

THE ENGLAND OF TODAY

Ambassador Bryce Sorry for Those Who View Future With Pessimism -- St. George's Day in New York.

New York, April 25.—The British Ambassador said at the Waldorf-Astoria Saturday night that the only thing known to him about the future of the world was that it was a puzzle. There was a twinkle in the eye of the Right Hon. James Bryce and a bit of a chuckle in his voice, and the St. George's Society, comfortably at dinner, applauded the merry banter.

The Ambassador was gunning for a number of the best known statesmen. He said, without even inquiring if there were any Irishmen in the room, that St. Patrick was never a child of the Emerald Isle; that St. Andrew had to be taught all the Scotch that he didn't drink, and that whatever St. George may have been he certainly wasn't an Englishman. Rather apropos of nothing, Mr. Bryce referred to one St. Theodore. He hastened to say that if the United States had any patron saint it must be George Washington; but still he recalled a St. Theodore. On second thought he believed St. Theodore was local to Cappadocia.

The Ambassador was the guest of honor of one of the biggest dinners the society has ever held.

Lloyd R. Sanderson, president of the society, introduced Mr. Bryce as one who is respected and admired as much on this side of the Atlantic as on the other.

Mr. Bryce said that he could not refrain from taking the opportunity of expressing the grief which Britons everywhere no less than Americans felt at the death of one who had adorned the commonwealth with his brilliant and varied gifts. Mr. Clemens, whom all the world will continue to call Mark Twain, was one of the greatest writers of the general literature of the passing away. Mr. Bryce said: "He was a great humorist and also when he dealt with serious themes a master of pathos, a story teller of inextinguishable power and at all times a profound student of human nature."

Mr. Bryce went on to say that it had been his privilege to know Mr. Clemens personally and intimately, but enough to appreciate the charm of his character, his kindness, his simplicity, his bright vivacity in talk and his fine zeal and sympathy for all good causes.

"He was a man of whom America and indeed all the English speaking race, might well be proud," said Mr. Bryce, "and whose sweet and noble memory those who knew him will ever cherish."

Mr. Bryce asked the dinner if it had occurred to them that a patron saint belonged to the country which took him for its patron and then said: "St. Denis was not a Frenchman, though St. David, however, was a Welshman; St. Andrew was not a Scotchman nor St. George an Englishman. The United States has no patron saint, but the nearest approach to one was Washington—George Washington and he was born a British subject. And above all St. Patrick was not an Irishman. He was born somewhere in Britain, though whether in north or south Britain is not certain. That ought to be a good omen for the ultimate reconciliation of the sons of St. Patrick and the sons of St. George."

Mr. Bryce said that the reconciliation between the two has advanced during the past 25 years and said that he trusts that it will soon be complete. He further said: "The little family rift between the two parts of the United Kingdom have been a difficulty in times past, but will pass away just as the rift between St. Andrew and St. George's children has."

Doleful Voices.

The speaker said that he was surprised to find that there are some Englishmen who talked in a lugubrious way about the conditions and the prospects of England. He said: "I have said, 'Englishmen were accused of thinking too highly of their country, but now, if one is to believe these doleful voices, English industry and trade are languishing and a considerable part of the people are near pauperism.'"

"Nothing of the kind is true. British trade has been passing through one of the occasional depressions that come to all countries, as one came to the United States two years ago. But trade is already on the reviving, industry, population and wealth are steadily increasing," Mr. Bryce said that after dinner is not the time for figures or he would give the figures reassuring ones.

"England is all right," he said. "If any Englishman present has gloomy thoughts about England I would say to such a one 'Cheer up, Buck up. The Old Country is all right. Her people are not living in fear of invasion. They are minding their own business. They have confidence in their parliament, they have confidence in their government. It has passed through strains more severe than any likely to be put upon it now. They have confidence in the ancient and undiminished strength and prowess of the British character."

"The old stock still produces men of the old type. You have had two of them here, Lord Kitchener and Sir Ernest Shackleton, a famous soldier and a famous explorer, not surpassed anywhere in the world. Be proud of your country and have faith in her. What a history she has had—illuminated by what glorious names. What a dominion she has built up, though that of which we ought most to be proud is not so much the dominion as the qualities and enterprise by which it was gained and the wisdom by which it is held together."

"What a splendid group of self-governing colonies or rather sister States surround Britain, all alike loyal to the ancient Crown that comes down from the remote days of King Alfred and his son Edward to our own Edward of today."

Her Literature.

"What a literature Britain has produced. It is the richest and most varied, in poetry at least, of any modern people. That literature belongs to Englishmen and Americans. It is one of the many ties that bind us Britons and our brothers in America. The great people among whom you here live. The last and the present Presidents of this country and their Secretaries of State and the governments of Britain and Canada have given the best proof of their good will in the treaties and arrangements they have recently concluded, and there is nothing over which we may more fully rejoice than that not only peace but a true and trustful friendship between the peoples has now been placed upon the best and surest foundations."

The Premier of Newfoundland spoke up for the independence of his little island. He said that Newfoundland had the utmost loyalty and love for the British Empire, but felt able to work out its own destiny. There was the finest feeling for the United States, even in the matter of codfish, and he believed that the arbitration of the fisheries question would result in even more good will on both sides. It was a controversy, said the speaker, in which both sides might win. He touched a bit on the question of naval defence, preparedness for war on the part of the British Empire. He hoped that the statesmen in control would not be blind to the signs of the times.

Among the other speakers were Seth Low and Morton C. Frewen.

Children Who Helped To Make Successes of Season's Plays



1—CHILD PLAYERS IN "ALIAS JIMMY VALENTINE." 2—FRANCIS WILSON AND "MARTHA." 3—FRANCES GOLDEN FULLER AND MORIN FULLER. 4—GERTRUDE SHOOT.

(By W. G. Shepherd.)

New York, N. Y., April 25.—Almost every play that was a success in New York in the season just closing had children in its cast. And this means that the dramatic season was one of the cleanest and best, from the standpoint of public morals in many years.

How Broadway did take to the pieces in which children had parts! Francis Wilson with trembling hands and a fearful heart, wrote his "A Bachelor's Baby" and put it on at a theatre right in the heart of the Tenderloin. The audiences loved it. The baby Martha, who besieged and entered the old bachelor's heart, Martha, by the way, isn't a girl in real life. "She's" a boy, and "her" name is Stephen Calderwood. Stephen comes from an old stage family, and is only 7 years old. He knows he's a star. Once when his eyes were giving him trouble the manager told him to stay at home and let an understudy take his place. "No," replied Stephen, "Mr. Wilson can't carry his part without me."

Gertrude Short is 8 years old. She plays the part of Mark Short in Mary Manning's "A Man's World." When Gertrude applied for her part to the Shuberts her sex stood as a barrier. The next day she came to the office with her hair cut and dressed in boy's clothes. That settled it; she got the place.

Frances Golden Fuller and her little brother Morin were big features of "The Travelling Salesman," which after touring the country came back to New York, after a long run here and started in again.

Just when the rage for child players was at its height the management of Alias Jimmy Valentine turned its play and its stage over to a company of thoroughly drilled children for a charity matinee. The children acted Alias Jimmy Valentine so gravely and so well that Broadway clamored for another and still another presentation. The child company made a bigger hit with Alias Jimmy Valentine than even the big folks had done.

Thanks to the Gory society the children are so well protected from evil influences and damaging work on the stage that much of the old time repugnance to child players has been done away with. The parents and guardians of the child players are with them on the stage during all performances.

The political situation outside the budget is unchanged. There is vague talk of a compromise on the Lords veto question, but it is without substance. Efforts are now being made to ascertain whether there is a basis for compromise and there will be continued with the good will of the King, but no basis has yet been discovered. The King guiding the Liberals and Unionists is too wide to be bridged. No real effort will be made to reach an understanding on the veto question until after the next general election. The Liberals are confident that they will be returned with a substantial majority. If they are and if the Lords remain obdurate the government will demand that the King create a sufficient number of new peers to carry every Liberal bill. If the King refuses the government will resign.

King Against Dissolution.

The chief question in politics now is the date of the general election. Premier Asquith will not give a hint, but it is probable that the election will not take place until the autumn. It is known that the King objects to the dissolution of Parliament early in the summer because it would spoil the social season and ruin the fashionable retail trade. It is reported that the expressed opposition to an early dissolution to friends in Biarritz, who have brought the news to the party leaders in London. The King is a power even with the Radical Cabinet and it is probable that it will defer to his wishes.

In addition to the income tax the Treasury has decided to raise the rate through the collection of death duties on the estates of millionaires who have died since the budget debate of 1909. During the last fiscal year fifty-three Englishmen who have died have left estates valued at \$210,000,000. Under the new budget the death duties on these estates will be raised to \$185,000,000. One, Charles Morrison, a capitalist, left \$34,000,000. Sir Frederick Wills, the solicitor, left \$15,000,000 and Sir David Currie the shipbuilder, \$12,000,000. It is notable that the average age of the fifty-three millionaires was 73 years.

NOTORIOUS COUNTESS MAY YET WIN OUT

Prominent Alienists Ready to Swear That Accused Slayer of Russian Count is a Moral Martyr.

London, April 25.—From full reports of the sensational trial of the notorious Countess Tarnowska stands a fairly good chance of being let off easily by the court, especially now that the medical experts have ascertained as to the actual cause of Count Komorowski's death. La Tarnowska's Italian counsel proclaims that her apparent indifference during the proceedings is only a mask behind which the woman hides the terrible emotion with a will power so extraordinary that it can only be explained by self-suggestion.

She has been suffering all her life, he says, from intense hysteria, and is very susceptible to hypnotic influence. A number of prominent alienists will now be invited to testify that the Countess is a "physical and moral martyr," to the effects of inherited degeneracy.

Nevertheless she continues to receive offers of marriage from all sorts and conditions of men; also offers to go on the stage. To crown it all, several of admirers have taken to serenading her nightly from the Glacé canal underneath the window of her prison cell, and choirs of gondoliers have been doing her with the Venetian gondoliers. "Dime, more progna mia, dime quel che 'ho da fare" (Tell me, black eyed beauty, tell me what to do to prove my love.) The authorities have been compelled to take measures to stop this.

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"I certainly believe with Lady McLaren that wives should flirt with their husbands," said a well known author. "But there should be a stipulation that such flirtations should be held in private. Husbands and wives who persist in carrying out flirtations at 'at homes' and at dinners should be tabooed from society. Such people sit and talk with each other, dance together and generally ignore every one else. There are many

GUILLOTINE TO DROP TOMORROW

British Taxpayers Must Pay Up in Two Weeks -- \$115,000,000 To Be Collected-- Situation at Westminster.

London, April 25.—Now that the budget has been introduced in the House of Commons with the guillotine guarantee that it will pass its third reading, on April 27, Englishmen are confronted with the necessity for raising the wind to pay their income taxes, which payment has been held up since January 1 by the squabble between the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The excise authorities have issued intimations this week that the tax must be paid within a fortnight.

Voluntarily Paid.

Of the total amount of the tax \$65,000,000 has been voluntarily paid, while \$115,000,000 remains to be collected within a fortnight. No grace will be allowed to dilatory Englishmen and Americans subject to the tax. The excise authorities threaten to use summary processes to expedite the collection. They intimate that they will distrain the property of delinquents within a month or issue summonses of arrest.

How much of the income tax payable in January has been used in gambling in rubber shares is unknown but the sum is large. There is bound to be rapid selling of shares to raise funds to pay the tax when the officials begin their ruthless work of collection.

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