

Weekly Budget From Britain.

(London Daily Mail.)

King Edward has addressed the following letter to the Viceroy of India, expressing His Majesty's "anxious interest" in the epidemic plague which is now assuming such alarming proportions throughout His Majesty's Indian empire:

Buckingham Palace.
My Dear Viceroy,—I have followed with anxious interest the later course of that epidemic of plague which India has for eleven years past been so seriously afflicted.

The welfare of my Indian subjects must ever be to me an object of high concern, and I am deeply moved when I think of the misery that has been borne with such silent patience in all these stricken houses.

I am well aware how unremittent have been the efforts of your excellency's predecessors and yourself to make out the causes of the pestilence and to mitigate its effects.

It is my earnest hope and prayer that the further measures now being prepared by your excellency, in connection with zealous and able officers, may be crowned with merciful success.

I desire you to communicate this expression of my heartfelt sympathy to my Indian subjects. Believe me, my dear Viceroy, sincerely yours.

(Signed) Edward R. and I.
It was in 1896 that the plague first made its appearance in India, and up to July of this year the dreaded disease had carried off 5,650,000 of His Majesty's Indian subjects.

The following figures, taken from Mr. Morley's statements in the House of Commons, indicate the growth of the plague in the past seven years:

1900.....No. of deaths.

1901.....1,000,000

1902.....1,000,000

1903.....500,000

1904.....1,000,000

1905.....1,000,000

1906.....1,000,000

1907 (January-June).....1,000,000

Mr. Morley, however, pointed out that to the vast population of India even these enormous figures only represented a death rate of not much more than three per thousand.

OUSTING BRITISHERS.

The Under-Secretary of the Colonies declined in the House of Commons on Wednesday to take any action in regard to the dismissal of British officials by the Transvaal Government.

Mr. J. B. L. L. (Mid Armagh) raised the subject by asking if the reorganization of the Transvaal civil service were being carried out in such a way as to involve the wholesale displacement of British officials by Boers, and whether any representations would be addressed to the Transvaal Government on the subject.

The Under-Secretary said: "It is undesirable to attribute any motives to a self-governing colony on a matter which is entirely within its own scope and authority. There is no reason to believe that racial prejudice had anything to do with the matter. The reorganization began before the new Government took office."

It is reported from Pretoria that 1,200 men, including employees of the State railways, members of the constabulary and civil servants will be discharged in September as a measure of retrenchment.

THE CULLINAN DIAMOND.

Our Pietermaritzburg correspondent has interviewed a Transvaal official on the subject of the purchase of the Cullinan diamond, and he is enabled to state that the Cullinan diamond has already been purchased by the Transvaal Government for £50,000. Of the sum £10,000 is appropriated by the treasury as Government duty. The price, our correspondent states, is to be paid in two yearly instalments.

Experts valued the Cullinan diamond at £150,000, but as the Transvaal Government owns three-fifths of the Premier mine, where the now famous jewel was discovered, only £30,000 had to be paid for possession of the jewel.

HOW THE GEM WAS FOUND.

It was a glint of sunshine that led to the discovery of the great Cullinan diamond. An official of the Premier Company one day saw a bright glint gleaming in the clay on the mine side. He went to the spot and dug out the diamond with a case-knife. This was on Jan. 25, 1905.

It was named after Mr. Cullinan, the discoverer of the mine.

In only one way can the immense size and remarkable value of the Cullinan diamond be appreciated, and that is by comparing it with the other big diamonds of the world.

The largest diamonds known are: Cullinan—3,022 carats, uncut. Excelsior—959 carats, uncut. Great Mogul—280 carats, cut. Regent—410 carats, uncut. Orloff—183 carats, uncut. Koh-i-noor—900 carats, uncut, and 105 after the second cutting.

The Excelsior, the most recently discovered of these, was found in the dock of its natural state, but it has now been cut up into nine smaller stones.

The Pitt, or Regent, diamond, is the most valuable stone in existence next to the Cullinan. Though by cutting its weight was reduced to about 137 carats, it was sold by Thomas Pitt, grandfather of the first Earl of Chatham, to the King of France for £200,000, and is now valued at £450,000. It was discovered in 1701 in the Partal mine by a slave, who sold it to a seaman, who later sold it to Thomas Pitt. For some time it was in the crown of Louis XIV., it was later pawned to equip an army, and in 1798 Napoleon wore it on his sword at his coronation. It is still in the possession of the French nation.

The Koh-i-noor, perhaps the most famous of all the diamonds, became the property of the late Queen Victoria in 1850, when the Punjab was annexed by the East India Company.

EGYPT DEMANDS HOME RULE.

Sir Edward Grey has received from the executive of the Egyptian Nationalists a programme of their demands for home rule.

The principal points in the programme are: The creation of a constitution under which legislative powers should be granted to the General Assembly and the Legislative Council in so far as Egyptian and purely Egyptian interests are concerned; the only power to veto such legislation resting with the Khedive.

Free and compulsory education; Arabic being the medium of instruction in all schools.

General officials of European

nationality to be gradually replaced by Egyptians.

4. Direct representation; but no foreigners to have votes.

MR. CHURCHILL'S TOUR.

The itinerary which Mr. Winston Churchill, M. P., will take in his forthcoming visit to the African protectorates has now been settled.

He has arranged to leave London on Sept. 25, and proceed direct to Mombasa. He will then travel to Nairobi, the headquarters of the Uganda Railway, and subsequently to the terminus of the line at Lake Victoria.

On route he will go through the Kenya district, which is before long to be linked up with the Uganda Railway.

Mr. Churchill's tour will cover a period of about four months, and he will return via the Nile and Khartoum in time for the meeting of Parliament next year.

GREAT BRITAIN'S RICH MEN.

Although Great Britain is doubtless behind America in the number of millionaires residing on her shores, there are twenty-one lucky individuals in England who manage to subsist on incomes of upwards of £50,000 a year. Such is the latest information conveyed in the fifth report of the Inland Revenue Commissioners, issued as a blue book on Tuesday.

Scotland and Ireland, although by no means devoid of men of money, have no representatives among the "exceeding £50,000" division. In Scotland, however, reside nine persons who possess annual incomes of £10,000 to £50,000, while statistics show that ten people in Ireland have the comfortable sums of anything from £5,000 to £10,000 a year coming in.

Just 187,885 persons, excluding employees, in England paid income tax on under £200 per annum, as against 33,760 in Scotland and 12,732 in Ireland.

PRIESTS AS POLICE.

Father Convery is the hero of the Belfast riots of 1907. Father Convery has as surely saved the lives of many people walking about the streets of Belfast as if he had interposed his body between them and the bullets. Ever since the shooting of Monday last he has been on duty patrolling the Falls road district.

Armed with nothing more formidable than an umbrella, Father Convery has for hours been engaged preventing rioting. His umbrella grasped in the middle, his eyes shining through his glasses, he looks like Pickwick turned militant.

"What are you standing there for?" he would ask. "Walk about; I won't have you standing at corners." The men moved on.

His worst trouble was with the "hooligans," many of whom also did not belong to the district. One man who tried deliberately to start a row had only been a day out of prison, where he had been sent for theft. The acting authorities, that is, the Catholic priests and magistrates—took a short way with him. Householders were appealed to, and one was found who could lock the miscreant up, and locked up he was till morning. Father Convery had ten or a dozen prisoners in this way.

SAFETY OF PORTSMOUTH.

It would seem that it was easier for a camel to get through the eye of a needle than for a hostile warship to steal into Portsmouth harbor after the new defence works have been completed.

Already the channels which lead to the dockyards are covered by powerful batteries, with searchlights mounted alongside the guns for night operations. But to make assurance doubly sure the authorities have decided to build a foundation of concrete blocks across the shallows at the eastern end of Spithead. In war time it would thus be impossible for any vessel, however small, to get inside the Portsmouth defences unless she passed through the one narrow channel left right under the guns of the sea and land forts.

PICTURE POST CARD MANIA.

Picture postcard writers were responsible for the firing of a local postmaster, Mr. Yates Whittaker, at Blackpool on Tuesday, for obstruction.

A constable said that people could not walk past on the footpath because of the crowd of picture postcard writers outside the office.

Mr. Bates, collector, illustrated Mr. Whittaker's difficulty by stating that he himself saw postcards being written on the postbox, on the office window, on the table, and on ledges, while in one instance the back of a person, who was stooping down, was used as a desk.

During the past week the local postal service has been much disorganized owing to the millions of picture postcards despatched by holiday makers now in Blackpool.

SEVEN STAGES OF DRUNK.

The seven stages of drunkenness were described to Mr. Flounden at Barylebone Police Court on Saturday. A woman named Agnes Meniga, who was charged with being inebriated, she denied the charge, and Dr. Williams, who was called to see her at the police station, said he found her in "a mellow, comfortable state of drunkenness" recovering from irritation.

Replying to questions by the Magistrate, the doctor said the following were the stages of drunkenness:

- (1) Irritable.
- (2) Mellow, comfortable, happy.
- (3) Pugnacious.
- (4) Affectionate.
- (5) Crying.
- (6) Collapse, incapable, sleepy.
- (7) Death.

These were the stages through which a person would pass, Dr. Williams said, if alcohol were administered in a scientific way. The woman was fined 6s. and 14s. costs.

150 FEET TO DEATH.

An extraordinary affair, culminating in a tragic death, occurred in the village of Seggart, County Dublin, on Sunday. At two in the afternoon a young woman, Minnie Hunt, was seen to enter the tower of the Roman Catholic Church, and a few minutes later appeared on the roof, 120 feet above the ground.

A large crowd gathered at the foot of the tower, and attempts were made to rescue her, but she had locked the door behind her, and threatened to fling herself down if anyone came near. The Rev. Father Seaver, however, succeeded in reaching the top of the tower, and came within a few yards of the girl. Each time he approached she rushed to the parapet.

He then knelt down and prayed, hold-

ing aloft a crucifix, which he implored the girl to take hold of. Her only reply was, "We shall meet on the ground." Father Seaver continued to pray for three hours, when the girl suddenly gave a loud cry, threw up her arms, and fell to the ground.

She received terrible injuries, which caused death, and a verdict to this effect was returned at the inquest.

LONDON ACTRESS WEDS A PEER'S HEIR.

BULLER-SMITH.—On April 24, before the Registrar, Kensington, Captain the Hon. John Buller-Smith, Esq., only daughter of Alfred Smith, Esq.

Behind this plain announcement, which appeared in Saturday's papers, lay hidden a romance. It disclosed for the first time publicly the secret marriage four months ago of Miss Denise Orme, the well-known musical comedy actress, to Captain the Hon. John Buller-Smith, the only son and heir of Lord Churston, and an officer of the Scots Guards. Until Saturday none but the most intimate friends of the parties concerned were aware of the marriage. Miss Orme is only just twenty-one.

Six people only were present at the wedding, including the bride and the bridegroom, the ceremony being conducted by Mr. Barnes, the registrar, in Marlborough, Kensington. The party motored from the residence of the bride's father at Maida Vale-mansions to the registrar's office, and returned thither for the wedding breakfast.

Miss Denise Orme, who is now appearing at the Palace Theatre, said to an Over-Sea "Daily Mail" representative: "I am so glad that the secret is out. It has been so difficult to keep quiet. We fell in love with one another at first sight. My husband saw me for the first time about two years ago, when I was playing in 'The Little Mischief' at the Theatre. But it was nearly a year afterwards before we actually met."

"This was at a private dance at Kensington. We danced right through the programme together. Six weeks later we were engaged and four months ago married."

On the evening of our marriage I was playing at the theatre. Part of our honeymoon we spent on the river, and the rest of it at a charming old-fashioned house at Pinner, within twenty miles of London, where we are now living.

"It is very probable that I shall leave the stage now my marriage has been announced, but I cannot say whether I shall retire immediately."

At the age of fourteen Miss Orme won the Wesley violin exhibition at the Royal Academy of Music. Three years later she won the vocal scholarship at the Royal College of Music, Sir Hubert Parry when he presented her with the award stating that she was the youngest girl who had ever obtained this scholarship.

Her first appearance at a London theatre was at the Alhambra, where she sang and played the violin. A contract was at once offered her, but declined by her father. But Mr. George Edwards had heard of her, and he secured her services under a five years' contract. Miss Orme is a very ready comedienne as well as excellent singer. She is now singing at the Palace Theatre, where she wrote at the age of sixteen, "One Little Word," and it shows a facility for writing melody.

Captain the Hon. John Buller-Smith, as already stated, the only son of Lord Churston, of Lupton House, Churston Ferrers, Devonshire. He is thirty-four years of age and served with his regiment in the South African War. He was at one time aide-de-camp to the Viceroy of India, and afterwards to the Duke of Connaught.

CUP OF DEATH.

Some strange fatality seems to attach to the silver challenge cup of the Musical Bone Club, for each member who has had it in his possession has died shortly afterwards.

"It really is a most extraordinary thing," said Mr. H. C. Harris, a member of the club committee. "The cup, a handsome silver trophy, was given us by Lord Ludlow, and the first winner of it was Councillor Colby. Well, he died soon afterwards. Mr. Ellis won it the second year, and he, too, died shortly after trying off the prize."

"Last year Mr. Fox won it, and he, like the others, died shortly afterwards."

The trophy has not yet been competed for this year.

FALSE FRIEND.

An extraordinary romance is attached to No. 19 Queen's Gate, Kensington, a house which stands out conspicuous among its grey painted, handsome neighbors on account of its begrimed appearance and general air of neglect.

Forty-six years ago the owner was engaged to be married to a beautiful girl for whom he furnished the house in a magnificent style.

On the morning of the day appointed for the wedding, however, the bride eloped with a friend. The deserted groom at once shut up the house, leaving there a caretaker, and gave instructions that everything should be left exactly as it was.

Splendid chairs, tables, lounges, costly ornaments, the finest carpets and curtains, and all the appointments of a rich man's home have been allowed to gradually go to wreck and ruin. The accumulations of dust of years have gathered on the once beautiful rooms, and the house is now a veritable museum.

The owner has not spent a single night beneath the roof of the house since that sorrowful day in 1861. He pays a visit there a few times a year, but only for a few minutes, and never has the dead rooms opened.

"BRIGHT EYES" NOT ACTING.

Mrs. May Pepper Unable to Read Sealed Letter.

New York, Sept. 6.—Mrs. May St. Pepper-Vanderbilt, a leader of the Spiritualists, appeared as a witness in the lunacy proceedings brought against her husband, Edward W. Vanderbilt, by his daughter, Minerva Vanderbilt. Mrs. Vanderbilt had yesterday testified that she was at times under the control of a spirit, "Bright Eyes," an Indian child, and through this control, while in a trance, was able to read unopened letters and learn of secrets unknown to the lay mind.

A large crowd filled the court room to listen to the testimony of Mrs. Pepper to-day. Mrs. Pepper was challenged by counsel for Miss Vanderbilt to read unopened a sealed letter which he handed her. Counsel for Mr. Vanderbilt protested against the question, but Commissioner Ketchum held that the question was material for evidence; if Mrs. Vanderbilt could read the letter through the aid of the unseen "Bright Eyes" it would clear up all the questions in the case. The letter was handed to her.

"I cannot read it," said Mrs. Pepper. "I am not under the control of 'Bright Eyes.'"

"And what do you do for a living?" asked the sympathetic old lady. "I breathe, madame," replied the professional beggar.

The Daily Fashion Hint.



Silk Kimono.

This figured silk kimono is out in the ordinary way, but is made more becoming by the tucks over the shoulders and the ties of soft silk, finished with tassels instead of the usual ribbons.

HIGH-CLASS TAILORING HOUSE.

PUBLISHES A HANDSOME FASHION PLATE FOR FALL.

The Whole is the Work and Product of Canadian Artists and Engravers—Review of the Fashions and Fabrics for the Coming Season.

For the first time in Canada a tailor's fashion plate has been published by a Canadian house, and the artist's work, photo engravings and color work have all been done in Canada. The fashion plate is now on exhibition in the Semi-ready tailoring store, and it shows the new styles in all the most worn garments.

Published in conjunction with the fashion plate there is also a booklet, entitled "As Seen by Him," and this shows some of the supplementary styles in new fall and winter overcoats. These booklets are given away free to anyone interested. One of the features of the book is the publication for the first time of the full physique type chart, showing how the Semi-ready system provides for 425 different sizes and figures.

The President of the Semi-ready Company, in a recent interview of fashions and fabrics, said:

"Anything decidedly new in woollens is usually brought out in summer, and the chief novelties this fall are the impressionistic 'Elephant' shades in dark greys, which gradually shade into warm tones of brown or olive. The new overcoats are of a variety which will appeal to the individual states, but the well-known plain black and Oxford greys, chevrons and meltons will find the more adherents. The dress suits are the chief d'œuvre of the Semi-ready. The manufacture of these high-class garments has helped to emphasize the pre-eminence of the Semi-ready system of tailoring, for these garments appeal to men who know. Dress suits are made of finest fabrics, with silk linings as good as a \$50 suit. The frock coats for the fall season vary but slightly from the designs made for the spring and summer seasons."

"We do not approve of startling novelties in dress, and we always avoid bizarre patterns and fabrics, for our desire is to appeal to and secure the better class of dressers in this brief talk on good clothes."

DR. EARL STEWART DEAD.

Clever Young Physician a Victim of Typhoid.

Winnipeg, Sept. 6.—Dr. Earl Stewart, house surgeon of the Winnipeg General Hospital, son of Rev. Dr. Stewart, registrar of Wesley College, Winnipeg, and a missionary of Manitoba, died in the General Hospital this afternoon of typhoid. Dr. Stewart was 24 years of age, and had just completed a brilliant course and begun his career as house surgeon. He was born at Killarney, Man. His father is one of the pioneer preachers of the Presbyterian Church.

SARNIA MAN ARRESTED.

Joseph Krantz Fatally Injured by a Fall.

Superior, Wis., Sept. 6.—Joseph Krantz died at St. Francis' Hospital here as the result of a fall last night into the hold of the steamer Kensington, on which he was fireman. Krantz and Oiler J. W. Brown, of Sarnia, Ont., engaged in a dispute, and Brown struck Krantz, knocking him into the hold. Brown is under arrest and will be charged with manslaughter.

FISHERMAN DROWNED.

Winnipeg Beach, Sept. 6.—Word was received here yesterday that the body of G. Mathewson, a fisherman, who lived at the beach, was found on the shore near Ponemah. About a week ago his boat was found a mile out in the lake, where he had been examining his nets.

MONEY NO OBJECT.

SHE THOUGHT RUNYAN PITTSBURG E. Z. MARK.

Woman Betrayer of New York Embezzler Says She Thought Her Dupe a Smoky City Millionaire and an All-Round "Good Thing."

New York, Sept. 6.—Indicative of the effect that the pranks of Pittsburgh millionaires have had upon the public mind was the assertion of Laura M. Carter on the witness stand to-day that when Runyan, the \$66,000 Windsor Trust Company defaulter, handed her a neat package of \$100 bills she thought he was one of them. She had never met a Pittsburgh millionaire, but she had heard of the way they spend money when at large in New York.

"I really thought he was a millionaire from Pittsburgh," she declared. "He passed out his money like a good thing." Mr. Marshall made Laura Carter go into the most minute details of the way she spent every minute of the time when she was with Runyan in the West 144th street flat. He asked her what she did on Sunday, the day Runyan walked out of the bank with \$80,000.

"I played solitaire all day and George read the papers," she replied. "I can't read very well."

"Did you consult with a lawyer before you betrayed Runyan to the police?" asked Mr. Marshall.

"I did not consult with anybody but Harry Kirkstein," answered the witness, "and he told me to suit myself."

During the afternoon session Mr. Marshall brought out one important fact. The woman admitted that on July 5, after she drew the \$5,000 out of the Garfield deposit vault, she showed the money to Harry Kirkstein.

She had previously denied that she saw Kirkstein after she got the money from the safe deposit vault. The admission is important in that it establishes a medium through which the \$5,000 might have escaped prior to Runyan's arrest.

THEY LIVED SINGLE.

REMEMBERS LOVERS DENIED BY FATHER.

Port Huron Woman Bequeaths Fortune to Her Own and Dead Sister's Sweetheart—Will Prevented Them From Marrying.

Port Huron, Mich., Sept. 6.—After her two sisters had died lonely spinsters, and as she was about to share their fate, Mary Dunbar deeded a large estate, left by her father, to her lover and a young man who had been her dead sister, Sybil's, sweetheart, that she might have the satisfaction of knowing that they would be provided for, even though she and her sister could not enjoy their companionship through life.

When Samuel Dunbar, a farmer of Grand township, died, he left a valuable estate to his three daughters, Elizabeth, Sybil and Mary, with an ironclad clause in the will which revoked the girls' interest in the property should any of them marry. The girls were as happy as money could make them, but they lacked that "jeu" which only the fulfillment of their hearts' desire could bring to them.

Months went by and the unhappy girls one by one died. On the death of her sister Sybil, Mary decided to leave the estate to her lover and the young man who had been Sybil's sweetheart. Accordingly she deeded the property to Francis Bow and Wealthy Stevens for the sum of \$1.

E. W. Harris, who was one of the executors of Dunbar's estate, has asked the circuit court to construe the will, with the object of determining the ownership of the real estate.

Cost of Water at Winnipeg.

Winnipeg, Sept. 6.—The Winnipeg River is recommended as a source of water supply for Winnipeg in the report of the water supply experts placed before the Water Supply Commission to-day. The cost of constructing the system for a 12,000,000-gallon daily supply is given as \$3,862,000 with wood stave pipe lines, and \$6,059,000 with steel pipe lines. To bring in 48,000,000 gallons daily the cost is placed at \$10,519,000 with stave pipe line and \$17,084,000 with steel pipe lines.

FREE

The balance of 1907 free to new subscribers to the Semi-Weekly Times in Canada or the British Kingdom from now until the end of 1908 for \$1.00. :: :: ::

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Tenders for Hoisting Engine, Boller and Steel Derrick.

TENDERS addressed to the undersigned at Ottawa, and marked on the envelope "Tender for Engine, Boller and Derrick," will be received up to the 12th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1907, for supplying and delivering at Vancouver B.C., a double cylinder tandem hoisting engine, with four hoisting drums and two which hoist, an upright steel tubular steam boiler of 30 horse power capacity and a structural steel derrick, for the British Columbia Buoy Buoys.

Specification of the machinery and plan of the derrick can be obtained at the Department here, at the Canadian Government Lighthouse Depot, Prescott, Ont., at the Agency of the Department of Marine and Fisheries at Montreal, the office of the Director of the Sorel Shipyard, at the Agency of the Department of Marine and Fisheries at Quebec, and at the offices of the Collector of Customs at Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, Ont., and at St. John's, P.Q.

Tenders must furnish plans of the boiler and engines offered.

Tenders for the engine, boiler and derrick separately, will be received or for all together.

An accepted cheque on a chartered Canadian Bank, equal to 20% of the whole amount of the tender must accompany each tender.

The cheque accompanying the tender accepted will be forfeited if the party tendering declines to contract or fails to complete the work contracted for. The cheque accompanying the unsuccessful tender will be returned when the tenders are opened and the lowest or any tender.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa, Canada, 21st August, 1907.

Newspapers inserting this advertisement without authority from the Department, will not be paid for it.

By order, L. K. JONES, Secretary.

Department of Railways and Canals, Ottawa, 10th August, 1907.

Newspapers inserting this advertisement without authority from the Department will not be paid for it.

By order, P. GORDON, Secretary.

Department of Railways and Canals, Ottawa, 10th August, 1907.

New