeting through the night.

The lights of home, dear lights of home.

That glimmer through the orchard trees.

Of all the lights of all the world.

There are no other lights like these.

Both Good.

Once Day and Night in converse met.

And argued long—

Said Day: "I bring the world its light

Its flower and song;

All life and warmth are my hours' claim;

My share is best."

Said Night: "You bring the world its work;

I bring it rest!"

Greece turned into sewers by wool-

washing plants is recovered by the

English city of Birmingham at its

sewage plant and converted into a

profitable byproduct.

Aerial Force to Guard French Frontiers.

France is to be the first country to have an aerial police force guarding her frontiers against smugglers or persons attempting to land without passports for propaganda purposes. The Ministry of Aviation has decided to organize the new service as quickly as possible, arranging for definite points along the frontiers over which all airplanes must pass and for air-dromes where customs inspections will be made.

Airplanes which cross the frontier elsewhere will be signalled to come down, and will then be followed to the nearest landing place by the aerial police unless these airplanes belong to special aerial transportation companies owning their own air-dromes, where customs officials will be stationed permanently.

The regulations provide that a flatter of infraction of the civilian passport regulations be subject to the penalty which calls for immediate expulsion, with a caution not to repeat the offense. The pilots of such machines will be watched much more closely thereafter. The question of duty on petrol supplies has been settled by establishing a special route card, each machine to be allowed enough gasoline to reach a declared destination.

Apart from the supervision of frontiers, to prevent commercial infractions of the laws the aerial police will be expected to give the earliest warning of the approach of enemy aircraft, thus providing a valuable supplementary force in the event that Germany, as many military leaders believe, decided to construct semi-military airplanes, ostensibly for commercial purposes.

Tarry Not.

The road to yesterday
Why travel it?
A tangled skein, so why
Unravel it?
The future calls you on.
The past is dead.
And all you hope to do
Lies just ahead.

Limit for Feeding.

The limit of the earth's capacity is 5,294,000,000 human beings. The world could feed no more. At the present rate of increase this limit will be reached by A.D. 2100.

Insurance for Canada's Soldiers

Canada's generous treatment of her returned soldiers, which included a bonus on discharge, a system of vocational training, and a universally approved land settlement policy, has been followed up by a scheme of government life insurance which has so many benefits for the ex-warrior that it was instantaneously popular and within a short time of inauguration had been extensively taken up by military men all over the Dominion.

Within three months of the Act having become effective, or up to December 1st, 1920, insurance to the amount of \$3,285,000 was issued by the Dominion government, and \$26,711 received in premiums, representing applications from 1,015 Canadian ex-soldiers. Shoals of inquiries continue to pour in.

The Act applies to all ex-soldiers and nurses and to widows of returned soldiers who died in Canada after discharge from the service. Policies are issued for a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$5,000, insurance being payable only in the event of death or the total and permanent disability of the insured. One-fifth of the maximum may be paid at death and the balance, as an annuity, over a period of 5, 10, 15 or twenty years.

Premiums are payable monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or yearly. An

additional advantage of the scheme is that grace of one month is allowed for the payment of any premium, other than the first, without interest, and should claim occur during the days of grace, it is paid minus the amount of the premium.

The scheme, as evolved, was mainly intended for disabled or partially disabled men whom existing companies would only take at very high premiums or not at all. The government scheme places all men on an equality, and no medical examination is necessary in order to take out a policy which is merely based on the age of the insured at the time of insuring. A great number of fit men are, however, taking advantage of the favorable terms and rates, and the advantages it offers in the payment of premiums.

The majority of the policies issued so far have been for \$5,000, the maximum amount to be obtained under the Act by the individual. Ex-soldiers in every walk of civil life have already insured under the scheme, many being, it is stated, insurance agents, including several chief officials of existing insurance companies. Large numbers of physicians have also taken out policies.

The period during which applications for insurance will be received is open until September 1st, 1922.

H. C. L. CRUSHES MIDDLE CLASS

BULWARK OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Soaring Prices Force People to Lower Standard of Living and Liquidate Assets.

Crushed between the upper and nether millstones of high living costs and low salaries, England's great middle class is today struggling for continued existence. They are being forced to lower their standards of living, to liquidate the assets acquired in better years and to surrender one by one the phases of intellectual and social life that made the middle class the bulwark of the nation and the empire.

It has been said that English society was like English beer—froth at the top, dregs at the bottom, but good solid brew in the middle stratum. England has always depended on her middle class. They gave her the business men, the scientists, writers and the artists. Their sons entered the army and the navy, founded and built up the colonies overseas.

Who were these people of the middle class? Before the war their homes were found in the suburbs, on small country estates and in provincial towns. The father was perhaps a professional man or in business. The family income ranged from \$3,000 to \$7,500 a year. This sum enabled them to live in comparative luxury and even to save and invest. Their budgets were carefully arranged, their funds must needs be well managed, but by skilful use of the income they were able to afford many little luxuries of life.

The sons went to the great public schools, Rugby, Eton and Harrow. Later there would be a son in the service, perhaps an officer in India. The daughters married prosperous men of their class. Many of the families owned their own homes, perhaps even owned a small farm in the countryside. They could travel a bit—a holiday at the coast or even a week in Switzerland. Thus, cultured, balanced and conservative, they formed the strongest part of England's social fabric.

Food 182 Per Cent. Higher.

Today the situation has changed. The cost of living costs has risen to 182 per cent. over costs in July, 1914. Food alone is 182 per cent. higher. Land taxes and income taxes have been piled upon the man of moderate means and, in addition, he feels the burden of the excess profit taxes, surtaxes and corporation taxes that big business is bearing. The annual interest on the national debt has risen from a per capita sum of \$2.50 in 1914 to \$38.80 to-day. The wages of the middle class have not kept pace with these advances. They have risen to some extent—in a very large extent in the unskilled labor groups—but the business man and the professional man find their incomes only a few pounds more than in 1914. Their expenses have doubled. In other words, their living has been cut in half.

It is obviously impossible under these conditions to maintain the old standard. Sacrifices must be made on every hand. The younger son can no longer plan to go to the university—he must enter trade as a junior clerk to contribute his share toward the family income. The daughter also must go to business in the city. Old clothes must be worn a little while longer, cleaned and patched and "made to do." Clubs and sports—the motor-cycle or sailboat—must be given up. Theatres and concerts are no longer possible. The friends who drop in unexpectedly for dinner become a serious economic problem. As an English journalist recently said, "The middle class is being forced to eliminate all the decorative margin of life."

Situation Becomes Acute.

This transition period has been progressing slowly, but the situation has now become acute. During the war the sacrifice was universal and was made on the grounds of national necessity. To meet the high prices the family savings were cut into and disappeared. The family investments were liquidated. Perhaps the cottage in the country was sold. And suddenly, with the coming of peace, the prosperous middle class man found that he was just where he had started life. Peace did not solve the problem, however. Prices continued high, but his salary was nearly the same. Now, after six years of high prices the situation of the middle class is becoming desperate. Many are dropping back into absolute poverty; all feel the pinch of the times.

There are certain well defined groups that, from a variety of causes, suffer more than others. These are:

1. Professional people.
2. Retired business men and others of fixed pre-war incomes.
3. Pensioned ex-officers and civil servants.
4. The clerks and "white collar" men.

These people constitute the "New Poor." All alike face the same hardships, deprivations and the lowering of their standards of living.

Dusk Sounds Curfew in Norway.

Children are not allowed out in the streets of Norway after dark.