

THE QUEEN CONSORT IN LAW

Privileges Enjoyed by No Other Woman

That She Can Dispose of Property Without Consent of Her Husband—Her Interest in Whales.

Lord chamberlain, vice chamberlain, mistress of the robes, master of the horse, three equestrians, maids of honor, a chaplain and private secretary, also the law officers mentioned above. Majors of honor to the queen are the only women who have any official precedence, and they have the style or title of "honorable."

In all legal proceedings the queen consort has always been looked upon as a single and not as a married woman. She has always had a separate property in goods as well as lands, and the right to dispose of them by will. Sir Edward Coke says that the common law gave these privileges to the queen because in its wisdom it could not have the king (whose continual care and study is for the public) to be troubled and distracted on account of his wife's domestic affairs; and therefore it vested in the queen a power of transacting her own concerns, without the intervention of the king, as if she were an unmarried woman.

Blackstone and other legal writers tell of her many exemptions and minute prerogatives. For instance, she is exempt from paying toll and from imprisonment in any court. But unless the law expressly declares her exempt, she is upon the same footing with other subjects being to all intents and purposes the king's subject and not his equal.

She also had some pecuniary advantages, which formed her a distinct revenue. Before and soon after the conquest certain reservations of the demesne lands of the crown were expressly appropriated to the income of the queen, distinct from the king, but no separate revenues have ever been settled on any queen consort by parliament. She has now an allowance from the king's privy purse to cover her personal expenses.

It is frequently in Domesday book to find the quantity of gold or other tenders reserved to the queen added to the rent specified as due to the crown. These appropriations were frequently for particular purposes, as, for instance, to buy wool for her majesty's use, to purchase oil for her lamps, or to furnish her attire from head to foot.

The chief of the ancient perquisites of the queen consort was the duty of queen-gold. This was a royal revenue belonging to every queen consort during her marriage with the king. It was due on every voluntary offering or fine to the king amounting in the proportion of one-tenth over and above such offering or fine.

The money paid to the king and the queen-gold were, both together, counted as one offering or fine. It was originally granted in consideration of any privileges, grants, licenses, pardons or other matters of royal

favor obtained from the crown by the powerful intercession of the queen. Queen-gold was last claimed by Henrietta Maria, the consort of Charles I., but finding it by that time perhaps too trifling and troublesome to levy, after having issued out his writ for levying it, in 1635, he purchased it from his consort for £10,000. It was not renewed at the Restoration, although Queen Catherine was advised to revive her claim. It is interesting to note that for the noupayment of queen-gold the liberty of London, with the mayor and sheriffs, was seized in the thirty-eighth year of Henry III.'s reign.

Another ancient perquisite belonging to the queen consort, mentioned by all our old writers, including Bracton and Britton, and for that reason only worthy of notice, is this: that on the taking of a whale (which is the royal fish) on the coasts it shall be divided between the king and the queen—the head only being the king's property, and the tail of it the queen's.

Byrne says that the reason assigned by ancient records for this whimsical division was to furnish the queen's wardrobe with whalebone; but, according to Blackstone, the reason is more whimsical than the fact, for the whalebone lies entirely in the head.

Though the queen consort is in all respects a subject, yet she is put on the same footing as the king as regards the security of her life and person. The statute of treasons makes it equally treason to "compass or imagine" the death of our lady the king's companion, as of the king himself.

If accused of treason, the queen consort is tried by the peers of parliament, as was Queen Anne Boleyn in the twenty-eighth year of the reign of Henry VIII.

SOUTH AFRICA EXPERIENCE

Detrimental to Officers of the British Army.

London, Oct. 12.—The South African campaign has a curious effect on British generals. Public attention is centered on Gen. Buller's extraordinary exhibition, while society is gossiping about the remarkable action of another general. This one is a Knight Commander of the Bath, holding a high command in South Africa. He is over 60 years of age, and has engaged himself by letter to marry a woman of 50, who he has not seen for twenty years. The bride-elect, who is an Irish woman, is pre-

paring to go out to South Africa. As for Gen. Buller, he seems to have forever shattered every vestige of his reputation. A representative of the Associated Press learns that previous to Gen. Buller's speech of Thursday, he had received several plain hints from the office expressing the hope that he would not accept invitations to make speeches. His appointment to the command of the army corps was made in a spirit of generosity. It was thought that Gen. Buller could not do much harm in the two years remaining before he retired. Failure to appoint him would have signified a public disgrace, which the war office was not willing to inflict on him, believing that Gen. Buller had done his duty to the best of his ability.

One of the highest officials connected with the administration of the army said to a representative of the Associated Press:

"The utilitarian spirit of the age has taken away those securities, such as governor of Tilbury and commander-in-chief of Berwick, with which, a hundred years ago, Buller might be shelved, and at the same time rewarded. We had no alternative but to reward Gen. Buller's long and conscientious period of service by kicking him out of giving him a command which his rank demands. Of the two evils we chose what we thought was the least. Our justification is, perhaps, somewhat sentimental, but no army can be run without a certain amount of sentiment."

"As for the public dissatisfaction with our progress in South Africa, I fear that Lord Roberts and other optimistic prophets are unintentionally more to blame than anyone else. No one got up and said the Burmah was over, or that it would be over in a foolishly short space of time. It lasted nearly four years, and the British public took it as a matter of course. The South African war has probably got another two years to run, developing like the Burmah affair, into a subaltern's campaign. Continual local disturbances are being put down by the small garisons. To supervise such work, we know of no one better than Lord Kitchener. His chief complaint, which seems to have missed the attention of the critics, is that, having non-combatant natives populating the war area, he is prohibited from destroying supplies to any degree of military thoroughness. If we could concentrate or deport the natives, I think an effective devastation would quickly end the campaign."

Not His First Love.

She—I suppose you will commit suicide if I refuse you?

He—That has been my custom.—November Smart Set.

Helped the Lassie. The dance hall of the Grand hotel was open to the public last Sunday afternoon and evening. There was music, speechmaking and praying going on with a salvation army lass from Skagway as leader. The girl with the poke bonnet, the tambourine and the cracked voice arrived Saturday night. She opened street service on the corner of Front and Main streets and drew a large crowd in front of the Grand. After several fruitless appeals to the souls of sinners who stood around the lassie made a most touching appeal to their pockets. She told of the goods work being done by the army in Skagway and of the deplorable state of the treasury there. She wanted the good people of Whitehorse to help along the glorious work of winning sinful Skagway for the Lord. Quarters and Laid dollars were loaned up quite liberally. A few black-jack players who were shy of coin gave up white cheeks which were cashed at the bar.

Jack Barrett being a liberal sort of fellow who always likes to help along a good cause offered the use of his dance hall for the Sunday meetings which were announced to be held on the street. The offer was accepted and at both the afternoon and evening services the attendance was large. Mr. Barrett took up the collection and before starting on his rounds he announced that everybody was expected to dig up, and that nothing less than half a dollar from each person would be recognized as a contribution. He promised that anyone who didn't play the limit would be "hauled out." Jack has a large head and consequently wears a big hat. The hat was pretty near full of silver coin when he handed it over to the army girl.—Whitehorse Tribune.

Discusses the Canteen. Washington, Oct. 12.—Gen. John R. Brooke, commanding the department of the East, in his annual report for the last fiscal year, expresses gratification at the progress made at the artillery posts where modern armament has been installed. The barracks at the infantry and cavalry posts he found inadequate in size, and he recommends an enlargement. He renews his former recommendation in regard to the possibility, in case of war, of an attack of coast defenses from the land side, or the rear, and urges that the approaches from the directions named receive the attention

In an appendix Col. Storey, of the artillery corps, says the most important problem now pressing upon the artillery is how to provide a sufficient number of officers and men qualified to operate the mining defenses of our harbors. To operate the mines in the harbors of the United States and its distant possessions,

says Col. Storey, will require about seventy officers and 2,700 soldiers. The required number of officers is so large that they could not all be spared for this duty without seriously crippling the artillery in the service of the armament.

In an appended report Lieut. Col. James A. Buchanan, commanding the department of Puerto Rico, says as to the canteen:

"The sale of beer at the post exchanges, recently prohibited by act of congress, will not, I fear, result to the best interests of good discipline in Puerto Rico; the low price of native drinks, their injurious effects and degrading influences which surround their sale all tend to the undoing rather than the uplifting of the enlisted man; the number of places where these drinks are sold is greater than in the United States, thus affording more opportunity for drunkenness; again, the cost of beer and other beverages outside of the post exchange is so great as to compel the soldier to purchase the cheaper and more injurious native drinks."

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Grand Forks stages, Sundays—Leave Dawson 9 a. m. and 3 p. m.; returning leave Forks same time. Gold Run, Dominion, Williams Dome, via Carmack's Forks, daily, except Sundays, 9 a. m.; returning leave Gold Run 7 a. m., Caribou 9 a. m., Williams 10 a. m., and Carmack 12 m.

Hunker and Dominion stage to 35 below lower discovery, Dominion, daily except Sunday—Leave Dawson 9:30 a. m.; returning leave 35 below for Dawson, via Hunker, 7:30 a. m., connecting at Caribou for Williams, Dome, Carmack and Grand Forks.

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