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## LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, Aug. 3rd, 1915.

### THE KING LUNCHES AT HIS CLUB.

The King on July 28th paid one of his rare visits to the Marlborough Club in Pall Mall. His Majesty had come to town to hold a Privy Council, as well as to receive in audience the Prime Minister and others. As the Court will not return to town from Windsor Castle till some time this week, Buckingham Palace was closed, and the King decided to go to his club for lunch to avoid the necessity of opening the Lord Steward's Department at the Palace. His Majesty's action is a striking illustration of the consideration he displays for his Ministers, for had the Council been held at Windsor at least two Cabinet Ministers would have been out of town for two or three hours.

### HENRY JAMES.

It surprises no one to hear that Henry James has become naturalized as a "British" subject. There is no need to accept the explanation given by the "New York Times"—that he has been led to this step by his disapproval of the silence of the American Government on the conduct of the Germans in Belgium. His own reason given in his petition is sufficiently clear—namely, "his desire to throw his moral weight and allegiance, for whatever they may be worth into the scale of the contending nations' present and future fortune." Mr. James has shown himself wholeheartedly on the side of this country in the war, and everyone remembers the letter which he wrote to an American friend expressing his admiration of the strength and unity of spirit of Great Britain. His sympathy with Belgium is known to the public from the touching account he wrote recently of the work of the American Ambulance Corps. The latest expression of his lifelong love of France was the preface to "The Book of France," published about the third week in July. All the world knows from his books that Paris and London have been the twin homes of his spirit. The fruit of the last of his infrequent visits to America was the singularly detached, not to say scintillated, impressions contained in "The American Scene." Most of his friends and interests are now in England. He spends his time here between his flat in Chelsea and his beautiful eighteenth-century house in Rye—the sort of house haunted by gracious associations he has so often lingered over in delicate, filmy sentences. In recent years the novelist's powerful, brooding countenance has become fairly familiar to those who attend such literary events as the meetings of the Royal Society of Literature. His appearance in a prominent position, at the Guildhall meeting to cele-

brate the rally of the colonies was noted at the time as significant.

### A GERMAN DELUSION.

The German press is harboring the belief that sooner or later the Allies will be short of toluene, an essential ingredient of the most important of high explosives. This is a delusion. At the present moment adequate supplies of benzene and toluene are absolutely necessary for many reasons. Crude benzol, which contains the former of these bodies and sometimes the latter, finds great use for internal combustion engines. Purified benzene is a source of synthetic phenol or carboic acid, used to such a large extent as a local antiseptic in surgery and also as the parent substance of the high explosives trinitro-toluol. The main source of supplies of these essential substances has been coal tar, from which by fractionation benzol is obtained and then separated into benzene and toluene. Now, here is the important point with which the German writers are apparently unfamiliar. Recently American chemists have been experimenting on various substances with a view to widening the source of these highly important products, and it has been found possible to obtain them from a hitherto unknown and, fortunately for the Allies, an extensive class of substances. Crude petroleum and petroleum residues when heated to high temperatures undergo what is technically known as "cracking," that is to say, complex substances are broken down. By carrying out the process under high pressures these simple substances recondense and form new products. From the material thus formed experiments have shown that about 10 to 15 per cent. of benzene and toluene and lesser amounts of naphthalene and anthracene can be separated. This is extremely important, when we consider the large natural supplies of petroleum at the disposal of the Allies. The discovery means that the Allies are assured of a continuous and abundant supply of toluene for the manufacture of high explosives, and that another hope of the Germans has vanished.

### GERMANY'S SHORTAGE OF GLYCERINE.

The shortage of glycerine in Germany which has long been very pronounced, has now apparently reached a very acute form for an order has been promulgated prohibiting its employment by the public, except in medicinal preparations for internal use. Its use in compounds for external application is now absolutely forbidden. This order supercedes regulations which were enforced some months ago restricting the amount

that could be sold to the public to very small quantities, the reason being the heavy requirements for the manufacture of explosives.

### INTEREST IN RUSSIAN NOVELS.

I find that there is a considerable demand for works of fiction by Russian writers now in the book shops, as a result of the closer relations between the two countries. The publishers are doing all they can to meet the demand. The Russian novelists, with the exception of Tolstol, were very inadequately placed before the English public. The Viscally translations, which once had a vogue, had gone out of print, and no serious attempt had been made to replace them. Now, however, Messrs. Heinemann have an interesting collection of Turquenev novels on the market at two shillings a volume, including, of course, "Virgin Soil" and "Fathers and Sons," which are the best known here. Of the older writers Dostievsky, the brilliant, but gloomy author of "Crime and Punishment," is being republished and even Gogol is bought now. Gogol's "Dead Souls" is almost as gloomy as Dostievsky's great novel. Intensely interesting as these Russian books are, the English reader must often deplore the morbid tendencies of the Slav temperament as expressed through the medium of letters. Several publishers are bringing out fresh editions of Gorky's books, among them "The Man Who Was Afraid," "The Outcasts," and "Three Men." Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton are publishing a Russian library at two shillings and sixpence a volume, in which Gorky figures, as well as Lermontov, Turgenyev, and Pushkin. A still more recent writer, Anton Tchhoff, is being produced by Messrs. Duckworth, and other novelists as yet unknown to the English reading world are promised to us. The public are buying these books and Tolstol no longer rules supreme among our readers of Russian fiction.

### BELGIAN SIGHTSEERS.

The clothing of the Belgian army in khaki has gone on fast, and it is already increasingly difficult to distinguish the soldiers of our Ally on their holidays in London streets from our own men. The soiled and make-shift uniforms they used to wear were unmistakable. There are far more Belgian soldiers in London now than earlier in the war. At present the authorities allow 4 per cent. of the army to be on leave at one time, but they stipulate that those who come over here must have some money or other means of support with them. They must have relatives among the refugees with whom they can stay. None of our mixed company of war guests makes the round of the sights with fresher admiration and more childlike awe. Few know English—it is astonishing to find how many know only Flemish—and their plan is to do London on a co-operative method. They form companies of half a dozen or so under the leadership of a comrade who knows enough English to explain things. One is struck in talking to them by the touching sincerity of their pleasure in the peace and security of England. Only those who are both soldiers and citizens and have lost their homes as well as risked their lives can know the wonder and refreshment of that experience. I came upon one of the exploring groups in the Guildhall War Exhibition this afternoon, where they were especially delighted with the portrait of King Albert, painted last May within sound of the German guns. One of them told me a story of the King which I have not seen in print—how when the Belgians were retreating over a bridge the King stayed behind, in great danger, long after the last soldier had gone. I gathered that for these soldiers, at any rate, the war has been rather a boring business of late. They belonged to a piece of the line which is divided from the German trenches by a canal impassable by either side. It was a genuine case of stalemate, they said. At long intervals a man would be wounded or killed, but normally the soldiers spent the days in their hole with nothing much to do, getting what diversion they could out of their imprisonment under fire.

### STERILISING WATER AT THE FRONT.

One of the reasons which account for the comparative immunity of the troops, both in the East and West fronts, from epidemic diseases has no doubt been the satisfactory means that have been adopted in all the armies for sterilising water. Various simple methods, which are easily practiced by the soldiers themselves, are in use, and it is interesting to note that the German military authorities are, according to the German technical press, very satisfied with the results that have been obtained from the use of peroxide of hydrogen, as well as by the use of a compound of which this substance is one of the ingredients. It is said, by the way, that this compound, when added to water, will destroy cholera and typhoid germs in 15 minutes at summer temperature, and render the water fit for drinking purposes. It is supplied to the troops in the form of tablets, one of which is sufficient to purify nearly a quart of water.

**Grief and Worry  
Childbirth  
La Grippe  
Excesses and  
Overstrain  
cause  
Nervous Exhaustion**  
Take the new remedy  
**Asaya-Neurral**  
(TRADE MARK)  
which contains the form of phosphorus required for nerve repair.

The sample bottle, containing treatment for one week (ample to prove its merit to your mind), and bottles containing 10 and 20 weeks' treatment, are obtainable on request to Davis & Lawrence Co., Montreal.

Another method that is being largely employed by the Germans is the use of tablets containing permanganate of potash and tartaric acid or bisulphate of soda. The use of permanganate for purifying purposes is, of course, well known, and the reason for the addition of one or other of the additional chemicals named is that of the oxidising properties of the permanganate become more active in the presence of an acidified solution. These mixtures are also supplied to the troops in the form of tablets, one of which is sufficient for about half a plate of water, and all the soldier has to do is to dissolve the tablets in the water and allow it to stand for 15 minutes, when the water will be ready for drinking.

### THE NAVY AND ENEMY DISTINCTIONS.

It is interesting and yet somewhat surprising to learn from the latest issue of the "Navy List" now available, that over a hundred naval officers appear as holders of "enemy" distinctions. Sir David Beatty, Sir Hedworth Meux, Sir Percy Scott and Lord Charles Boreford are "authorized" to wear the insignia of the Turkish Order of the Medjidie "on all occasions," while Lord Fisher possesses the Ottoman Order of Osmanieh. Among the dozen holders of German orders are Sir John Jellicoe, who possesses the Red Eagle, and Sir Edmund Fremantle, who has the Royal Crown. As there can be little doubt these officers have discarded their enemy decorations, such might now well be omitted from the official publication.

### SNAPSHOTS FROM HOME.

At the beginning of the war, when the new armies began to boom and a new era in recruiting was inaugurated all over the kingdom, there was an immense demand for photographs of departing fathers, sons, brothers, and sweethearts as pleasing personal souvenirs for those who were left behind. Now, after almost a year's campaigning, it has occurred to some one that there is room for a process of exchange in this respect. If those who remain at home treasure photographs of their kith and kin with the colors, the latter in their exile from the family circle are not a whit less keen to possess photographic records of what is happening to the folks at home. A good many such photographs have no doubt found their way to the front during the last few months, but the field is very big, and not every home has a photographer in its midst and is in a position to call in the aid of a professional. But it is estimated that there are roughly about 1,000,000 amateur photographers in this country who, now that the usual peace-time pursuit of their hobby has been temporarily curtailed by military and naval restrictions, will be glad to know of a means of using their cameras for a national purpose. The scheme for organizing the effort is in the hands of the Y.M.C.A., under whose auspices branches of the Snapshots from Home League are being started all over the country.

### A LUXURY PLEDGE.

Within a short time a letter will appear in the papers signed by titled women giving the terms of a pledge which people are to be asked to take to dispense with luxuries. I believe this proposal was first made by someone connected with the Parliamentary War Savings Committee. It has been taken up enthusiastically and a non-official committee has been formed to carry it out. The idea is to get the people above the motor-car standard to set an example of economy. The stern economists who are

looking round just now for signs of extravagance are particularly moved to wrath by the sight in the streets of so many new motor-cars. The pledge contains a promise to give up using motor-cars altogether for private purposes, as well as such self-denying ordinances as the renunciation of restaurant-going—pleasing news for the restaurant keepers—and the ignoring of new fashions—which will please the dressmakers. A dead set is made at the motor-car because it is considered to be a sort of symbol of luxurious expenditure, but that is by no means true without important qualifications. It would be too much to expect all advocates of war economy to know what is sound economy and what is not. The fashion will probably set in for "pledges" adapted to the lives of different classes, and the newspapers no doubt will be enlightened by a good many fantastic puritanical efforts. One fancied that Mr. McKenna's coming Budget will prove a good deal more effective in cutting down luxuries than any number of volunteer pledges.

### A CANADIAN SOLDIER.

Major Reginald Pellett, who has been appointed to command a new Canadian overseas battalion for service at the front, is less well known here than his father, Sir Henry Pellett, who has been described as the Cecil Rhodes of Canada. Sir Henry Pellett, who is a leading financier in Toronto, has long been known as one of the most enthusiastic volunteers in Canada. Four or five years ago he brought over to this country at his own expense the whole of his regiment, the Queen's Own Rifles—they are now fighting at the front—to take part in the army manoeuvres. He commanded the Canadian contingents which came over for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and for the Coronation of King Edward, by whom he was knighted. He took a leading part in the Society of Knights Bachelor and in the acquisition of the old hall of Clifford's Inn for their meetings.

## Vigorol

If you want to feel well, bright and cheery, full of ambition; be able to move about quick and smartly—VIGOROL, the Great French Tonic, will brace you up—it cleanses the whole system. If the manufacturers could only impress this upon every one who does not feel as they ought to, the world would owe them a great gratitude; but all we can do is to ask you to try one bottle and see for yourself. The change will be wonderful. You need a spring medicine—then take VIGOROL. Sold at all drug stores.

### SIDETRACKED

I bought a barrel of gay apparel quite early in the spring, made heavy payment for Palm Beach raiment, and hoped to look a king. "When summer bakes us," I said, "and cakes us with it h' freckles, sunburn, tan, I'll be so gaudy that Lord Topnoddy will see an also ran. The girls will follow, o'er hill and hollow, my glances to command; and wealthy widowers will then be bidders for my old heart and hand. The other fellows will all be jealous, the way I win the girls, and counts and princes will all seem quinces, and likewise fret and worry to wear my gorgeous rags! Come, weather torrid! It's simply horrid the way the springtime lags!" But summer weather broke loose its tether, and started off dead wrong; the rains were pouring and torrents roaring, the whole blamed season long! I view with loathing the winter clothing this climate makes me do; those grand Palm Beaches, those tailored peaches, were long since placed in pawn. Thus man goes dreaming of triumphs screaming, and dreams go up the spout; the fates sidetrack him and swat and crack him, and put him down and out.

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Gentle but Effective  
40 Pills, 25c.  
Davis & Lawrence Co., Prop., Montreal.

**Household Notes.**  
Mincéd chicken, potato chips and a salad is a dainty and satisfying luncheon combination.  
To quickly prepare horseradish or coconut, pare it and put it through the chopping machine.  
A very little lard added to the butter when frying tomatoes will prevent their burning.  
Before baking apples, make a slit all around each; this will prevent their splitting when cooking.

**DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS**  
FOR ALL KIDNEY DISEASES  
BRONCHITIS, RHEUMATISM, GRAVEL, DIABETES, PAINFUL URINE, ETC.

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In 600 Shares of \$100.00 each.

Paid up Capital will be guaranteed by the Government of Newfoundland against loss.

An order has been received for 20,000 Shells, to be increased when Company is ready to accept further orders, at prices that should give satisfactory returns.

Applications for Stock to be made not later than 4 p.m. Saturday, 4th September, at the Office of F. W. Angel, Water Street, after which a meeting of Subscribers will be held and Board of Directors elected.

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