

LONDON GOSSIP.

AN AMBASSADOR'S SALARY.

LONDON, Sept. 20th, 1920.
Before Lord Hardinge of Penshurst succeeds Lord Derby as British Ambassador in Paris, the salary of the post will, perhaps, be altered. At present it is \$10,000, with allowances for entertaining and other necessary purposes that bring it in all to \$44,000. A British Ambassador requires at least twice this sum to maintain a fitting state in the French capital, and diplomats think that when Lord Hardinge assumes his new duties at the end of next month he will probably have something like \$80,000 a year at his disposal. Even then his salary and allowances will be below what Sir Auckland Geddes receives as British Ambassador at Washington.

SPORT IN THE ARMY.

Experience gained during the war has induced the authorities to give a much larger measure of official encouragement to sport and physical development in the Army than formerly. Especially in the later years of the fighting games of various kinds played a considerable part in the soldier's training, and in some Commands it was compulsory for every man either to play football or to take part in the other organised games calculated to afford the right kind of exercise. By the activities of the Army Sports Control Board this side of training has been carried over to the peace-time routine as a considered policy. Major-General Sir C. H. Harrington, the Deputy Chief of the Imperial General Staff, being the president of the new organisation. Although many Army sports clubs are already in existence both at home and abroad and have, in some cases, their own grounds, there has hitherto been no official guidance or backing. The idea of the new Board is to assist the various Commands to organise their games on a more uniform and solid basis, and while not strictly to "control" sport, to see that something like a systematised plan is established throughout the whole Army. The grant of \$320,000 made in connection with the scheme by the United Service Fund has been distributed, and under the new guidance the movement is undergoing great development. By the institution of gate money games it is hoped to make the scheme self-supporting, while the better provision of facilities for recreation for soldiers' families is also contemplated.

THE "SHOREHAM TOWERS."

The Admiralty has revealed a great number of the secrets of the war at sea, and it deserves to obtain respect for the remaining ones; so we must not pry into the nature of the anti-submarine and other devices which were to be fitted into the "Shoreham Towers," one of which arrived off Spithead the other day on her first and only voyage. But there is no reason why a layman should not point out that floating concrete islands may have value for civilian purposes. One book on the naval war has already asserted that, if the Armistice had not come in 1918, some five or six of them would have been sunk in a line across the Straits of Dover, shafts driven in to the seabed below each, and then headings opened up north and south for each shaft so as to complete the Channel Tunnel in double quick time. And if the Towers could withstand the buffeting of the Channel, they would serve elsewhere. There must be many places in the narrow seas and the North Sea, on the Dogger Bank, for instance, where such a concrete tower might be sunk as a lighthouse, if in-

ternational jealousy permitted, and if mariners agreed that it would be an aid, not an added danger. Quite conceivably, too, the lowering of such concrete islands where coal fields run out to sea might provide a chance of reaching submarine coal seams. But the factors of cost and safety are highly problematical.

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.

A story is told in the London press of a "Fairy Princess" who, seeing three little waifs gazing longingly at the window of an Aerated Bread Company's teashop near the House of Commons, took them in and feasted them. It reminds me of similar adventures narrated to me by a well known ex-Cabinet Minister, who, when he first took office and found himself in the enjoyment of a large salary, delighted to prowling about the streets of the Metropolis and play the part of the celebrated Haroun Al Raschid. His chief pleasure was in standing treat to children, who he used to declare it was impossible to "pauperise." But experience taught him the danger of introducing grown-ups too recklessly into his fairy tales. One Saturday evening he surreptitiously approached the owner of a street butcher's stall, handed him a sum of money, and arranged that he should put into every housewife's bag double the quantity of meat for which she had paid. He borrowed the idea, of course, from Joseph and his Brethren. It worked out, however, in the most unexpected fashion. Hiding round the corner, the ex-Minister watched the sequel. The women crowding round the stall received in ignorance their two pounds for one and went off. Soon, however, they commenced streaming back to restore to the butcher the overweight they had discovered, tearfully assuring him that they had no intention of cheating him and the Right Honorable Haroun Al Raschid stole away sadder and wiser.

HOUSE VALUES SLUMP.

The time for London houseowners obtaining fancy prices for their properties is passing. Buyers are not so eager as they were some months ago, and accordingly a slump in house values is setting in. During the boom private dwelling houses were going readily in some cases for three or four times their pre-war value, and in most suburban districts owners are still advertising sales in the hopes of reaping these big profits. The notice boards, however, are standing for longer periods, and agents are not easily finding purchasers at the high reserve prices fixed. One of the remarkable features about the house property boom was the market which was found for so large a number of old-fashioned basement dwellings which in some districts had stood empty for years. In a great many cases these big blocks were sought after for conversion into flats. People are showing less eagerness to become houseowners at the ruling prices, and agents are now advising their clients to lower their reserve prices if they seriously hope to sell. This is particularly being impressed upon owners of the old-fashioned type of dwelling referred to, as under the new Housing Bill, to be passed next session, it is proposed that local authorities shall have power compulsorily to take over and let houses which have been withheld for occupation for three months.

OIL-DRIVEN TRAINS.

The recent trials of oil fuel on railways have led to a good deal of exaggeration as to the possibilities of its

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early and extensive adoption for firing locomotives. The truth is that it is not practicable to run British railways on oil fuel in present conditions for two reasons:—The oil supplies available are totally inadequate; and, further, it is not an economical proposition. Liquid fuel was used on British railways in 1886, and the only reason it has not been widely adopted are its scarcity and its price. It is true that the Scarab system tried on the London to Birmingham run a few weeks ago showed that 700 pounds of liquid fuel will do the work of a ton of coal, but until some oil supplies are extended and cheapened, either by the full development and utilisation of home sources or some other means, oil can never replace coal on the railways. The recent trial run to Birmingham was eloquent on this point, the official figures compiled as the result of the experiment showing that the cost of fuel per 100 ton miles was 10s. 7d. (21.4 cents) when oil was used, against 3s. 07d. (6.14 cents).

THE BOOT SLUMP.

There has set in a decided slump in boots and shoes, which in some quarters of London are being offered at prices below the cost of production. I am told it will be four months before the public take up all the stocks thrown on the market in consequence of the repudiation of foreign orders and the calling in of bank overdrafts. Meanwhile some English boot factories were closed, entirely for the whole of August, and the trade shows no downward tendency to justify such a slump. Hides are, perhaps, cheaper but dressed leather is not, and all labor charges are higher than at the start of the year. The slump has resulted in part from over-production, and in part from injudicious newspaper talk of a coming fall in prices, which induced foreign buyers to cancel all their orders. The result is that the public is getting good boots very cheap, but at the expense of the foreign exchange, of food prices, and general trade. South Africa and South America are buying no boots from us, and have given us no bills of exchange. Had those bills been available for sale in Wall Street the British banks would not need to buy so much exchange credits in New York. The dollar would not be so dear, and wheat, bacon, and lard would be slightly cheaper.

Oh Wonderful Invention

While our savants are speculating on the exact size and shape of brontosaurus and such pets of the ancient world, the Canadian Government has succeeded in inventing a new beast. The "Cattalo" is a cross breed, half

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buffalo and half bullock, but distinct in some respects from either. He is far more eatable than the former and bigger than the latter. Unhappily he comes too late to form a dietary change from bully beef as army diet. —London (Eng.) Chronicle.

Cuticura Soap
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Clear the Skin

Absolute Cure for Leprosy Discovered.

Successful experiments upon 50 persons suffering from leprosy lead officials of the United States Public Health Service to believe they have at last found a cure for that ancient and dread disease. Everyone of the 58 have recovered to such an extent as to warrant his release on parole, and after a year not one has shown the smallest symptom of recurrence.

Announcement of this fact in the Journal of the Missouri Medical Association was confirmed to-night by Dr. Claude Lavindar, of the Washington Public Health Service.

"The starting point for this study was the observation that now and then the course of the disease (leprosy) appeared to be favorably influenced by treatment with chaulmoogra oil," says an official representative. "The treatment, however, was attended with many difficulties and could not be carried out in all cases."

"At this point the United States Public Health Service enlisted the cooperation of Prof. L. E. Dean, head of the Chemical Department of the College of Hawaii, and president of that institution, suggesting that attempts be made either to isolate the active constituent of this drug or to devise means for making its continued administration feasible."

"The latter has been accomplished by preparing what is known as 'ethyl ester' from the chaulmoogra oil. The treatment has been carried out at the leprosy investigation station at Kilahe, Hawaii, the work being directed by Dr. J. T. McDonald, director of the station."

"Following a course of treatment extending over about a year, 58 lepers were paroled in October, 1919. Up to now they have remained free from disease."

"While chaulmoogra oil has long been a specific for leprosy, it never achieved the results now reliably claimed for it until Dr. Dean prepared the solution known as 'ethyl ester' from the chaulmoogra tree," said Dr. Lavindar, in Washington, to-night.

"One difficulty now lies in obtaining this rare oil in adequate quantities. The chaulmoogra tree is a native of India. To obtain sufficient number of trees the Federal Government is sending Prof. Joseph F. Rock, of the Department of Agriculture, to Burmah. He will bring back seeds and slips, which will be set out in Government nurseries in Hawaii and elsewhere."

Schooner Race.

TEN VESSELS ENTERED IN BIG EVENT.

HALIFAX, N.S., Sept. 28.—Ten schooners to-day entered the race to be held from Lunenburg to Halifax on Thursday, October 7th, as part of the programme of the Halifax commercial carnival week. Six money prizes, totalling over \$2,000, of which \$1,000 goes to the winner, have been offered from a public subscription fund. Details of the race are being arranged by a Lunenburg committee and a Halifax committee has undertaken to give the fishermen a novel reception as they enter Halifax harbor for the finish line.

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Twin Babies
Save Her Life.

Madame Gagnon's Death Sentence
Commutated to Life Imprisonment.

Ottawa, Sept. 29.—Madame Gagnon sentenced to die at Quebec on Friday morning, will serve a life sentence in the penitentiary. After further consideration of her case at a special meeting, the cabinet council decided to-night to commute the death sentence. The action of the government was based entirely on the fact that Madame Gagnon is nursing the twins to which she gave birth in prison, rather more than two months ago.

Medical reports go to show that to execute the mother at the present stage would compromise the health of the children. It is unlikely that in the ordinary course there would have been any interference with the sentence of death although for the last twenty years or so, it has been customary in Canada to commute a sentence of death passed on a woman. Madame Gagnon, however, was found guilty of the murder of her step-daughter under conditions of extreme cruelty and but for the twins would have suffered the full penalty of the law.

Ladies' Tan Calf Laced Boots, worth \$10.00, only \$7.50 at SMALLWOOD'S.—sep25.ft

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Canvas Collars, 15 to 19 inches.
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Hand Made Collars:—
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Cart Breechings, single & double.
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Yellow Padded Sweat Pads, 16 to 20 inches.

Blue Felt Sweat Pads, 16 to 22 inches.
Grey Felt Sweat Pads, 16 to 22 inches.

Extra Heavy Grey Sweat Pads, 19 to 22 inches.
Extra Large Curl Hair Sweat Pads, 12 to 22 inches.

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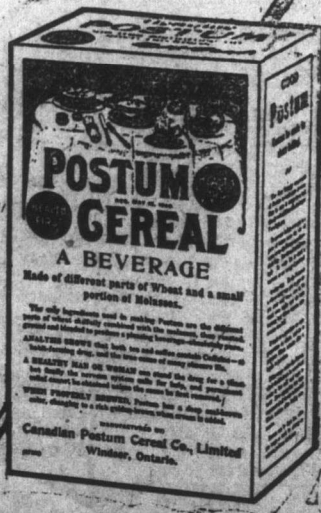
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