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July 14, 1914

LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, July 28th, 1914.

WHY SERBIA FIGHTS.

The quarrel between Austria and Serbia is not of very old standing. It originated in the economic sphere. The rise in Serbia of a well-to-do peasant class which came into conflict with the agrarians of Hungary was the cause which led at first to an economic and afterwards to a political struggle between the two countries. Serbia is essentially a peasant country and it is not surprising that her agricultural interests should have attained such a political predominance as to direct her foreign policy. This was the work of the Parliamentary party led by M. Pashitch, which from its very inception towards the end of the sixties acted as the political representative of the peasantry. Fifty years ago the Serbian peasantry still lived in village communities, each family consisting of several generations (so-called "zadrugas"), tilling its common land in tenancy, as it were, from the community, and periodically exchanging it with others. Gradually of course the zadrugas disappeared and individual property in land became the rule in Serbia. The old revolutionism of the Radical Party vanished giving place to moderate liberalism and, under the stress of rivalry with the Hungarian economic enemy, the very pronounced and at times frenzied nationalism.

TAKING THE CRISIS QUIETLY.

Notwithstanding the apparent imminence of a European war and despite the wildness of the newspaper placards and the slump in the Stock Exchange, the ordinary Londoner seems affected very little. It is only the man who follows foreign politics who has a say, and he is not the center of a discussion. The ordinary man has heard too much about European conflagrations to believe in one till he sees the flames as well as the smoke, and he certainly cannot get his household to take it seriously. Even the false announcement in one of the Sunday papers that war had been declared aroused little excitement. Germany, France, Russia, Japan, Turkey are familiar figures for our sympathies or antipathies, but Austria—that's where they slam their desks all the time in parliament and where they don't know what their right language is, and didn't they steal somebody's country the other year without a word? Then Serbia is still the country that murdered its King and Queen and had a half-mad Crown Prince that killed his servant. Serbia and Austria are very remote from the thoughts of the man in the street, and he hopes generally that Germany and Russia won't be such fools as to chip in.

COMING OF THE FOREIGNERS.

This is about the date when the annual foreign invasion of London begins. Just in time to receive them the London General Omnibus Company has appointed the first of its interpreters. Naturally she has been stationed at Charing Cross (for the first interpreter is a lady, and a girl).

ONTARIO WOMAN'S FORTUNE

Freed From That Weak, Languid, Always Tired Feeling, by Lydia E. Pinkham's Compound.

Thessalon, Ont.—"I cannot speak too highly of your medicine. When my appetite is poor and I have that weak, languid, always tired feeling, I get a bottle of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and it builds me up, gives me strength, and restores me to perfect health again. It is truly a blessing to women, and I cannot speak highly enough of it. I take pleasure in recommending it to others."

Mrs. ANNIE CAMERON, Thessalon, Ont.

Women who are suffering from those distressing "ills peculiar to their sex" should not lose sight of these facts: we doubt the ability of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to restore their health.

There are probably hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions of women in the United States who have been benefited by this famous old remedy, which was produced from roots and herbs over 30 years ago by a woman to relieve woman's suffering. If you are sick and need such a medicine, why don't you try it?

If you want special advice write to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co. (consultants) Lynn, Mass. Your letter will be opened, read and answered by a woman and held in strict confidence.

ton girl at that). She speaks French and German fluently, and carries a map. Other interpreter guides are to be stationed at Victoria Station, London Bridge Station, Liverpool Street, Piccadilly Circus, Oxford Circus and Hyde Park Corner. All the others will be men. Miss Dorothy Matthews will be the only woman guide, but she has the most important post of all—the gateway to London from the Continent. There are other signs of the peaceful foreign invasion—which always begins just as Londoners are leaving town. In the West End one might often imagine that one was in a foreign city. Recently I saw a very curious group at the shop of one of the biggest drapers in Oxford St. A sale was going on, and just where the throng was thickest and the buying keenest stood a little family group of Chinese. The women and a little girl were Chinese in European dress. It was a curious intrusion of Eastern color in such a characteristic London scene.

ROYAL "REVELATIONS."

We have had various books of "revelations" touching the tragic house of Hapsburg, and another is promised to us this autumn. It is written by the Countess Zsanardi Landi, who is one of the daughters of the Empress Elizabeth of Austria, a lady of tragedy indeed. We are told that, desiring to avoid Court convention and bring the child up in a simple human way, she kept her in a private home immediately under her own eye. The Empress arranged that on the occasion of the jubilee of the Emperor Francis Joseph the Countess Zsanardi Landi should be publicly acknowledged by the Court, but her own assassination put an end to this arrangement. Anyhow she made a confidante of her daughter, whose book will contain a whole bunch of historical revelations.

ARE GREY-HAIRED TAXI DRIVERS RECKLESS?

One of the entertainments of the streets of London is the uncertainty as to what will happen when you take a taxi-cab. Not only does one taxi-cab differ from another in glory, and one may add in power, but one taxi-cab driver differs from another in temperament, and it is the temperament of the taxi-cab driver that gives the largest spice of uncertainty to the journey. Some men drive with a caution and slowness that make the passenger who is least like the "motor-hog" writhe with impatience. Other taxi-drivers take risks, and go at a speed that terrifies even the experienced motorist. The curious thing is that you cannot follow the old-fashioned rule adopted by elderly ladies at the seaside of always choosing a craft manned by an ancient seararer. It is not necessarily the young taxi-driver who is reckless, or the elderly taxi-driver who is cautious. On the other hand, a friend of mine—who is very much addicted to taxi-cabs declares that the rule may almost be reversed and that if you want to get to your destination in a hurry, reckless of consequence, the thing is to choose a taxi with a grey-haired driver. If this is so, why should it be so? Why should grey-haired taxi-drivers be reckless? My informant offers two theories. Either, he says, it is because grey-haired men are the most experienced drivers, and can therefore afford to take the greatest risks, or else they are men who are temperamentally given to taking risks, and their hair has been turned prematurely grey by shocks they have given themselves in the course of their furious driving.

THE NEW ROOM CRAZE.

The time has gone by when a well-known London society lady of the housewife type leaving her house decorated by Angelina Kaufman could amuse her more cultured friend by regretting her drawing room, "so beautifully painted by Fra Angelico." Nowadays we know, if anything, too much about our houses, and as it is one of the amusements of the idle rich to change houses, conversation in "the best circles" deals largely with "painting and decorating." The Queen set the fashion some time since. The new rooms at Windsor, for instance, are said to be lovely, and to be the result of the Queen's own individual choice. The Queen loves her home, and is said to have arranged at least one of the Princess's rooms with her own hands. An ante-room at Windsor contains by her directions, all the presents of the Prince Consort to Queen Victoria. But in London everyone who has a new house has a new idea for it. Lady Droghda's Futurist rooms have been much described but a wag hit off the black dining room with its candles in silver sconces by saying he had gone to luncheon and thought he had got to a funeral by mistake. Raymond Rose, of opera fame, has a gold room with crimson doors and ceiling in his new house. Lady Hatfield, in her

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We offer in stock and to arrive:

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100 brls. New Potatoes.
50 crates Bananas.
40 kegs New Grapes.
10 cases Naples Oranges.
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SPECIAL:

40 cases Sultana Raisins.
50 cases 1 lb. tins Local Rabbit.
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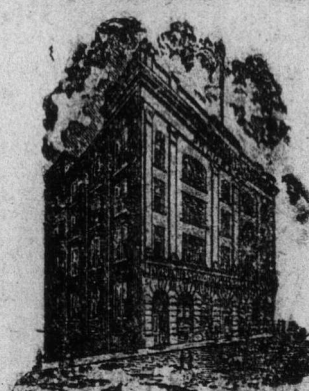
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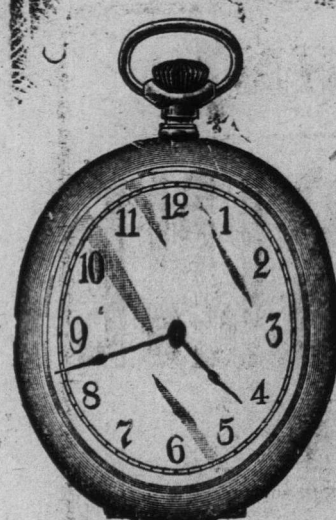
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