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LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, March 16th, 1915.

QUEEN MARY'S HELPERS.

A great many people who have never been presented at Court, have come into frequent personal contact with the Queen in these seven months of war, owing to the direct and constant interest which Her Majesty has taken in the work of the relief organizations. The Queen's interest is not confined to the work, but extends to the persons engaged in carrying it on. It is true that she has cultivated an acquaintance with a small host of secretaries and administrators, such an acquaintance as involves talking with them in friendly fashion about their own concerns. The impression which the Queen leaves with them may perhaps best be defined as that of a homely personality. Queen Mary has always kept herself very much in the background, making rare public appearances, and the homeliness has been inferred from this as well as from the signs of it that not all the stiff stateliness of public ceremonies could conceal. A good many loyal subjects have now added friendship to their loyalty.

BRITISH HOUSEHOLDS IN FRANCE.

Soldiers are famous people for falling in love, and there have already been romantic weddings in this country which would never have taken place if there had been no war. I hear that in the north of France a number of British soldiers have fallen victims to the charms of Belgian and French ladies so completely as to get married to them. That such intimate ties should have been formed is probably due—apart from romance—to the fact that the armies have remained for so long in the same region. There is some suggestion that the war may result in small colonies of Britons settling in France. It seems much more likely that the United Kingdom may benefit by the addition of a number of French housewives. But if little British colonies were to be formed they would be no new thing in France. Before the war there were odd industrial groups of English people settled here and there. Englishmen who visited Compiegne were occasionally sur-

prised by the sound of the Lancashire dialect in the streets. A number of Lancashire hatters were settled in the town. There was, also, I believe, a colony of industrial workers at Courtrai, which is at present part of the battle ground. Most of these colonies were a consequence of the French tariff, which was in many cases a bar to the import into France of finished articles, but allowed the unfinished to go in much more freely. The British workmen were finishers.

THE POLICY OF GREECE.

The Cabinet crisis in Greece may delay Greek intervention in the war for a little while, but the view here is that it is bound to come. The forcing of the Dardanelles makes this inevitable. It is possible to attach too much importance to the relationship by marriage of the Greek and German royal houses. The King of Greece, after all, so far as he is not a Greek, is a Dane, and Danish sympathies would not naturally tend to pro-Germanism. But even if there were a real breach between the Crown and M. Venizelos's Government, it would be very difficult for the Crown to maintain its opposition indefinitely. Greece is a very democratic country, and M. Venizelos is the maker of modern Greece, and has the greatest political prestige in the Balkans. It seems most likely that the Cabinet crisis is a diplomatic cover for the policy which is inevitable. It provides for a demonstration of Greek national sentiment by which, as all the world must see, the King is bound to be guided. It is just conceivable that even if the King himself were in favor of coming in on the side of the Allies, this might be the best way of introducing it. Certainly Greece even at the cost of revolution, would not stand out of a campaign the issue of which will determine the fate of the Dardanelles and Constantinople. Material as well as sentimental interests urge her to earn a voice in the settlement.

THE POSITION OF ITALY.

Italy must also be deeply moved by the operations in the Dardanelles. She is naturally interested in the balance of power in Europe and the

future strength of Austria. Hitherto all calculations of whether she would not come into the struggle have been based on that interest. But it is, I believe, the fact that Germany and Austria had given satisfactory pledges (if Germany can give satisfactory pledges to anyone) to Italy as the price of her neutrality. Now, however, the future of the Dardanelles raises an even bigger question for Italy than the balance of power in Europe—the question of the balance of power in the Mediterranean. Politically and commercially Italy is a Mediterranean island, and in that situation she is vitally interested in the future of the Dardanelles, which are potentially a great and impressive naval base. In the hands of any great Power Constantinople could dominate the communications of the Mediterranean. Italy also, therefore, cannot easily refrain now from entering the struggle on the side of the Allies in order to earn a voice in settling the future of Constantinople. Italy's interest, like that of Greece, would be satisfied by the internationalisation of Constantinople, or perhaps still better by a federation of Balkan States with Constantinople as its capital. Such a federation would not be rich enough or strong enough to use the Dardanelles aggressively or to dominate Asia Minor, and it would settle for ever the Near Eastern question, which has cursed Europe so long.

THE WAR MEDAL.

It is rumored that the War Office proposes almost immediately to call for designs for the war medal for the present campaign. This is rather an unusual step to take with the end of the struggle not in sight, but it is desired to issue the medal to all who are permanently invalided from the Navy or the Army, through wounds or other injuries, with as little loss of time as possible. In the past men often died before they could receive the medal they had earned, and it is desired that this shall not be the case now. Owing to the extremely large number of medals it will ultimately be necessary to provide, it is proposed that it shall be of bronze, in place of the customary silver, and while the question of the ribbon to be attached is under consideration, it is expected to embody the colors of all the Allies. It is regarded as probable that these medals will be earliest issued on the first anniversary of the outbreak of hostilities.

OFFICERS' NEW SLANG.

The new army slang is gradually broadening down from precedent to precedent in many odd ways. In the South African War a battle was always called "a show." In the present war the term is still kept for ordinary engagements, but for the big events the term is a "picture show." You hear the phrase sometimes "Oh, you were in the picture show at Ypres." This means the famous engagement there, when the Prussian Guards tried to break through. To be captured is to be "scuttled," and to be wounded is to be "washed out." There are many phrases about being killed. One sounds particularly brutal, but indicates very clearly the dauntless spirit with which our soldiers face death. It is called "to be put in a bag." Another phrase used is "To be scuppered."

WAR AND THE SECOND-HAND BOOKSELLERS.

The second-hand bookshops have found it harder to adapt themselves to war conditions than sellers of some other wares. It was all very well for the first-hand shops to put novels on the back shelves and fill the windows with cheap and hurried compilations on the war, but dealing in second-hand books was in its essence out of date. In the first months the shops suffered a great deal from the general slump in literature, but the recovery has come, and the attraction of the jumbled stalls draws the same keen crowd as before. The booksellers have given a typical spice to their collections by hunting out from the inner darkness any old book which has the most shadowy connection with war. Every shop displays literary relics of the last great German war. The literature of the South African war is not much seen. Anything German has a fancy price upon it, and one of the special "lines" is the voluminous Bismarck literature. The recollections and reminiscences are out of print, and can only be bought second-hand. The shops that specialise in French books are doing well, for nowadays everyone reads French, and London is full of Belgian refugees and French visitors. There seems to be no want of second-hand German novels; probably the result of forced sales by Germans who have gone or been taken away. The staple of books in the shops is the usual rather frivolous miscellany, and if it were true last autumn it is no longer true that literature has lost its charms as an antidote. One of the most curious war reprints is a cheap issue of the chapters on the Huns and Goths from the "Decline and Fall." It might well be followed now by a reprint of the magnificent account of Gibbons' last volume of the fall of Constantinople. Now that the huge

guns of the Queen Elizabeth are smashing down the Dardanelles forts it is interesting to read again of the mighty gun which Mahomet II. brought to make a breach in the walls. This gun was as much a wonder and a terror to the Greeks in 1453 as our 15-inches are at this hour to the successors of the conquering Turks.

THE RETURN OF THE VEIL.

Veils have been out of fashion in London so long that it seemed as though we had forgotten them, and that to be seen in a veil was the hallmark of a slight tendency to frumpishness. Now all this is to be changed, and the veil manufacturers are to be given another chance. With the spring weather we are to veil our faces, drape our hats, and generally invest in yards of Russian and other nets. From being non-existent, veils will now go to the other extreme, and be an outstanding feature of our dress. They will be small, large, restrained, flowing—in a word, all sorts and descriptions. There will be the tiny "nose" veil reaching just below the tip of the nose, and used chiefly for keeping in place the little artificial curls worn over the ears, and that require holding neatly in place. Then there will be the veil proper descending to the edge of the chin. Those will be favored by the moderates in dress. But the chief novelty is the long flowing veil, almost like that of a bride's. Some of the latest have a queer curve at the ends, rather suggesting the enveloping draperies of Eastern women.

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Our Volunteers.

Yesterday the volunteers residing in the city were given leave, the only men on duty being those comprising the squad which attended the opening of the Legislature. They will resume duty this afternoon together with those of the outports who have been on leave since Saturday last.

To Cure a Cold in One Day
Take LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE Tablets. Druggists refund money if it fails to cure. E. W. GROVE'S signature is on each box. 25c.

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New York Ducks.

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15 boxes Wine Sapp Apples.
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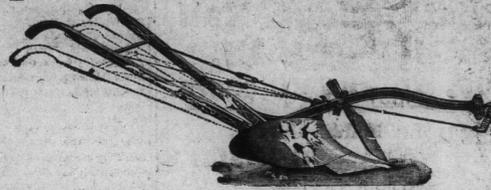
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25 crates New Cabbage.
20 bags Yellow Onions.
200 ½ bags P.E.L. Blue Potatoes.
100 ½ bags Calico Potatoes.
20 bags Turnips.
Fresh Tomatoes.
Cucumbers.
Celery.
Cauliflowers.
Cape Cod Cranberries, 30c. gall.
Irish Bacon and Hams.
Fidelity Bacon and Hams.
Kingsan's Lily Bacon.
Fresh Eggs received daily.
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