

WORLD IS WRAPPED TIGHT IN LONDON

FAMOUS SECRETARY SPEAKS OF IT AS THE HEART OF THE WORLD

Sir William Soubey, who was private secretary to a lord mayor before most Londoners of today were born, and has been private secretary to every lord mayor since, has been doing a great deal in trying to drive home to the Londoner that London has a personality, that London is unique—wherefrom it follows that a Londoner must rank above all other men in the world.

But Sir William stopped short, or the interviewers did not report him fully. London is not a city; London is not like anything else in the world—merely because it is the very heart of the world today, to be a Londoner is equivalent to having been a Roman citizen of two thousand years ago.

The personality of London—we ought to thank that dozen of private secretaries, that super-private secretary, for the phrase. London has a personality, she is a living thing, the most vast, most wonderful and, perhaps, the most pathetic, thing which our civilization has produced.

Can anyone conceive the world with London eliminated? It would be a world in ruin, a world in sackcloth and ashes. Trade rivals may hate us, rail at us, raise tariff barriers against us; but London remains all-essential to their trade. A disaster to London would mean starvation to untold millions.

Today how many Londoners realize the immensity of their privilege in belonging to the imperial city? Here and there you find a man who knows one who has been behind the scenes, and understands the hollowness of the claims of other cities, other nations. In one short street alone, Mincing lane, the greater part of the trade of the far east is handled, and the far east has always been, from a trade point of view, the prize of the world.

The American boasts loudly—far too loudly, often—in his business ability; but it is in Mincing lane, and not in New York, that his tea, his rubber, his saw flour, all that he requires from the far east, is handled. The people of the United States buy up by far the larger portion of the Brazil crop of low-grade coffee, yet, though the bags of coffee beans never come near London, London firms do all the business.

Decadent! Effete! Out-of-date! The men who could answer those absurd charges levelled by Americans and colonialists are too busy, supplying Americans and colonialists, to notice the childish assertions. London can afford to treat all her critics with contempt.

"The personality of London"—the phrase is a good one; and yet, somehow, I prefer to look on London merely as the heart of the world, and to think of the lesser cities as places in which you can, perhaps, feel the heart beats.

far as the telephone service which supplies it with local news. There remains San Francisco, the queen city of the west. She is an imperial city, the nearest approach to London in the breadth of her interests; and, like London, she has a personality. She is the western counterpart of London.

"Thou drawest all things, small and great, To thee, beside the western gate." Bret Harte, who loved her and therefore, understood her, wrote. "He was right, but why, oh why, did he never use his magic pen to describe the personality of London?"

COLONIAL FRUIT SHOWN London, Dec. 30.—A wonderful display of fruit and flowers was shown recently at the fortnightly exhibition of the Royal Horticultural Society at Vincent-square. British Columbia gave proof of its possibilities as a fruit growing country with a particularly fine display of apples.

There are now over 50,000 acres devoted to fruit in British Columbia and this area is increased by several thousand acres yearly. Among the apples were Spitzenberg, Wagner, Black Ben Davis, and St. Lawrence specimens.

The Hon. Vicary Gibbs had a fine collection of English apples on view, including Blenheim oranges, Gasconne's seedlings, and Peasgood Nonchapel apples, while Messrs. H. Cannell and Sons also made an excellent display.

The principal flowers exhibited included chrysanthemums and begonias, and among the ornamental vegetables were Messrs. Barr and Sons' tinted kale and some delicately colored onions belonging to Lord North.

DANCER PROMISES THE CZAR There have been numerous evidences of a man in which the czar holds Anna Pavlova, greatest of all dancers, and most illustrious product of the institute for the ballet he maintains in St. Petersburg. He has honored her signally and on many occasions to mark his appreciation of her artistry.

Pavlova's American tour this season follows her appearance in St. Petersburg at the express wish of the czar. Between her seasons in London last winter she went to St. Petersburg to dance at the Royal Opera. The czar and the imperial family attended the performances, and twice Nicholas called Pavlova into the imperial box, when in the hearing of his suite he paid her high compliments.

The second time he sent for her he expressed regret over her choice of England as a home, and asked if she would not return to Russia next February for special appearance for him. Pavlova described the plans of her American tour and explained that she would be in this country in February. "Then the czar asked if she could not visit Russia before she came to the United States, and it was arranged that after the close of her London season she go to St. Petersburg in September for a series of special performances.

She has agreed at the request of the czar to dance in St. Petersburg every year, and in return she retains her title as prima ballerina assoluta of the Imperial Russian ballet, notwithstanding that she lives in England. It is said no other dancer has been permitted officially to retain title in the Imperial ballet after having left Russia.

Pavlova, however, has relinquished salary and right to pensions as "a servant of the czar." She surrendered these when she left the country. Their loss is nothing to her, for she is rich and receives much more for dancing outside of Russia than she would if she had continued a salaried member of the Imperial ballet.

HOUSING PROBLEMS TOLD Glasgow, Scotland, Dec. 31.—John Lindsay, town clerk of Glasgow, made special reference to housing problems in the city at the annual meeting of the Kyrle Society. He pointed out that the general housing question had taken a very acute form, and he expressed the hope that the special parliamentary commission which had been inquiring into the condition of matters in various large centers of Scotland would soon issue a satisfactory report for the future guidance of local authorities throughout the country.

SAFEGUARDING HUMAN LIFE

Here are some "Safety First" maxims given out by Mr. N. S. Dunlop to a meeting of railway men at an address in Montreal.

"Don't throw anything out of a moving train. It's a bad thing to get a mail bag in the stomach from an express running thirty miles an hour. "A brakeman should not sit down on the track and be run over by the train he went to flag."

"It takes less time to prevent an accident than it does to fill up Form 74 (the accident report form). "Don't fool with machines. They can be replaced. Hands cannot."

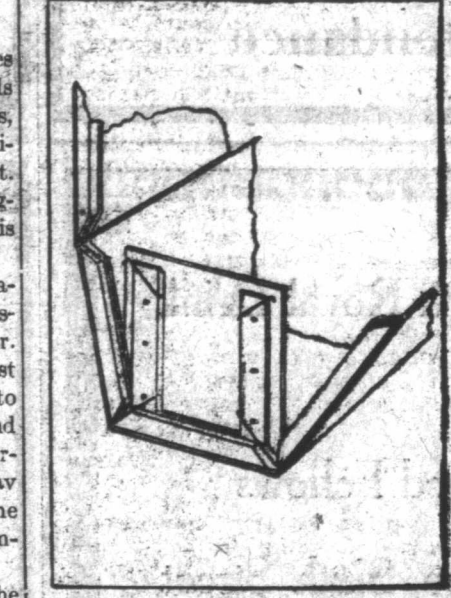
"You can start a 'Safety First' committee right in your own home. "Get the 'Safety First Habit.' "Stop supporting the undertaker and the artificial limb maker."

"No man should go twenty-four hours without placing his insurance." Mr. Dunlop is an enthusiast for "Safety First," a movement which was started on the C.P.R. so long ago as 1895.

As a Claims Adjuster Mr. Dunlop has had to deal with many sad experiences due to neglect of "Safety First" principles.

KNOCKDOWN SHIPPING BOX

Six Pieces Quickly Formed into a Strong Close Case An ingenious form of shipping box is shown here. It is in knockdown style and not only makes a strong case, with close-fitting joints, but can be used over and over again. There are four side pieces and two end pieces. Each side piece has grooved cleats on each end and the end pieces



CAN BE USED MANY TIMES fit between the side cleats. Two cleats secured to each end piece have flanges that engage the grooves of the adjacent cleats on the sides. These various pieces register so neatly that merchandise of small particles can be carried in the box without filtering through. Wires hold the box shut and when it has been emptied it can be taken apart and shipped back flat if the consignor wants it.

PRIMITIVE ACCOUNTS

Knots in a String Were Probably the Earliest Records The carpenter who kept his accounts on a plank and receipted them with a plane, was hardly equal in ingenuity to the Astecs, who managed with string. The numbers were indicated by knots. A single knot was ten, two single knots 20, and so on. The hundreds were indicated by double knots. The color of the string indicated what the numbers referred to. Soldiers were red, gold yellow, silver, white, and corn green. This method is still in use on the steppes of the Argentine, where the herdsmen keep tale of their charges in a similar way. Several strands depend from one, the first of these strands being reserved for bulls, the next for cows, the milk and dry being differentiated, the next for sheep and so on.

Knots were probably among the first methods of man to record figures—the knot or the mark on a bit of stick. And in the hop gardens the tallyman (generally the local schoolmaster) goes around with the tally and its mark, and the most civilized of us still tie a knot in the handkerchief when we are asked "to be sure and remember."

New Words Needed One of the most curious features of the awakening of China is the addition of new words to the language. This does not mean merely names for such Western importations as motor cars, aeroplanes, cinematographs, etc., but words which have had to be invented to express ideas hitherto unknown to the Chinese mind, said "The London Chronicle." For instance, China had no indigenous word for ideal. Again "reform" had to be built up as an entirely new word, as also "to take the initiative," "protection of life," and "educate" as different from "instruct"—instances which throw a vivid light on certain aspects of the Chinese temperament.

Habit in the Pacific The habit of British Columbia have an enviable reputation, for they are less over-grown and of finer texture than the Icelandic and North Sea fish; a length of five to six feet and weight of 250 pounds is exceptional for the British Columbia halibut. The waters between Queen Charlotte Island and the mainland, especially off Rhode Spit and off west shore of Banks Island, were at one time veritably overcrowded with halibut. Very large fish were often taken then, some weighing 150 pounds, but the general weight now is only from 20 to 60 pounds.

TRANSVAAL TEACHES WEAVING Cape Town, South Africa, Dec. 31.—It is reported that 94 pupils are at the present time being instructed in spinning and weaving in eight schools in the Transvaal. These institutions, which are supported by government, are controlled by the Home Industries board.

RECLAIMING WASTE LAND

At a recent meeting at Arnhem, Holland, of the Netherlands Heath Company, a national organization for reclaiming marshy and other waste lands and of generally aiding agriculture, forest culture, etc., a speaker said that there was in that country more than 250,000 acres of the best soil still under water.

This does not refer to the soil under the Zuider Zee, which it was proposed to drain half a century ago—a project still discussed pro and con; nor to the soil under rivers and canals, but only to that under useless water. Yet drainage has been steadily prosecuted for centuries in that country, and the area being reclaimed at present amounts to between 20,000 and 25,000 acres a year.

The Heath Company is doing an important and valuable work, not only toward reclaiming waste lands and assisting agriculture, but also by turning many reclaimed tracts into much-needed forests. That its work is appreciated is shown by the fact that a special building has just been erected and furnished for the company at Arnhem, costing about \$50,000 and paid for out of public funds.

POLIO IS CONDEMNED

London, Dec. 31.—Sir Robert Finlay, M. P., was the principal speaker at a Unionist demonstration held in the Prince of Wales' Baths, Kentish Town. Capt. H. M. Jessel, M.P., was in the chair. There was considerable interruption from a section of the audience in the course of the speeches.

Sir Robert Finlay said that thanks to the Home Rule Bill they were now within a measurable distance of civil war. It was no use saying they did not believe it. They had hid their heads in the sand and long enough, but the country was now alive to the reality of the situation and knew that the Irish question would be the predominant issue when the country had the opportunity of saying what it thought of the present government.

Mr. Lloyd George, he continued, said that the Irish business was a conspiracy of the Tory party to divert attention from the question of land reform, to Ireland. Mr. Lloyd George was at that moment engaged on the very task of which he accused the Unionist party. He was playing the part of the conjuror—distracting the attention of the audience while he and his colleagues were carrying out the Home Rule trick.

Mr. Lloyd George had said, continued the speaker, that religious liberty was enshrined on the Liberal standard. It used to be, but it was on the standard of the Liberal party. The modern Radical was prepared to sell the religious liberties of his fellow-Protestants in Ireland for votes in the House of Commons. A resolution "condemning the Home Rule policy of the Government was carried by a large majority."

NAVAL PLANS MODERATE

Vienna, Austria, Dec. 31.—Admiral von Haus, the commander-in-chief of the Austro-Hungarian navy, made a statement recently before the royal committee of the Hungarian delegation. The budget, he said, had kept within the lines of the program previously laid down by the delegations. In view of the economic situation and other demands, the carrying out of which did not admit of any delay, it had been decided to postpone the supersession of the Monarch class of battleship to a more favorable period. Proceeding, Admiral von Haus said that in the program he was proposing he did not go beyond his predecessor.

ITALY'S CAMERA CAUTION

Rome, Dec. 31.—The Italian government have issued regulations prohibiting the use of cameras on the whole of the Italian frontier, where there are positions of military importance, and also in places in the interior requiring protection from spies.

AUSTRALIAN WOOD WANTED

Hobart, Tasmania, Dec. 31.—All the floors for the new Common wealth office in London, as well as other fittings, are to be made of Australian material. A tender has been accepted for the supply of 209,000 lineal feet of Tasmanian Stringy Bark, sawn 3 1/2 inches by 1 1/2 inches. The other woods selected are West Australian Jarrah and New South Wales Fallow wood.

Count Montecucoli. According to this scheme the fleet was to be kept at its present level by successive new constructions to replace old units, namely, 16 battleships, 12 cruisers, 72 torpedo boats, 24 other torpedo craft, 12 submarines and a few service ships.



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