

## LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, Dec. 20th, 1915.  
THE ROYAL EXAMPLE.

Her Majesty has set a very definite example to the women of the country. Both she and Princess Mary, while not abandoning the pretty light colors which do much to cheer us all, have shown very plainly that extravagance in attire is extremely distasteful to them at the moment, and in Court circles simplicity is the keynote of the day. Her Majesty has signified to her entourage that till the end of the war she does not wish full evening dress to be worn by ladies. For her own wear and that of her only daughter she has ordered pretty long-sleeved silk dresses of great simplicity, only just open at the neck for the evening. This fashion is being imitated everywhere. The royal ladies have in the matter of furs likewise set a fashion and eschew the somewhat eccentric and showy models that had been introduced, wearing plain and serviceable furs, usually of dark colors. As to jewels, Her Majesty has not worn many of late, and in society it is looked upon as very bad form to be seen doing so.

### A MEASURE TO PRESERVE THE PEERAGE.

I hear that an interesting proposal is being considered in the highest quarters for providing against the extinction of peerages by the operations of the war. One peer without an heir, Lord Kesteven, already has been killed in action, and several heirs to peerages—those of Lord Lincolnshire and Lord Ribblesdale are cases in point—have fallen leaving no heirs to succeed them. It is possible that in all such instances arising through the war steps will be taken to create "special remainders" for succession from "the distaff side." Apart from the war's ravages, the peerage has undergone an actual shrinkage in 1914. In addition to that of Kesteven, six titles have become extinct during the year—Armitstead, Ardilaun, Estcourt, Glantawe, Gwilyr and Welby. Against this loss only four new peerages have been created—Bertie, Buckmaster, Muir-Mackenzie and Wrenbury. A year ago there was 531 hereditary peers of the United Kingdom, of which 13 were minors. Today there are 578, seven titles having lapsed and one having passed by remainder to female succession.

### THE ATTITUDE OF RUMANIA.

The attitude of Rumania seems to be causing some anxiety in certain quarters—chiefly on account of the two measures taken by her recently of mining the lower reaches of the Danube against the Russians and of permitting a large quantity of corn to be exported to the Central Empire. This anxiety is quite baseless. As regards the exports it is well to bear in mind that owing to the closure of the Dardanelles Rumania has accumulated a gigantic stock of foodstuffs, which she has kept back as long as she could, hoping for a change in the military situation that would have allowed her to export them through Serbia and Salonika. The occupation of the former has frustrated these hopes, and as the Central Powers are prepared to pay a high price for the stuffs Rumania has been reluctantly compelled to make a virtue—no doubt a very profitable one—of the necessity imposed by the circumstances. As the "Frankfurter Zeitung" itself recently warned its readers, this sale of grain by Rumania must not be considered as an act of friendship towards the Central Powers. "The enormous price which Rumania is exacting shows that her sole intention is to exploit the present opportunity." As for the mining of the Danubian waters, it is merely a sign that Rumania is still waiting. As a Russian march through Rumanian territory

would necessarily involve Rumania in the war, she has mined her waters so as to ward off the danger. The act of mining the Danube is but another way of proclaiming that the hour of Rumania's intervention is not yet.

### NOVEL PARLIAMENTARY PROPOSAL.

A new clause to the Parliament Bill which Mr. Curries proposes to move, if it is in order will be of exceptional interest as it provides machinery for forcing a contest where the sitting member has forfeited the confidence of his constituents. It is therefore something of the nature of that new-fashioned political idea generally styled the "recall" and is in the following terms:—  
This Act shall not apply to any constituency in respect of which, within one month after the passing of the Act, a petition is presented to Parliament by electors to the number of 20 per cent. in excess of the number voting for the sitting member at said contested election, setting forth that said member has, in the opinion of the petitioners, being electors, either by speeches in the country or by votes in Parliament, or both, forfeited the confidence of the constituents, always provided that the petitioners deposit with the Local Government Board the sum of one thousand pounds as a guarantee of the due payment of all and any expenses to be incurred by an election, such sum to be subsequently accounted for to the petitioners to the satisfaction of the Local Government Board. In such a case an election in the constituency shall take place with all convenient speed, and not later than two months after the passing of this Act.

### GENERAL HAIG.

It was generally understood that the succession to Sir John French lay between Sir Douglas Haig and Sir William Robertson. Sir William Robertson, who is the elder by a year, passed the Staff College in 1898 and was Commander of the College from 1910 to 1912. He is, of course, Chief of Staff at General Headquarters in France. General Haig's achievements as Commander of the First Army Corps and later of the First Army are in everyone's mind. Like Sir John French, he began his army career as a hussar, and served in the Sudan and in South Africa. He was Chief of Staff to General French during the Colseberg operations. As Commander of the Aldershot Command from 1912 he was largely responsible for working out the plans for the possible operations of the Expeditionary Force. Whatever criticisms have been directed against the staffs of the army in Flanders, there has never been a word against that of Sir Douglas Haig, which is known to be the smallest and fittest of our army possessors. He has all the due determination and striking qualities of the Lowland Scot, but not the personal magnetism of the General he succeeds. He is a commander of tremendous concentration, care, and energy who has thoroughly assimilated all the stern lessons that his tremendous experience has provided.

### M.P.'S OF MILITARY AGE.

Now that Lord Derby's scheme has run its course it will be interesting to see how many—if any—of the younger members of Parliament are waiting for compulsion. In the Commons there are still about thirty who, from the standpoint of age and apparent vigor, might have enlisted at any time since August, 1914. They have not been idle in the nation's service, for many of them, apart from their Parliamentary duties as very occasional auditors of the proceedings, have busied themselves in other ways connected with the war. But they must long since have learned that

## T. J. Edens

By S. S. Stephano, Monday, January 10, 1916:

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CAL. NAVEL ORANGES.  
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DANNAWALLE TEA, 50c. lb.  
No advance in price.  
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Two TEAS with satisfaction in every sip.

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SHREDDED WHOLE WHEAT BISCUITS, 16c. pkg.  
DUTCH BUTTER, 1 lb. blocks, 25c.  
MINCED HAM (Cooked), 39c. lb.  
BLUE BERRIES, 15c. tin.  
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LEMON CLING PEACHES, best; 2½ lb. tin, 25c.  
JAMS, assorted, tumbler, 15c. each.  
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## T. J. EDENS.

this war was not to be won, as many comfortably-placed politicians seemed to think at its outset, by making speeches up and down the country to persuade other men to go soldiering. No armlet has yet been seen inside the House of Commons. The members of military age who does not possess one will be in a rather embarrassing position both in the House and among his constituents. Young men are more necessary in the field than in the Senate in these days, and at the next election the voters—a very large proportion of whom will have seen service—are likely to give short shrift to any candidate who cannot produce evidence that he tried to enlist and failed. It is known that some of these young men are ardent and implacable opponents of what they call conscription. Particular interest attaches to the question whether they have volunteered.

### WARSHIPS FOR HOME SERVICE.

The big toy store in the West End of London which is usually full of the most expensive model locomotives and railway plant gives this Christmas a demonstration of sea power. You can buy there the "Lord Nelson" or the "Queen Elizabeth," along with two submarines, one destroyer, one torpedo-boat, and one mine-sweeper, for a shilling the set. You can buy the whole Australian navy at the same moderate figure, or a troopship with convoy, or a light cruiser, patrol squadron, or even a Royal review. The Grand Fleet itself can be bought for a guinea. There are more expensive sets, but for obvious reasons the warships seem mostly to be on a small scale (I dare say a few cunning inaccuracies are thrown in), and the business indeed seems a little small for this lordly establishment, where locomotives can run on a very narrow gauge into a hundred pounds. The battleship "Lord Nelson" however, is or was on sale. It is about three and a half feet long, and is electrically driven. Its contract price was £50. Moreover, there is catalogued a scale model of the "Queen Mary," with steam machinery. Madame Tussaud and Lord Howard de Walden are the proud possessors of similar models—£75.0s. can be spent in this way. A large-scale warship for use on large ornamental waters, with guns to fire blank cartridges and searchlights to work properly, costs about £300, according to detail. A good electrically driven liner (probably with swimming-baths and cycle course) costs anything over £50. Then there are the fittings for models. If you are very particular and must have improved metal gaff jaws you must pay half a crown each, but a stropped sister or fiddle blocks only cost twopenny. Stroppered dead-eyes, however, can be got at a penny each (fancy having a stroppered dead-eye of your own). The only thing missing in the shop was a navigable submarine. The explanation given me was: "It couldn't be much fun putting a submarine in a pond and watching it bob up and down. It wouldn't be much good, would it?"

One is glad to think even the ingenuity of this tremendous establishment stops at some point, and Kensington round pond can sleep o' nights.

### DANCES WITH A PURPOSE.

No mention has been made, I think, in the published accounts of the wonderful work that is being done in fitting out our crippled soldiers and sailors with artificial limbs of an interesting device that is adopted to help the maimed men over the transition period. It is well known that men who have lost a limb suffer from a variety of nervous complaints, which frequently take the form of extreme depression and disheartenment. In spite of the provision of most ingenious artificial limbs, in the perfection of which very great strides have been made since the war, they cannot be convinced that they will ever be fit for anything again. I am told that at one well-known institution near London the plan is adopted of having dances periodically, at which all the dancers are men who have been fitted with artificial legs and arms. The patients who have not got to the stage of being fitted with limbs are invited to look on, and it is said that they derive a wonderful amount of enjoyment from this. It is often difficult to tell that the dancers have not the use of their own limbs. The limbs that are now being supplied under the well-known fund over which the Queen presides are made of aluminum and fitted with ball-bearings and are in every way a miracle of ingenuity.

### OUR SWEDISH GUESTS.

One of the Swedish journalists who has taken part in their tour in this country gives me some more intimate views about the visit and how it struck them. He said that the opinions of the party on the war were naturally somewhat diverse, although all were strong for neutrality. Several of the members had been in England before. Baron Palmstierna, who was a commander in the Swedish navy and had been on board British ships before, was perhaps more impressed than any by what he saw at the naval base in the north. M. Heiberg, editor of the Radical paper "Karlstaads Tidningen," and Baron Adelskard, the late Minister of Finance, also knew England well. But none of the party, it may be said, were prepared for the display of the war and the resolution of all classes, commercial, workmen, and statesmen, to go on to the end. "To the end" was the phrase they had heard often in France, and they found the same phrase and determination, my informant added, in Britain.

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### THE WINTER DAY.

The leaden clouds were blown away, the sun got busy overhead; it was a perfect winter day, without a gleam, critics s a i d. T h e judges who had passed on days, at many a state and county fair, admitted that we couldn't raise a finer sample, anywhere. I walked nine miles, just to inhale the crisp, keen air that braced like wine; it seemed to render sound and life to the ancient, spavined limbs of mine. And nearly every man I met was grumbling at that perfect day. "We do not want spring weather yet—it's bad for us," I heard men say. "Such weather will relax the pores, and leave us open to disease, and when again the tempest roars, we'll have rheumatics in the knees. These biting days are simply snarers, designed to kill off human wrecks, and when again the blizzard tears, we'll have lumbago in our necks." I get discouraged, oftenwhiles, there are so many jays on earth, who simply won't indulge in smiles, but dish up brine, a jiltney's worth. The sun may shine, and breezes sweet as Eden's spicy airs may blow, and still they'll kick with all their feet, and make a specialty of woe.

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### Wedding Bells.

COLLINS—MYRICK.

A very pretty wedding was celebrated Monday, January 10th, 1916, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. William Myrick, Cape Race, when their eldest daughter, Daisy, was married to Mr. James J. Collins, of the Marconi Co. The bride was tastefully attired in ivory satin and Virginia lace, trimmed with seed pearls. The Rev. Fr. Renouf, of Trepassey, officiated. Miss Dot Myrick, sister of the bride, acted as bridesmaid, and Mr. Michael Jackson, cousin of the bride, acted as best man. The groom's present to the bride was a cheque, to the bridesmaid, a peridot and pearl brooch and to the best man, a pair of gold cuff links. After the ceremony the many friends of the happy couple sat down to a sumptuous repast, followed by a dance which was kept up until the "sma" wee hours. The bride was the recipient of many handsome and useful presents.

### Ship Building.

During the present winter season there is much activity in ship-building along the South West Coast and a couple of new schooners for the bank fishery will be launched shortly. These along with a couple of Gloucester and Lunenburg bankers recently purchased will increase the Newfoundland banking fleet for 1916.

LOADING FOR GIBRALTAR.—The schr. Albert Moulton is loading fish at Carbonear for Gibraltar.

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