

LIFE OF SPANISH KING

ALFONSO'S LIFE ONE OF TIRELESS ENERGY.

Works to Promote Advancement of Spain—Little Time to Amusement.

A complete examination of the many details of the daily life of King Alfonso XIII. of Spain, would be well nigh impossible. All the world is aware of his tireless energy and activity, and although a portion of the Spanish press, recently, with some considerable bitterness, censured his Majesty's love of sport, the monarch does not by any means neglect the affairs of state. Very progressive, he earnestly tries to promote the advancement and well-being of the land over which he rules.

Don Alfonso is usually dressed at 7.30 a. m., and ready to peruse the morning papers, go through his mail and attend to important despatches.

At about 9 o'clock the early breakfast is served, the King always taking his meal in private with the other members of the royal family. This invariably consists of cafe au lait, soft boiled eggs, chicken, either cold or grilled, and fruit.

LUNCH AT 1.30.

After this the Minister on duty for the day is received, and every Thursday there is a Cabinet Council presided over by the King. A great deal of correspondence has to be attended to, petitions of all kind looked into and answered. The humble petition of the poor man receives the same attention at the hands of Don Alfonso as does one from his more fortunate brothers.

Luncheon is served at 1.30. "I have been in attendance on the King for the past two years," a gentleman of the Court said to the 'Times' correspondent the other day, "and in that time I have hardly ever known him to be able to sit down punctually to the meal—so many and overwhelming are his occupations and engagements it is usually near 3 o'clock before the King is able to take his lunch."

A short interval in the afternoon is devoted by Don Alfonso to his own amusement, either playing golf or tennis in the Casa de Campo or taking an automobile drive or a ride on horseback.

"CHILDREN'S HOUR" SACRED.

Later on comes the "children's hour," and with these precious moments the King allows nothing to interfere. It is the short time in the twenty-four hours he gives himself to spend in private with the Queen and his two infant sons. Then he plays with them as other fathers do with their little ones, and tries to forget the cares and burdens of his exalted station.

Afterward come audiences, civil and military, and when possible a visit to the opera or to one of the other Madrid theatres, though more frequently after dinner, which is served at 8.30, the King prefers rest and retirement.

The little Prince of Asturias, now nearly two months old, is a fine sturdy little fellow, with all his mother's looks, and he is almost as fair as she. The first words he was taught by the King were "Papa" and "Mama" and "Viva Espana." The private apartments of the Royal Palace are furnished with no splendor, but with solid English comfort, the furnishings and installations having been provided by a famous London firm.

CONTRAST IN CEREMONIES.

Japanese and Russians Commemorate the Battle of Chemulpo.

The dismal city of Chemulpo, on the west coast of Corea, recently witnessed two strangely contrasting ceremonies, each conducted by aliens in the land and each commemorating the historic event which served to make the name of the town known around the world. The occasion of the demonstrations was the anniversary on February 9 of the battle between the Russian and Japanese naval detachments outside the harbor.

Hundreds of Japanese came down from Seoul, the capital city, sixty miles away, to join with the large Japanese colony at Chemulpo in making the day a typical holiday of their home land. All of the Japanese quarter in the town blossomed with bunting, flags and lanterns, day fireworks banged off the new stone quay at the waterfront and every sendo and rickshaw man in town was out behind a brass band, trailing his enthusiasm through the narrow streets of the mongrel town.

There were long speeches by the high sounding formal oratory of the Japanese, a parade drill of some of the Japanese soldiers still retained in Corea, for the good of Coreans, and a long night afterward of saki drinking and dancing by the geisha.

The Russians who came down from Seoul, had no part in the Japanese festivities. With M. de Somov, the Russian Consul-General, there were M. Birukoff, the archimandrite of the Orthodox Church in Corea, a few attaches from the consulate and half a dozen Russian merchants and travelers.

They went out to the little foreign burying ground on a bleak, treeless hill back of the town and there, where all of the dead that had been recovered from the battle was buried, the archimandrite conducted the Orthodox service for the repose of the dead. The responses were sung by Corean converts.

Among some of the foreigners who stood in the cemetery with uncovered heads while the priest offered up prayers for the brave dead were those who remembered the day when the Variag and Korietz came limping back into the harbor after having stood off for more than an hour the overwhelming squadron under Admiral Uriu. The Variag, her unprotected sides punctured like a sieve, was listing to such an extent that the blackened snouts of some of her starboard guns was dipping in the waves.

The Korietz, a little gunboat hardly bigger than a revenue cutter, had been under the protection of her bigger sister and was practically unhurt.

Then it was that, as the foreigners who ranged the hillside back of the town and the knobs of the harbor islands saw the conquering Japanese squadron coming in to take its prizes, the roar of the fired magazines smote the ugly little town and the two Russian ships dropped to the mud of the harbor. Even as the smoke of the explosions mushroomed out in the higher air strata and the bay's waters were peppered with falling fragments of the fighting ships, the band on the Italian cruiser, lying at anchor in the inner harbor, struck up the heavy cadences of the Russian national hymn in a requiem.

INVASION BY AEROPLANE.

At Present are Incapable of Transporting Armies through Air.

The vision which has recently been conjured up by certain pseudo-scientific alarmists of fleets of German aeroplanes hovering over the Bank of England need not be taken seriously.

Aeroplanes as at present constructed are merely large power-driven kites, and are about as incapable of transporting armies through the air as anything of the kind that can possibly be imagined.

Such invasion scares have a tendency to recur whenever a new invention seems to threaten our insularity. The advent of the steamship, for instance, was deemed by our forefathers to be a certain presage of disaster in this direction.

Still more so the balloon! France was then to England the bogey that Germany is supposed to be now, and when it became known to us that our neighbors across the Channel—the balloon had its origin, of course, in France—had actually succeeded in navigating the air, our anger and alarm knew no bounds. We were quite certain, in our own minds, that it was only a question of time before our traditional enemy dropped down upon us in force from the sky.

Even France, too, was credited with having become obsessed with the idea, just as Germany is popularly believed to be at present. Only then it was not a Zeppelin airship or a Wright flying machine, that was to be employed, but an "aerostatic globe," designed by no less a personage than the renowned Marshal Ney. In this, French soldiers were to be projected across the Straits of Dover fifty at a time.—Pearson's Weekly.

GRIEVOUS OFFENCE.

"No, sir," said Plodding Pete; "I would not stop another minute to talk to dem folks. Dey passed me out a short an' ugly word."

"What was it?"

"'Work.'"

"Now, Tommy," said his mother reprovingly, "someone has been disturbing the jam. I bet you had a finger in it." "No'm," replied Tommy promptly; "I had a whole hand in it!"

VERY STRANGE NATION

NATIVES OF BUKEDI WEAR NO CLOTHES.

Have a Wonderful System of Cultivation — Every Man for Himself.

In a Colonial Office report, written by the well-known writer and Governor of Uganda, Central Africa, Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, is a vivid description of a cannibal race, who go about absolutely naked, and yet are among the most skilled agriculturists on the face of the earth.

Most of the Eastern Province of Uganda is densely populated by primitive and warlike tribes, who possess no political organization. Bukedi is the name of the country, meaning the land of the naked.

"Though I had heard already of the enormous density of the population," says Mr. Hesketh Bell, "and of the remarkable pitch to which they had carried their cultivation of the land, my trip through the Bagishu country in August filled me with amazement. We travelled for four days through enchanting scenery, and traversed a country the like of which is, probably, not to be seen in any other part of Africa.

The great green mass of Mount Elgen, 14,000 feet high, towers up into the clouds, and its mighty buttresses stretch far out into the surrounding plain. Between these spurs lie broad and gently sloping valleys, each with its swiftly-flowing stream of limpid water.

But instead of the tangled luxuriance of wild tropical vegetation which would usually characterize such a scene in mid-Africa, the eye was almost equally charmed by the sight of almost unparalleled cultivation. Right through the smiling valleys, and up to the vast summits of the hills nothing but continuous fields of bananas, millet, and yams could be seen.

FINE SYSTEM OF CULTIVATION

"It is no exaggeration to state that over 80 per cent. of the land is under cultivation. The few green patches of grass that one could see here and there had evidently only been spared so as to provide pasture for the herds of cattle and goats. The whole of this 'garden' is cut up into small rectangular lots, each carefully defined by hedges of giant thistles.

"Dotted all about, in wondrous profusion, are the neat, dome-shaped huts of the Bagishu, looking like immense hives, each one flanked by one or two smaller huts serving as granaries.

"So clearly and neatly marked are the boundaries of all plots that the countryside reminded me of the vineyards of Switzerland or of Southern France, and the whole scene gave me an impression of calm security and peace.

"In this dense crowd of over 400,000 negroes, living in an area about the size of Yorkshire, there is barely a trace of organization of any kind. It is every man for himself, and, in most cases, every

man's hand against his neighbor. "Not only do they eschew clothing of any sort, but they are addicted to cannibalism of a particularly revolting kind. They do not hunt and kill people for the sake of their flesh, but they consider that burial is a wanton waste of food.

NOCTURNAL EXCURSIONS.

"The northern people take amusing precautions with regard to burglars. All the lads and unmarried young men are made to sleep in small, specially-constructed huts raised high up on posts. The doors of these huts are so small that the occupants have to wriggle in on their stomachs.

"Access is only gained by a ladder, which is carefully removed as soon as the young men have been safely disposed of for the night.

"I was told that, among some of the tribes, fine ashes are strewn under these human pigeon-holes, so that tell-tale footprints would indicate any attempt at a nocturnal excursion. The people are polygamous, and each man secures as many wives as he can purchase or capture."

BRITAIN'S DRINK BILL.

Less Last Year by £7,529,913 Than in 1907.

The drink bill of the United Kingdom for 1908, as estimated by Dr. Dawson Burns, shows the greatest reduction in any one year that has yet been recorded. The difference between 1907 and 1908 was nearly six millions (£5,955,718), while, taking the increase of population into account, the diminution was not less than seven and a half millions (£7,529,913). Spirits, beer, and wine all shared in the reduction. The average expenditure per head, which was £3 10s 9d in 1907, fell to £3 12s 3 3/4d in 1908, which signifies an average outlay of £18 is 6 3/4d by every family of five persons. These averages do not indicate the amounts individually expended. The entire body of total abstainers and a large proportion of the juvenile population contribute nothing to the drink bill; and among those who contribute the differences of amount are exceedingly great.

As might be expected, the three kingdoms vary considerably in their average expenditure, that of England being £3 15s 5 1/4d, of Scotland £2 18s 9 3/4d, and of Ireland £3 is 6d.

The liquors consumed differ much in their alcoholic strength, and, applying the alcoholic test to the several kingdoms. England shows an average consumption of alcohol 1.9 per head, Scotland 1.3, and Ireland 1.5.

The difference of the expenditure in 1907 and 1908 points to a widely prevailing cause, effecting the spending power of the community generally. Social reformers of all classes will regard with satisfaction any reduction of the drink bill, which for 1908 still stood at £161,000,82.

It takes a woman to have faith in a man when she hasn't.

MOST SUCCESSFUL MAN

HOW THEY STARTED THEIR GREAT CAREERS.

Enormous Proportions to Which Their Businesses Have Grown.

Sir Donald Currie, the great shipowner, who has done more than any other man to make South Africa, began his strenuous life on a stool in a Greenock shipping office, and saved the small capital on which he himself started as an owner of ships while working for the newly formed Cunard Company.

Mr. Ismay, the founder of the great White Star Line, spent his earliest working years as an apprentice to a firm of Liverpool shipowners, and proved so energetic and thrifty that at twenty-five he was able to start in business.

BLACKSMITH TO A KNIGHT.

Sir William Arrol, the famous engineer, and builder of the Tay and Forth bridges, was working in a cotton mill at nine, and spent many years of drudgery as blacksmith, mechanic and jobbing boiler-maker before fortune condescended to smile on his industry. And he was already in sight of his thirtieth birthday when he was able to set up in business on his own account on savings amounting to £85, £43 of which he spent on engine and boiler.

At fifteen Sir Alfred Jones, the "man who made Jamaica," the millionaire owner of a vast fleet of steamships, was working early and late in the office of Messrs. Laird, Fletcher and Co., who managed the African Steamship Company. "Small pay and plenty of work were my lot," he says, "but I continued to study in the evenings at the Liverpool College."

Mr. Ernest Cassel, millionaire and philanthropist, spent the first three years of his working life in the office of a Liverpool grain merchant before migrating to London to spend a few more years as clerk in a financial house. Here his great financial talent started him on the road to fortune, and while he was still in the thirties he was negotiating important foreign loans, and was accounted one of the most astute and successful financiers in Europe.

THE TANGYE FORTUNE.

At fourteen the late Sir Richard Tangye was learning the art of teaching, rising at five o'clock every morning and working until late into the night for a salary of less than 2s. a month, including his board and lodging; and four years later he was "passing rich" on £30 a year as clerk to a firm of Birmingham engineers. The turn of the tide came when, in partnership with his brothers, he rented a manufacturer's packing-room at 4s. a week, with steam power thrown in, and the firm of Tangye Bros., Engineers, which was to become one of the most famous in the world, was obscurely cradled.—London Tit-Bits.

PA'S NIGHTMARE--DON'T WAKE HIM UP

