

# POOR DOCUMENT

## MC2035

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1923

### DUKE AND FIANCEE INSPECT NEW HOME

Lord Farquhar Present Tenant of White Lodge, Richmond

Meeting of Prince and Diggers Recalls War Story—Matter of British Trade—New Phase in Life of Empire Theatre in Leicester Square.

(From Our Own Correspondent.) London, Feb. 1.—During the week the Duke of York and Lady Betty were in London. They have spent a considerable time together, and on Tuesday, I learned that the Duke and the Duchess had left for the Continent. Although it has not been officially announced, it may be taken as certain that this will be the future residence of His Royal Highness. The Duke and his fiancée were received by Lord Farquhar, who is the present tenant of the famous residence, and who has made many very interesting and valuable additions, particularly from a historical point of view. I understand that His Lordship has no intention of moving there, but will leave them for the pleasure and use of his successor.

**The Prince "Counted Out"**  
On the occasion of the Prince of Wales' visit to the Australia Day reception at Australia House last Friday evening he met a number of "Diggers" whom he came across during the war. He particularly during his visit to Egypt in 1918. Once with his equerry L.D.C. His Royal Highness rode by a party of Diggers, who came smartly to the salute as he rode by. The Prince did not see the group, and when he had passed his attention was attracted by the sonorous chanting of "Ode, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, OUT." He inquired what it meant, and was informed that he had been saluted, and had not acknowledged the compliment, and in the Digger's way had been "counted out." Without hesitation the Prince wheeled his horse round and rode to the group of men, saluted them, and had a friendly chat with them. On leaving he was greeted with the same sonorous chant with the numbers in a reversed order—"Ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, IN." Ever afterwards the Prince was a popular figure in the Diggers' camp.

**What Retards Trade?**  
Everybody has been more or less on edge for the promised trade revival, the slow coming of which causes much disappointment on all sides. One explanation of the way things still seem to hang fire, in spite of certain encouraging signs, is the aversion of doubt that embarrases most retailers. Commercial travelers as a rule have their pulse of the country, and I am told by more than one of them with wide experience of various parts of the country, that a genuine trade revival is in progress, but that its full effects will be slow in making themselves apparent.

In the midst of the remarkable but confusion of the war a steel wall seemed to shut down, absolutely shutting off all trade properly. Thousands of small traders and retailers everywhere have managed to survive the prolonged depression only by grace of their credit.



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But the moment trade revives and business shows signs of becoming brisk again, all these people are pressed for payment. The result is that they must clear their feet of debts before making any real reciprocal response to the reviving industrial market. Instead of a prompt placing of big orders, therefore, which would feed the revival with mutual reactions, there is still a hand-to-mouth system. Commercial travelers are confident, however, that in a little while things will hum.

**State Visits Abroad.**  
Each recurring season produces its crop of rumors regarding royal state visits to one or other of the Allies of the great war. This year is no exception. It is said that there is every

probability that Their Majesties may make such a trip to the continent during the year. There are several outstanding invitations which for various reasons have had to be deferred. Thus far since the war Their Majesties have paid one state visit to a foreign court—to Belgium. The hope is entertained that the King and Queen will later be able to pay visits to Paris, and to Italy. Usually the spring is selected for fulfilling such visits. Italy would be convenient at any other season on account of the heat.

**The Postcard Prince.**  
A little shop near the Tate Gallery can claim to have the largest stock of picture postcards in London, for the woman proprietor makes a specialty of

old masters and famous people reproduced in postcard form. Cromwell and the Prince of Wales are the two "best sellers," and she tells me that the trade, in a bad way a year ago, is now up to pre-war dimensions. Last week she was given an order by an American lady for every postcard portrait of the Prince of Wales in existence. To her amazement, she found there were 124 different postcards of the Prince, who can therefore surely claim to be the most postcard person in Europe. A steady business, she said, is to be done with regular artist customers who use the reproductions of old masters to help them in their own work.

**In Leicester Square.**  
Will Sir Alfred Butt and Arthur de Courville be able to revive the old traditions of the Empire Theatre in Leicester Square? It was once upon a time perhaps the most famous theatre in the world. In the days when it was the acknowledged home of ballet, and when George and Kyasht danced nightly on the spacious stage, the Empire was London's greatest cosmopolitan rendezvous. All the dusky foreloppers from the ends of the earth, the bronzed service men, the tall colonial and exotic aliens, foregathered in the famous lounge with their young bloods and elderly men-about-town, and the scented air was full of exclamatory greetings, the clinking of glasses, and laughing whistles. Mrs. Ormiston Chant crusaded against the ladies, in advanced evening dress, who paraded in the promenade. And Winston Churchill, as a red-headed Sandhurst cadet, delivered his very first public oration there—against the puritanical ostracism of Mrs. Chant's movement. Now the Empire, after passing through a rather bleak period of cinema, is to make another bid for popularity—as a combined revue theatre, cabaret, and restaurant. If the experiment succeeds, what gallant ghosts, what fair fallacious phantoms, will haunt that famous lounge, behind the dress circle? The opening night will be 'some' scene!

A Belated "Blighter."  
A certain well known peer is remarked amongst his friends for the shabby

clothes he wears on the golf links. Here is a story about him which has not been in print before: Once he found himself racing up Waterloo Station just in time to jump into the last third carriage of a moving train. Another peer jumped in after him in the person of the late Lord Northcliffe, who promptly entered into conversation with a navy, handing him a cigar when he alighted. "Do you know who that is?" That is Lord Northcliffe, the first peer explained. "Is it thought? Well he must be a decent old cock speak to two blighters like us," was the workman's comment to the astonished betted ear.

**The Actor in The Tomb.**  
There can never have been more intrigue to be present at the coronation of a living king than to enter the tomb of Tutankhamen, the very much dead one. Princess, peers and ministers are among those who have failed to obtain permission, but I notice among the successful the name of Miss Elsie Janis. It is another signal lesson of how a charming personality can succeed where birth and position are unavailing. Those who came under her spell when the palace was still a variety house will forgive any official, even a clay or dusty archaeologist, granting her wish. It is calculated that there are only twenty-one actors and actresses in the world with a real personality, and Miss Janis is one of them.

All unheralded and unsung, the work of restoring the ancient Chapter House at Westminster has recently been undertaken. No vandal hands are being placed on the venerable fabric, but zealous fingers are renewing, and where necessary replacing, the mural decorations and beautiful tiled floors in the chamber, where the Commons of England first held their meetings and where the original "Domesday Book" repaid for many years, a lady artist was now to be seen measuring and restoring the floor work with infinite care. Under her magic touch new treasures are being discovered which, to the expert, converts the old Chapter House into a sort of King Tutankhamen tomb.

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A case in the police court yesterday afternoon against the Portland Pharmacy was postponed until today after Reginald McAdam had given evidence. W. M. Ryan appeared for the prosecution and J. A. Barry for the defence.

New street work this year will be limited. Commissioner Prink's original estimates called for work costing \$25,000, but his estimate was cut \$13,100. The matter of completing the paving of Douglas avenue at the southern end probably will be taken up this year, and there is also a possibility that the matter of paving Market Square will again be considered.

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