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LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, June 25th, 1917.

"TINO" IN LONDON.

Ex-King "Tino" was no stranger to London and he paid a visit to the Metropolis as Duke of Sparta for the 1897 Jubilee. During his stay he was "shown the Elephant"—i.e., taken to Billingsgate fish market and Covent Garden (London's principal fruit, flower and vegetable market) in the small hours. He and his party breakfasted at 4 a.m. off kidneys and bacon at a famous public house in Russell Street, Covent Garden, washing the meal down with "a port of coffee," the price of which was sixpence, for the coffee contained a goodly drop of rum. The landlord always declared that "Tino" had a good "follow" of sausages and eggs and bacon.

THE MAN WITH THE EGGS.

A curious little incident of the recent air raid reaches me. A man returning from the country, where he had got a present of a dozen eggs, was in the train that was bombed in a London station. He heard the first bomb dropped as the train came in, got out hurriedly, and from a distance along the platform he saw a bomb strike the carriage he had been in. Several people were killed in it. He left the station, and was about to enter an Underground Tube station when another bomb burst, and he had another narrow escape. He was rushed into the Tube by the crowd, and ultimately reached home. When he opened his basket he found all his eggs safe.

ALL IN THE DAY'S WORK.

A woman from one of the overseas Dominions who is now doing war work in London, and whose office building—itsself slightly damaged—is in the heart of the district where most casualties occurred, tells me that she

was immediately impressed by the courage the City girls displayed. They had shared an experience which had almost unnerved her. They knew that girls had been killed in adjacent buildings, but when they came into the tea room just outside the police cordon within an hour of the raid it was difficult to realise what they had gone through. They greeted the waitresses whom they knew with inquiries, and said something about what had happened, but without any appearance of excitement. One girl, whose conversation showed that her own office had been bombed, was concerned to know whether any of the apricot pudding had survived, because if so she wanted some. The others talked together about the raid, but they also talked of things quite remote, and my informant said she noticed that their voices were never raised or excited.

GROWING WAR EXPENDITURE.

Seldom has surprises been more instantly and emphatically expressed in the House of Commons than when the Chancellor of the Exchequer recently announced the very great and generally unexpected leap upwards in Britain's daily war expenditure. May's figure is being sought on this very difficult subject, and Bonar Law will be invited to state what proportion the following groups of expenditure bear to the total daily expenditure of nearly £8,000,000 (\$40,000,000): Pay, pensions, and allowances paid to the Army and Navy; salaries, pay, pensions, and allowances to all other Government employees, including civil servants; and expenditure on all supplies and material actually occasioned by war, distinguishing between our expenditure within the country and outside. To those who know the circumstances it is obvious that even if the sum of these important items were stated it would not reach any-

thing like the gross total, and perhaps not a half of it. Whether the Cabinet will think it in the public interest to give at this moment the full details which would explain the advances that go to make up the whole is doubtful. If such details can be stated, however, the public will see that what is strictly to be termed expenditure on war effort is, as usual, nothing like the full amount the taxpayer is called on to find.

"GREAT PAUL" MAY RING.

The Lord Mayor of London wants to have the great bell of St. Paul's Cathedral rung as an air raid warning. This bell is hardly ever heard, owing to its situational effect on the fabric of the Cathedral, and the Dean and Chapter are likely to report to Sir William Dunn (the Lord Mayor) that it would be inadvisable to bring it into use. Many people thought that "Great Paul," as the bell is called, was rung when King Edward died, but the bell actually tolled was "Great Tom," which always chimes the hours. "Great Paul" is the largest and heaviest bell in this country. "Big Ben's" successor at Westminster, "St. Stephen," is wider, but lighter, and not so elegant. The official "Big Ben" weighed 14 tons, as compared with "Great Paul's" 17 tons. "Great Paul" is nearly twice as heavy as the largest bell at St. Peter's in Rome, but it is not by a long way the largest in the world. "Great Paul" was cast in 1531 at a cost of about £3,000. The metal took six days to cool after being poured into the mould. When the bell was taken to St. Paul's Cathedral a portion of the doorway had to be removed to admit it. It was brought from the founders at Loughborough on a specially constructed car drawn by a traction engine, and the journey was performed at night, owing to the difficulties of transit.

JAPAN EXPLAINS GOLD MOVEMENTS.

I learn that the American Government have expressed satisfaction with the explanation received from Japan respecting its object in withdrawing gold from the United States at the annual rate of £40,000,000 (\$200,000,000). Japan has explained that the war has made her a great creditor nation; that her exports greatly exceed her imports, and that the movement of gold has been made imperative by abnormal commercial conditions. Gold exports from the United States to Japan within the last three or four weeks have been £2,000,000 and £3,000,000 (\$10,000,000 and \$15,000,000), and since the opening of the year they have totalled £7,000,000 (\$35,000,000). In the last eight months they have reached an aggregate of about £10,000,000 (\$50,000,000) and there is said to be every indication that the large shipments will continue for several months, and even increasingly.

QUEEN MARY NONPLUSED.

I have heard an interesting little story of how the Queen was, for once, rather at a loss at one of the hospitals the other day. Her Majesty is so well posted that it gives an attractive human touch to know that she is not in the least that awful personage, the too well-informed woman. She and the King were going the rounds amongst

a number of Australian patients, and to each found something interesting and to the point to say about their homeland. "And where do you come from?" inquired Her Majesty of yet another lad. "From the Solomon Islands," was the reply. For a moment the Queen faltered—for the Solomon Islands are very large, and, in short, possibly she did not know exactly where the Solomon Islands are. "And how do you like England?" asked the Queen—and the situation was saved.

A ROSE DUCHES.

The Duchess of Portland, smiling and radiant in her black dress and rose-wreathed straw hat, was on Wednesday a charming addition to Queen Alexandra's Rose Day procession. Her Grace is usually in attendance on this very special occasion. When I saw her she was chatting gaily with Miss Charlotte Knollys, who was seated beside the Duchess, with another of Queen Alexandra's lifelong friends, Sir Dighton Probyn, opposite. The Queen Mother looked radiantly pleased with her reception from ladies in carriages at Hyde Park Corner and humbler folk who rose from their garden seats to greet her as she passed on her way to the City. Her Majesty wore a more sumptuous toilette than usual, the corsage in black and white lace with touches of mauve matching the sweet roses heaped among the Alexandra roses. Princess Victoria had brightened her black dress by touches of white and a corsage bouquet of Alexandra roses.

McMurdo's Store News

SATURDAY, July 21, 1917.

A prominent gentleman who was a long time discovering the shaving soap that really suited him "down to the ground" found it at last in Erasmic Shaving Soap, and ordered a quarter dozen from us the other day so that he should not run out of it. There is plenty more in store. Why not give Erasmic a chance with your beard next time. Price 30c. a stick.

All these Saline preparations so popular on both sides of the water have shown an upward price tendency during the last three years. McMurdo's Saline, though most people who have some knowledge of these things would pronounce it one of the three best, is still sold at the comparatively modest price of 65c. a bottle.

Continuous Firing Feature of a New American Gun.

Announcement has been made of the development of an American machine gun capable of continuous firing, says the August Popular Mechanics Magazine. Ammunition is carried to its feed block by an endless belt kept filled by an automatic reloading mechanism. Supply hoppers contain from 2,500 to 10,000 cartridges and are replenished or replaced without interfering with operation. Most machine guns fire about 500 shots a minute and are supplied with ammunition by belts holding approximately 250 cartridges. Thus they are able to fire uninterruptedly for only 30 seconds, while the new instrument spits thousands of missiles without pausing and thereby does the work of two ordinary pieces. For specific purposes the gun is built integral with some vehicle, such as a motor-cycle, aeroplane, or motorboat. Instead of being manually operated, its mechanism is motor-driven. The machine that rushes it into action, also mounts and operates it. No time is consumed in assembling or dismantling the piece when seconds are precious. An aeroplane pilot can be his own gunner, for by touching a button with a finger or foot, the instrument is put into action. For trench use, a special mounting with creeper wheels is provided and an electric-cable control used. This arrangement allows the operator to remain in a protected position and dispatch the gun across "No Man's Land" on its deadly mission. The direction and speed of its movements, as well as its angle and rate of fire, are regulated with buttons. An illustration, showing the new weapon in use, accompanies the article.

Your Boys and Girls.

The proper care of babies and children is as much a study and a life work as any business that a man has ever undertaken. And yet, to-day the majority of girls are wholly unprepared for the duties of motherhood. The richer classes depend upon their trained nurses more or less, but the thousands of mothers of the middle class are left to experiment for themselves, usually at a cost of the health of their domestic happiness, and at the risk of their little ones' lives.

Few young mothers have been told much about the care of babies and no one knows but a mother how utterly helpless and overwhelmed she feels when the little live bundle is placed in her care for the first time. She realizes that its health, both body and soul, depends upon her, and not only that, but perhaps the whole happiness of the family is hinged on her care of that baby.

Ayre & Sons LIMITED

To our Fishing Tackle Dept. we have added recently some new imports, viz.:
SALMON and TROUT CASTS.
GUT HOOKS—Single and Double Gauged.
FLY and CAST BOOKS.
FISHING RODS from \$1.50 up.
We have a good stock of WADERS & BROGANS.
LANDING NETS and MOSQUITO NETS.
PRESERVED and ARTIFICIAL BAIT.

You will find in our Camping-out Dept.—
TENTS, CAMP CHAIRS.
SINGLE SPRING STRETCHERS.
LUNCH BOXES, LUNCH BASKETS.
PAPER PLATES, ICE CREAM PLATES.
WAXED SANDWICH PAPER.
PAPER TABLE CLOTHS.
PAPER TOWELS, PAPER NAPKINS,
and many other useful articles for the simple life.

SPECIAL !
Motor Boat Supplies

SPECIAL !
Harvesting Tools

Now Then, Ladies, Here You Are!

We have received another lot of our
Celebrated

Seventeen Cent Hose.

Those who have had them will want more and if you have not had some see that you do not miss this opportunity.

Ladies' Tan, Ladies' Black Hose, 17 cents per pair.

Ladies' Vests, without sleeve, 15c.

Ladies' Vests, with sleeve, 18 cts.

In our window to-day we are showing
the newest in

Ready-to-Wear

PANAMA HATS.

S. MILLEY

The Quality of Our

BLOUSES!

Our White Lawn Blouses are neat, natty, trim, and really very chic, while being of English make are perfect in fit; the extra special value of their texture giving the best of results, as regards their wearing and lasting powers.

White Lawn Blouses.

Prices: 85c. to \$1.50 each.

We are also showing a very tempting assortment of WHITE EMBROIDERED LAWN COLLARS at 25c. each, just now at

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