

LONDON GOSSIP.

THE PRINCE'S RETURN.

LONDON, Aug. 23rd, 1920.
It is now officially announced that in place of the Prince of Wales the Duke of Connaught will go to India, and not the Duke of York. There is much curiosity in Court quarters about the Prince's return and what he will do then. I am told that his letters show that his main interest will be to have a rest from public affairs for at least six months. He has now been serving the State in his own way since the second year of the war, and despite the rest with which he is taking his Dominion experiences, there is no doubt that he is rather worn out. It is not expected, in spite of the rumors, that he will take a new residence in the country. For one reason, these have been lean years with the Duchy of Cornwall, as a large part of the revenues have been put into the estate to be sold. The Prince has expressed a desire to have a lot of hunting, and to make many visits to houses throughout the country, where he can hunt with different packs. He is the first member of the Royal Family for several generations who really cares about horses. King Edward, though fond of racing, did not care much for horsemanship, and King George much prefers shooting. Queen Mary has rarely if ever, ridden a horse since her girlhood.

REGIMENTAL COLORS.

In the old days before the war the wearing of regimental colors, ties and buttons was confined to the few officers who had served or were still serving in the units concerned. Now, if you chance to meet the business stream in the morning or evening you will observe that nearly 30 per cent. of the men are wearing some regimental combination of colors as a necktie. It seems also that the esprit de corps bred of five years' war has broken down all former traditions about the wearing of these colors. No longer is the right to sport the regimental colors confined to the officers of old. And the sacred red and blue

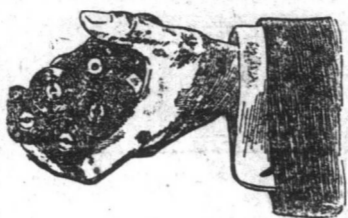
of the Brigade of Guards is proudly worn by the rank and file who served with this historic formation. It is a very pleasant thing to see this almost instinctive yearning for old associations.

WOMEN POLICE.

Some surprise has been caused by the statement that women police have been sent to Ireland to undertake a duty new in that country. They are to act as searchers of women when the Royal Irish Constabulary, by whom they are temporarily employed, consider that necessary. The policewomen who have been appointed are not those working at Scotland Yard (the headquarters of the police force of this country in London), but members of the much older body, the women's police service who were engaged during the war in large numbers at munition factories, where one of their important tasks was to make sure that girls in the danger zone had no metal concealed in their clothes or hair. A hairpin was a great danger, and anything even so small as a hook had to be prohibited. The searchers learned to make skilful search with the least possible amount of unpleasantness. All the women police in this country, with the exception of those at Scotland Yard, are drawn from the women's police service which was founded by the late Miss Damer Dawson. There is such a demand for them that the training school, which has already trained over 1,700 women, is starting another training school in Scotland. Only a few women are at present employed by the chief constables in any one centre, and the scheme of selecting recruits and giving them a preliminary training at the London schools has so far worked very successfully.

A PLAGUE OF INSECTS.

London, or at all events part of it, is suffering from a plague of vicious insects, which are causing irritation and suffering to persons who frequent the commons and open spaces with which the Metropolis is so generously endowed. The hot weather, which as a rule prevails here throughout the



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summer, seems to stimulate action of the little pests, and though recently the climate has not been of the usual summer brand, the occasional cold spells have not checked the nuisance. The most menacing of all the insects from the public health point of view is the mosquito which breeds in places like the Hackney Marshes and in stagnant ponds and pools in the parks. The germ-carrying species is regarded by medical men with some concern; and one authority says that we may have an outbreak of malaria due to the activities of the mosquito in contact with infected cases from abroad. Apart from this grave danger, the immediate effect of the operations of the mosquito is troublesome, and there have been cases where victims of insect bites have had to remain in bed for a day or two while the poisoning induced by the bite subsided. The outward evidences of an attack is a swelling and discoloration of the affected part. Many of the victims are children, who run about bare legged; but even a thick woollen sock is not proof against the penetrating powers of the tiny marauders.

MOTOR 'BUS LUXURY.

'Bus travel in London is now becoming a luxury where formerly it was a dangerous adventure. The elements of danger and adventure are still to be found in the scramble to board the vehicles, but if one is fortunate enough to secure a place in one of the new "K" type one can imagine oneself landed in a comfortable saloon carriage. These roomy conveyances—a far cry from the converted Army lorries which were suitable only for invertebrates—are rapidly replacing the old type of vehicle; they have a larger carrying capacity, greater steadiness, and are easily handled in traffic. But what the long-suffering public appreciates most is that there are no "straps," and the strap-hanger's doom is sealed. It is expected that early next year there will be a thousand of the big 'buses on the streets. Meantime their numbers are being added to at the rate of 25 a week. As the new 'buses are ready for use obsolete types are being withdrawn in equal numbers, but every "K" bus that replaces another represents an increase of over 30 per cent. in carrying capacity.

CHILDREN FROM BUDAPEST.

The first batch of children brought over by the Famine Area Children's Hospitality Committee were the 500 little Austrians, nearly all of whom have by now found homes. The Hungarian children were kept in their own country till the close of the summer school term, but they have been in Holland for the past few days and are expected to arrive at Folkestone in a day or two. They are going for the first eighteen days to the delightful camp at Richborough where the Austrian children enjoyed themselves so much, and they are sure also to be treated with kindness by the people of Sandwich, at whose door the camp lies. The committee has had some difficulty in finding helpers who can speak Hungarian, and the trouble will be greater when they try to find visitors to talk in their own language to the children who will be distributed about the country. Many offers of homes have been received, but I hear that most of the people are not anxious to take boys or elder girls. The request generally is for "a girl not more than eleven years old." Girls are supposed to be less trouble and they probably arouse more pity, but there were some very attractive-looking youngsters among the Austrian boys.

LUNCH IN CHURCH.

An experiment which is being made in one of the City (London's business and financial district) churches of providing facilities for City workers taking their lunch recalls the public protest of a few years ago against the inconsiderateness of people who threw the fat from their sandwiches under the chairs of St. Paul's Cathedral. The church in which official recognition is now being made of a long-established custom among a certain class of London workers is at St. Mary-at-Hill,

where the cinematograph and other devices to bring in the people from the highways and byways have been employed for some time under the guidance of Prebendary Carlile. In the present venture there is no motive of inducing workers to go into church for the purpose of holding a service; but it is simply intended to meet the needs of those who have nowhere else to go for their mid-day meal. Tables and chairs set apart in one of the vestibules of the building, and tea and lemonade free of charge, are provided. Prebendary Carlile regards his experiment as being entirely satisfactory, and commends its adoption to other churches who desire to give expression to their practical Christianity.

The Fatal Chamber.

Tragedies of the House of Lords.

A scene which may not unfairly be described as historic was enacted on Tuesday, June 22nd, 1920, when the veteran Lord Halifax, in opposing the Memorial Causes Bill, suddenly collapsed. "I shall probably never address this House again," he pathetically remarked.

The incident takes on a deeper significance in view of the fact that it is at least the third of a similar nature which has occurred in the House of Lords. The Upper House indeed may yet be known as the Fatal Chamber.

Chatham's End.

It was on April 7th, 1778, that William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, left his sick-bed to go to the House of Lords. Great Britain was then on the verge of war with her American colonists, and Chatham was determined to leave no stone unturned in the interests of peace.

As he rose to address the House, leaning on his crutch, there was a tense silence. "I am old and infirm," he exclaimed, in faltering accents, "have one foot—more than one foot—in the grave. I have risen from my bed to stand up in the cause of my country—perhaps never again to speak in this House" (the phrase, it will be noted, is almost identical with that used by Lord Halifax).

Chatham's speech lasted only ten minutes. He was followed by the Duke of Richmond. At the conclusion of the latter's speech Chatham made several unsuccessful attempts to rise. Suddenly he pressed his hand to his heart and fell back unconscious.

There was an instant commotion in the chamber, while the prostrate peer was carried into the princes' withdrawing-room and laid upon cushions on the table. He died a few weeks later.

Death of a Primate.

The other incident is nearer to our own times.

On Thursday, December 5th, 1901, Dr. Temple, the aged Archbishop of Canterbury, was addressing the House of Lords on the Education Bill when, in the middle of a sentence, he suddenly swayed and fell backwards into his seat.

Within a few seconds he was on his feet again. "I hope," he continued, "your lordships, in spite of any objections that may be made, will nevertheless pass the Bill into law, and let us see how it will act when it begins to work."

They were the last words he ever uttered in public. Once again he collapsed. A few minutes later he was assisted from the chamber by the Archbishop of York and a visitor who had been watching the proceedings from the steps of the Throne.

The following night Dr. Temple's speech was finished for him by the Bishop of Winchester (now Archbishop of Canterbury). But the Primate himself lay on his death-bed in Lambeth Palace.—T.M.P.—In John O'London's Weekly.

Animal Barometers.

Trappers believe firmly in the ability of wild animals to forecast weather conditions.

The type of house which the muskrat builds for the season indicates the kind of weather he expects. When the muskrats build large houses with thick walls, a cold winter is to be expected. If the houses are made unusually high much snow and high water will come.

Just before a storm all animals are usually active and travel fast and far. Even human beings notice a difference in their feelings especially if they are troubled with rheumatism.

If it is raining and the owl screeches a change for the better will shortly ensue but should the peacock screech bad weather is to come or continue.

Snails are also valuable weather prophets. As long as they are to be seen jogging along in the orthodox manner fine weather may be confidently looked forward to. If there is rain in the atmosphere the snails may be seen to seek shelter up the stems of trees and shrubs under leaves and, in fact, anywhere where they can be safely out of the wet. Only when all immediate danger of a recurrence of rain is over will they emerge again.

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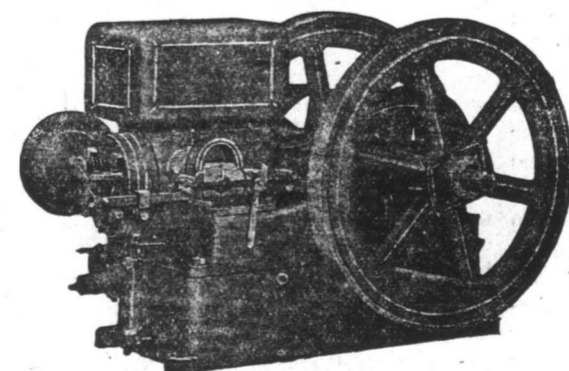
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