

# A General Miscellany of News From Abroad

## THE MARYS' GIFT TO THE QUEEN

The Queen received at Buckingham Palace a deputation from the executive committee which has organized the Marys' Coronation gift to Her Majesty. The members of the deputation, which was presented by Lady Mary Trefusis, president of the fund and lady-in-waiting to the Queen, were Miss Mary Grimes, Miss Mary Codrington, hon. secretary for England, Miss Mary Gilmour, hon. secretary for Scotland, Lady Mary Dawson, hon. secretary for Ireland, the hon. Mary Trefusis, Mrs. Arthur Burton, and Miss Hancock. In deference to the express desire of the Queen, the deputation, in addition to presenting a cheque for £12,500, submitted part of a diamond set of the insignia of the Garter. The personal gift will also include two pictures of the King and the Prince of Wales.

The address of the deputation was as follows: May it please your Majesty, on behalf of many thousands of contributors all over the world, we have the honor to ask your Majesty's gracious acceptance of this gift of £12,500 from Marys of the Empire in commemoration of your Majesty's Coronation. It has been a great privilege and honor to your Majesty's namesakes to be allowed to join in this tribute of loyalty and respectful devotion to your Majesty's person, and it is their fervent prayer that your Majesty may have a long and happy reign.

### The Queen's Reply

The Queen's reply, which is to be subsequently published, in the form of a Coronation letter, was as follows:

I thank most warmly all the Marys of the Empire who have so generously contributed to the gift which has been presented to me.

The thought of the affectionate impulse which prompted it has, I can assure you, deeply touched me. The beautiful insignia of the Garter and the pictures of the King and my son, which will form the personal part of the gift, will be treasured by me throughout my life, and will be handed down, as precious heirlooms, to those who come after.

I look forward with special satisfaction to devoting the remainder of this noble gift to a charitable object in which I am greatly interested.

Her Majesty had intended to devote the whole amount to some charity or charities, but the subscribers were keenly desirous that her Majesty should accept some personal gift which might be preserved as a souvenir of her Majesty's Coronation. The Queen consented to meet the wishes of the subscribers, while deciding at the same time that the greater part of the sum contributed should be applied to philanthropic purposes. The charitable object referred to in the Queen's reply has not yet been disclosed. Since the cheque was drawn, further subscriptions from distant parts have come in, bringing the total to about £13,700, including £700 telegraphed by Lady Grey from Canada. In due course portfolios containing the subscribers' names will be offered for the Queen's acceptance, but in no case will the amounts of the subscriptions be disclosed.

## EMPIRE DAY IN HYDE PARK

The spectacle in Hyde Park was one to kindle the duller imagination and stir the most sluggish heart. From all parts of London procession after procession had marched to the Park, with bands playing and banners flying to salute the Union Jack, till nearly 10,000 boys and girls were concentrated in a great quadrangular space just inside Grosvenor gate, taking up the positions marked out for them in columns each about 1,000 strong.

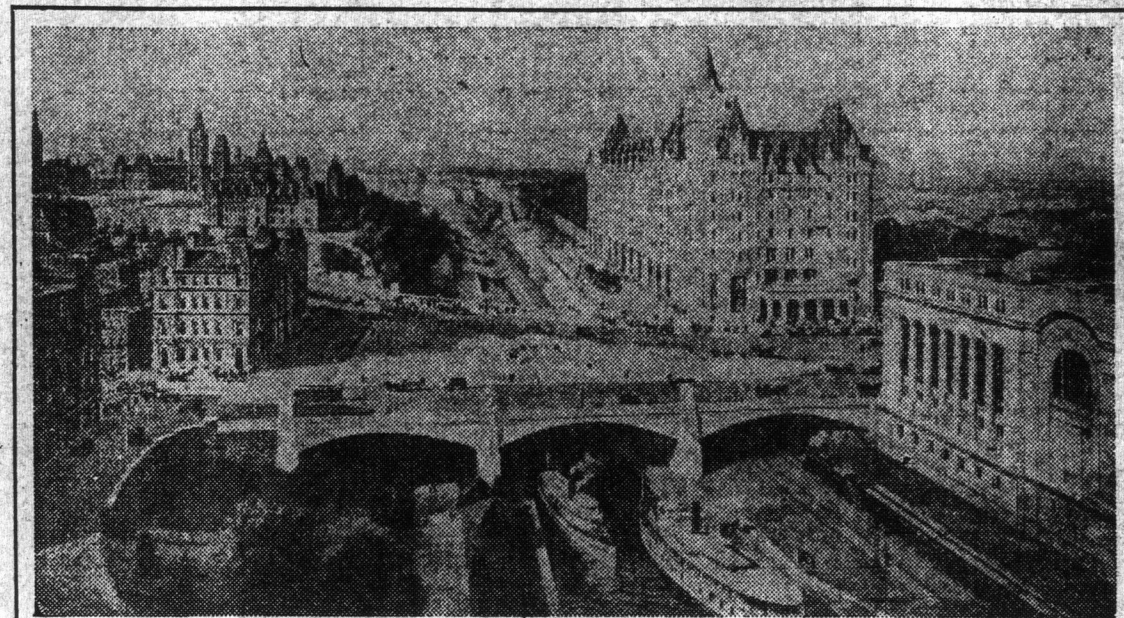
The parade ground, which was kept by a large force of police and lined by a vast crowd of sightseers, numbering probably 200,000, measured 500 by 150 yards. Stretching down the centre, almost from end to end, were ranged the 65 standard-bearers of Empire, a picked body of Scouts under Scoutmaster King, who were to play the most significant part in the day's events. They had marched from the League's office in Westminster, escorted by the band of the Queen's Westminster Rifles, with a guard of honor provided by the Duke of Grafton's Own Scouts from Northampton. Together with the big Union Jack floated the flags of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland; of Canada, Australia, and South Africa, and all the Provinces and States federated in those Dominions; of New Zealand and Newfoundland; of India; and a score and a half of Crown Colonies, not even omitting little St. Helena and the Falkland Islands.

Behind a flagstaff on the east side of the parade ground sat hundreds of invited guests; in the centre the Princess Royal, dressed in grey, with the Duke of Fife, and the Princesses Maud and Alexandra of Fife in light grey-blue; Field-Marshal Lord Roberts, with Lady Aileen Roberts; the Lord Mayor, in his robes of State, who had driven on to the ground with the Lady Mayores in his State carriage; the Mayors of half the London boroughs, also in their robes; the Chairman of the London County Council and its Education Committee; the Prime Minister of New Zealand, with Lady and Miss Ward, and the High Commissioner; Mrs. Fisher, wife of the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth; Senator Pearce, the Australian Minister of Defence; the Premier

of Tasmania and Lady Lewis, and Sir John and Lady Forrest; the Hon. J. H. Turner, Agent-General for British Columbia, and other Canadians; Sir Frederick Pollock, President of the League of the Empire, with Lord Meath, Sir Charles Lyall, and Sir Hay Drummond Hay, Vice-Presidents, and Sir Philip Hutchins, Chairman of Council; Bishop Taylor Smith, Chaplain-General of the Forces; Admiral the Hon. Sir E. R. Fremantle; General Baden-Powell and Miss Baden-Powell; and Colonel Driscoll, with other members of the Legion of Frontiersmen who had volunteered for duty.

At half-past 4 the Union Jack was "broken" at the masthead by the Princess Alexandra, and was saluted by all the flags of the Empire, while the massed bands of the 13th London Regiment and the Queen's Westminster played the National Anthem and the assembled army cheered and cheered again, the Scouts hoisting their hats on their staves and the girls waving white handkerchiefs. To the strains of "Rule Britannia" the 65 standard-

suggested by Mr. Waldie, of Liverpool, but had been at first rejected as too heavy. On the night of November 4, 1847, Dr. Simpson and his two assistants, Dr. George Keith and Dr. Matthews Duncan, sat at a table, each of them provided with a tumbler into which a portion of the tetrachloride had been poured, and from which they inhaled as they conversed. They were all agreeably surprised by the pleasurable sensations arising from the new agent; and their next consciousness was that of finding themselves on the floor, more or less under the table at which they had been sitting, but in other respects uninjured. The inhalation was repeated many times that night, and the new drug was administered to Simpson's niece, Miss Alice Petrie, under the supervision of the three doctors, who had themselves been the first subjects. The chemical name was soon abandoned for the simpler "chloroform," under which the preparation became universally known and used;



IS OTTAWA OUR MOST BEAUTIFUL CITY?

Great Improvements are being made in the appearance of the Capital of the Dominion. This painting shows the Postoffice and Parliament Buildings on the left of the Canal, the new Plaza and twin bridges, the Chateau Laurier in Major's Hill Park, and the recently completed Union Station.

bearers closed in at the double and formed a hollow square, with the Union Jack raised in the centre and the 64 representatives of the Empire facing outwards, their flags half raised like so many spears or bayonets surrounding and protecting the emblem of their world-wide union. The bands played "Land of Hope and Glory," "Auld Lang Syne," and "The Red, White, and Blue"; the square melted away, and the flags returned to their stations.

This central and symbolical act was followed by a march past, which occupied over half an hour and excited the liveliest interest. First came the Boys' Naval Brigade and National Naval Cadets, with field guns, these being followed by a company of girls in blue with drawn cutlasses, the Lads in Blue Brigade, the Cadet Battalion of the Essex Regiment, and the Newport Market Military School. Then came the Boys' Brigade, the Church Lads' Brigade, the Church Scouts Patrols, the London Diocesan Church Lads' Brigade, the Boy Scouts, Baden-Powell's, 500 of the London Diocesan Boy Scout Corps and 500 of the Boys' Life Brigade, Lord Roberts' Boys, Lord Meath's Girl Guides from Chertsey, the District Messenger Corps, the Oratory Boys' Brigade, Dr. Barnardo's Home Brigade, Little Highlanders, the Imperial Service Rifles, the Boys' Brigade, and the Foundling Hospital Brigade, and finally came 14 companies or battalions representing the schools of various London boroughs.

All this time Lord Roberts, accompanied by Vice-Admiral Johnstone, stood under the flag receiving and returning the salute of each column and company as it passed. There were no speeches, but before the guests dispersed the Duke of Fife expressed to the authorities of the League of the Empire the great satisfaction and pleasure felt by the Princess Royal and himself at the remarkable demonstration they had witnessed and the harmonious co-operation of diverse organizations which had made it possible.

## THE DISCOVERY OF CHLOROFORM

Sir James Young Simpson, the discoverer of the anaesthetic properties of chloroform, was born on June 7, 1811, at Bathgate, in Linlithgowshire, the youngest of the seven sons of the village baker. Sulphuric ether had been first used as an anaesthetic in surgery in 1846, and Dr. Simpson determined, as soon as a suitable case occurred to test its efficacy in subduing the pains of childbirth. He first used it for this purpose on January 10, 1847; and although it more than answered his expectations, he thought that some still better agent for the suppression of sensation might possibly be found, and determined to experiment upon himself with a variety of volatile liquids supplied to him by chemists. After many disappointments, a trial was made of the tetrachloride of formyle, which had been

and one of the greatest discoveries of modern times was practically complete. Of the suffering which chloroform has prevented, of the operations which it has rendered possible, and of the lives which it has saved it would now be superfluous to speak; but many stories are told of the opposition which its employment in childbirth at first excited, and which was supposed, by many of those who took part in it, to be of a "religious" character. It was not until Queen Victoria had consulted Simpson on the subject, and had herself taken chloroform during a confinement, that the clamor of a section of the clergy began to give way before the teachings of experience. Simpson's combative spirit plunged him into the thickest of the fray, and his varied knowledge rendered him as much at home with its theological as with its physiological aspects.

So long as anaesthesia is the handmaid of surgery, Simpson's fame cannot die; but his experiments with anaesthetics formed only a small part of his manifold professional and other activities. He was essentially a man of genius in the true sense of the word; a man whose mind threw out brilliant flashes of side light upon many subjects, and whose intuitions in many cases only just missed being great discoveries. As a physician he was of the highest type, giving himself without stint to the arduous work of his calling and on his death, in 1870, leaving behind him a deservedly beloved and honored name.

## THE RACE TO THE SOUTH POLE

It will be remembered that when Capt. Scott, R.N., arrived at the Great Ice Barrier, he found Capt. Amundsen in winter quarters there in the Fram, and learned for the first time that he was to have a competitor on his long march to the South Pole. The following is a part of Capt. Amundsen's report of his journey on the first stage of his long journey from the Canaries to the Far South: Framheim (Long. 164 deg. W., lat. 78 deg. 40 min. S.)

A joyful "Yes!" was my comrades' answer to my question whether they would go south with me, even if it were to the Pole. It was on a dark hot evening in Funchal Roadstead that I laid before them my plan for extending the programme of our expedition. I had never for an instant doubted that they would want to go with me; nevertheless the unanimous "Yes!" made me happy.

The goal of our voyage was the bay that indents the great Antarctic ice-barrier in longitude 164 deg. W. and latitude 78 deg. 30 min. S. It was a long voyage that we had before us—15,000 nautical miles from home—and it was decided to make no stop on the way, for the time was short and it was necessary to make the most of it. We should have to reach the Barrier by the middle of January if we were to get our work done. With the Fram as a

steam vessel this voyage would hardly have been capable of accomplishment, even if we had a fairly large deck cargo of coal; but now, with our economical motor, capable engineers, and abundance of petroleum, it might under favorable circumstances be done. A question that seemed more difficult to solve was that of the supply of fresh water. Besides 19 men, there were 100 Eskimo dogs on board, and they would probably require a considerable quantity of water through the tropics. With our tanks full and the long-boat half full of water we set out, hoping to be able to refill in the region of calms, which is renowned for its frequent deluges of rain. We saw nothing of the deluge of rain, but we did succeed further southwards in catching a few drops from time to time by careful management in other ways. We at last surmounted this serious obstacle, and both men and dogs passed through the tropics without the slightest ailment.

I must say, however, that a great deal was done for our dogs, and the best proof of the attention they received is that we took 115 well-conditioned dogs ashore at the Barrier. An awning was stretched over the entire vessel, and boards were nailed together and laid all over the deck so that the dogs were out of the way of any water that might be lying upon it. I have seen men set a part of their dinner rations aside for their dogs. As puppies made their appearance more care was required; and I have seen my comrades sit in wind and cold, snow and sleet, feeding little orphan puppies—not once only, but for days and weeks on our southward voyage. If an animal showed the slightest sign of illness it was immediately placed under treatment, and a certificated veterinary surgeon could not have done better than our men did.

### The Ice at Last

On the first day of January the first ice was sighted. That fitted well. Next day a few detached ice-floes began to appear. In the evening of the 2nd we crossed the Antarctic Circle, and at 10 p.m. there lay the Antarctic drift ice before us! It did not look particularly imposing—a few strips of spring-frozen, newly-broken ice. Nothing of that kind could hinder us, and we stood straight in, in longitude 176 deg. W. (about) and latitude 66 deg. 30 min. S. It took us four days and nights to get through the belt of pack-ice, and on the evening of the 6th we emerged into open sea—Ross sea—in latitude 70 deg. S. and longitude 180 deg. W. It was more like the North sea on a fine summer day than anything else. With the exception of two small bergs, we did not see a sign of ice from the time we entered it until we sighted the Barrier in about 78 deg. S. latitude.

### The Great Barrier

We sighted the mighty Barrier at 2:30 p.m. on January 11. One would be less than human if one could behold such a sight unmoved. As far as the eye can see, from western to eastern horizon, this wall of ice rises perpendicularly to a height of 100 feet. And yet it is only a very small part of it that one sees. What must the man have thought who first came upon this wall, and for whom all further advance seemed an impossibility? It was one of the world's boldest and cleverest sailors (not to say the cleverest of them all), James Clark Ross, who, after making his way through the ice-pack with his two sailing vessels, the Erebus and the Terror, came, in February, 1842, upon this remarkable ice-wall. Even at that time he observed the great bay, but, of course, he did not venture into it with sailing vessels. For years after the Barrier was regarded as a bar to all further advance southwards. It fell to the lot of a Norwegian, Carsten Borchgrevink, in the Southern Cross in 1900, to prove that this was not the case; he succeeded in entering a small bay (which has since disappeared and been merged with the adjoining great bay), and thence getting on to the Barrier. Here he made a short expedition, and found that the Barrier extended southwards in the form of a wide, level plain, reaching as far as the eye could see. This demolished the theory of its unassailable character, and opened the way towards the south. Subsequently an Englishman, Captain Scott, succeeded in landing in MacMurdo Strait, and thence made an expedition southwards. Sir Ernest Shackleton's brilliant expedition in 1908, in which he reached a latitude of 88 deg. 23 min., will be known to everybody.

The great bay running southwest into the Barrier, which I have chosen as the base of an expedition towards the South Pole, has been observed not only by Ross and Borchgrevink, but also by Scott and Shackleton, and the day after we sighted the Barrier we reached this bay, still in the same situation—about longitude 164 deg. W. It was so full, however, of recently broken up bay ice that there was no question of getting in. We therefore took a little run eastwards along the edge of the Barrier to await events. The next morning (January 13) we returned, and then found that so much of the ice had floated out that there was an opportunity for us to get in. My belief as to the origin of the bay was strengthened as we got further south; the formations stood out more clearly and sharply and at the southern end we could distinctly make out hills and valleys. It was certain that underlying land or shoals here arrested the course of the mighty glacier, and forced it out to either side. There would be no

perilous wintering on a floating barrier. The ground was safe enough. On the following day (January 14) we found a landing place well suited for our enterprise. The long 16,000 miles' voyage was safely accomplished and were only one day out in our calculation. We had arrived a day too early.

### The Building of "Framheim"

After having safely moored the vessel to the ice, we set off to find a suitable place for wintering. This did not take long. About 2½ kilometres from the ship, at the foot of a ridge, well protected from the southeast winds we found an ideal place; and on Monday (January 16) we began to unload our cargo. Two men at once set about the erection of the house, while the rest of the land party continued to bring up the building materials and provisions. With our 115 dogs we had draught power enough, but it was often slow getting the heavily-laden sledges up to the site, which lies at a height of 150 feet. But our dogs know how to draw. It is a pleasure to work with them. They are all picked animals from Greenland.

It is three weeks since we began the building of our station, and now everything is ready. The desolate, icy landscape has undergone a great change. The silence is broken. Where formerly only a solitary penguin or the track of a seal crossed the height there now lies a whole little village. Our solidly-built little house stands safe and secure, sunk 4 ft. down in snow as hard as rock, and supported by backstays on all sides. We have given it the name of Framheim. Its longitude is about 16 deg. W., its latitude 78 deg. 40 min. S., so that it is probably the most southerly human habitation. Round it are set up 15 tents large enough to accommodate 16 men each, for the use of the dogs and as store-houses for our provisions, coal, wood, clothing, etc. The principal food depot is about a kilometre from the station, and contains provisions sufficient for two years. Since we came here we have lived almost entirely on seal meat, and would not exchange steal steak for any dish in the world. There are great numbers of seals here, and we shall soon have preserved enough both for ourselves and all our dogs for the winter.

In a few days the Fram will be ready to leave us. She goes north with greetings and messages, and we shall begin our journey towards the south. It is my intention to lay down a main depot in 80 deg. lat., and a smaller one as far south as possible; and I hope that, with the excellent means at our disposal, we shall get to 83 deg. with the smaller depot as early as the autumn, before the dark season sets in.

## SOME NEW BIOGRAPHIES

"Mr. Thomas Secombe is editing for Messrs. Constable a new series of 'Biographies Ancient and Modern': Lives planned, that is to say, to indicate salient episodes and living movements in the course mainly of the last hundred years, but not to exclude lives far more ancient, if these are still potent in some way or other. Mohammed and Charlemagne, for instance, will be included. The literary squadron will come first, it appears, with Sainte-Beuve, Sheridan, Lafcadio Hearn, Samuel Butler, The Two Dumas, Tolstoy, and Morris. Among statesmen and savants the names of Bismarck, Lincoln, Ito, Parnell, Garibaldi, Pasteur, Mendel, and Galton are to be among the early volumes," says the Nation.

While no one can doubt the excellence of the intentions of the distinguished people who recently signed a manifesto deploring the sale of a certain class of fiction for fear of its falling into the hands of the youth of this country, it may very well be doubted whether their proposal for a stricter censorship would not defeat its own object. This seems to be the view of Mr. A. C. Benson, whose long experience as a master at Eton entitles his views to respect. Is it not possible that the state of mind which has suggested the remedy is in some measure the cause of the disease? Is there not a dishonest reticence? What did Puritanism effect in the way of purifying literature? "The great English middle class," writes Matthew Arnold, "whose intelligent sympathy had upheld a Shakespeare, entered the prison of Puritanism." And when the prisoners were liberated, they wrote Restoration comedy!

## ALMOST TOO LATE

As usual, the road was "up" and so was part of the street, for that matter. But it takes more than this to keep Mrs. Bargainhunter at home. Her two children comfortably ensconced in the perambulator, she sailed down the yawning street.

"Oh, what a darling of a duck of a sweet hat!" she murmured. And, leaving the perambulator, she walked to the shop window for a closer look. Absorbed in that darling of a hat, she gazed at it all unconscious of the fact that the perambulator had rolled away into a trench, until at last she was awakened from her blissful dream by the gruff voice of a workman. "Say, missus," he said, "dyer want these kiddies any more? 'Cas we're just going to fill the hole up!"