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LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, March 10, 1919.

PRINCE GEORGE AND THE NAVY.

Prince Albert, who was intended to be the sailor of the Royal Family, is now in the Royal Air Force, and finds his life so attractive that he has no intention of returning to the Fleet. Prince Henry is anxious to join the Guards as a cadet, so it will probably fall to the lot of Prince George, the King's youngest son, to follow his father's footsteps at sea. Prince George is said to be very anxious to do this. It is not proposed at present that he should undergo the ordinary training of a naval cadet.

POSTS FOR RETURNED GENERALS.

The question of providing further military employment for our principal Generals as they return from the various theatres of war is now receiving the earnest consideration of the authorities. It would seem probable that several of these will have to go on to the retired list for a time, as there are not nearly enough appointments to go round, though it is hoped in time to find posts for all those who have especially distinguished themselves. All the principal military commands at home and in the Dependencies are held at the present time "for the duration of the war," and this means that they will all become vacant automatically the day after peace is officially proclaimed. Among these will be the important and much-coveted post of Commander-in-Chief in India, and it is understood that this will shortly be offered to Sir Douglas Haig, unless the Hague to the effect that the Netherlands Government have despatched to the local Governors in the Dutch East Indies instructions that from the first of next month all transfers or sales of landed property of whatever description in the colonies must be closely scrutinized, and in given circumstances vetoed. This instruction which appears to be of a very firm and comprehensive character, are understood to be the result of the recently

COMING GIANT TRIPLANE.

In secret, and with speed, is being completed in England an enormous aeroplane, which seems likely to be the start of a new period in aircraft manufacture. If the war had continued, this aeroplane would have been used as a weapon against Berlin, and would have been able to drop over five tons of bombs on that unapproachable Mecca of all night-bombers, instead of the half-ton of bombs carried by the four-engine Handley-Page, which were actually under orders to leave for Berlin on the night of November 11th. Our new giant is the Tarrant triplane, originated by W. G. Tarrant, of Byfleet, and Captain P. T. Rawlings. On its flight over London, which, if all goes well, will be made seven or eight weeks from now, it will carry 81 passengers. It weighs about 20 tons, and has a wing expanse of 175 feet, yet it will be flown by one man, whose strength will suffice to control and direct it. Its construction is secret, but its builders say they have an entirely new system, which simplifies and cheapens manufacture, and is essentially one of standardisation. Therefore, the whole future of the aircraft industry will be greatly benefited if this great experiment succeeds. The Handley-Page Company, meanwhile, say that they are building giants, about twice the size of the commercial machines, with a span of 100 feet.

HOLLAND AND GERMAN DESIGNS.

Information has reached an authoritative quarter here from The Hague to the effect that the Netherlands Government have despatched to the local Governors in the Dutch East Indies instructions that from the first of next month all transfers or sales of landed property of whatever description in the colonies must be closely scrutinized, and in given circumstances vetoed. This instruction which appears to be of a very firm and comprehensive character, are understood to be the result of the recently

developed practice on the part of German agents and syndicates to acquire sites and buildings in the Dutch East Indies which may be regarded as possessing military as well as commercial value. It would also seem that the relations maintained between these agents and some of the native chiefs are not what might be desired by the Dutch Government.

A CRIME NO LONGER.

Those menacing notice boards which threatened a fine of 3500 or six months in prison for all children and others feeding the ducks on the Serpentine in Hyde Park (London's principal open space), have been taken away. The birds look plumper already, and the toddling children come to the river prepared with crusts to throw to their friends. The next step to remove the camouflage school established by Colonel Solomon J. Solomon, the Royal Academician, between the Powder Magazine and the head of the Serpentine. That is a wonderful place, filled with concealed trenches, shrouded gun posts, artificial trees, and all sorts of surprises, and one rather wishes that the Imperial War Museum would keep it up, but I learn that it is to be evacuated in May. Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park begin to feel the spring. The white crocus is now opening to keep the yellow ones company, and one thorn at Marlborough Gate is in leaf.

WOMEN BUS CONDUCTORS GOING.

The unexpected dismissal of some three hundred women omnibus conductors has caused dismay among those of the thousands who are left who like their job and hoped that it would be a long time before they were demobilized. Of course it has always been understood that they would give up their places to the men when they returned, and on those grounds they are quite willing to go. Many of them are married women—one has heard them talking to women passengers about "the kids at home,"—but those who will have to look for other jobs feel that it will not be easy to go back to the old routine. One of the drivers told me that some of the smartest of them have been ladies' maids; others, very efficient, have been domestic servants, and they must often have enjoyed telling former mistresses to "pass further up there." They have on the whole been very kindly and courteous. But they have been very firm, and it will be small consolation when they are back in subordinate, ill-paid positions to recall the days when they held up the "bus in Whitechapel Road (London's Jewish quarter) until they secured the obedience of some protesting parent—they put on the sturdiest girls to deal with Whitechapel parents—or ordered a staff officer to come off the crowded top.

THE HUN AT HOME.

A soldier on the Rhine writes: "The attitude of the Hun—he does not, by the way, mind being called a Hun, though he likes at 'Boche'—continues to puzzle the English soldier in the occupied region. I was at the opera in Cologne the other day, and into the rather trivial piece were introduced all sorts of by-play. Many of the jokes were on the designation 'Hun,' but others dealt with the occupation—last of all subjects for joking, one would imagine, from the Boche point of view. A reference to half a century later, 'when we shall still be occupied,' brought shouts of laughter from the natives. It is an incredible attitude, and I do not know whether to attribute it to callousness, or to relief that Cologne is not Berlin."

THE RAIDER WOLF.

In view of the damage inflicted on British commerce by the disguised raiders Mowse and Wolf, many people were surprised that the Germans did not try to send out more of these ships. I now learn that from beginning to end about 14 different raiding cruisers, disguised as merchantmen, attempted to break through the North Sea blockade and reach the ocean. The fact that only two succeeded in doing so speaks volumes for the vigilance of our patrols. The Mowse made two successful trips in and out, but on the third attempt she was intercepted, and just escaped back to Germany. In July, 1916, the raider Meteor was caught and sunk, as was the Graf in the previous February. In the spring of 1917 the raider Wolf, which had already made one cruise in the Pacific, left Kiel on a second voyage, but was caught when three days out and sunk. The Admiralty kept the secret, which has only just been revealed.

FILMS FROM DOMINIONS.

I notice that one of the biggest picture houses in London is about to show a South African historical film taken by a Johannesburg company, and depicting heroic fights in the Zululand War. This, I think, is the second big African film to be shown here. It may be that on the Veit, where the air is even clearer than in California, a film industry may develop to rival the American one. Most people recognize that big open air spectacles and dramas cannot be cinematographed in our English damp misty atmosphere with the unvarying success of the Californian producers. But it would be a very good thing for the Empire if the British Dominions

put their climate and adventurous life to profit by developing the film industry. Why should not the South African pioneer or a Westralian prospector with his camels be as familiar to our school children as the Wild West cowboy who now only exists for purposes of film drama?

Passover.

The Jewish feast of Passover falls on the 15th day of Nisan, corresponding this year with Tuesday, April 15th. The celebration begins on the evening of April 14th with sundown. The manner of its observance was determined largely by the biblical ordinances concerning this feast. It is to be observed for a period of seven days. Those who cherish customs that originated after biblical times will keep the feast eight days.

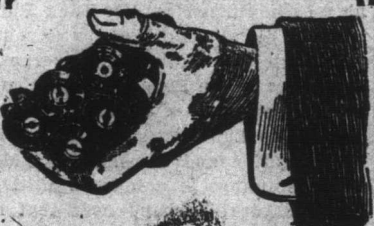
The ceremonial are such as are calculated to bring home the historical event which the feast commemorates, namely the new born freedom vouchsafed to Israel after the long period of oppression endured under Egyptian tyranny. The eating of unleavened bread is enjoined a number of times in the biblical regulations touching the observance of the Passover feast. Unleavened bread is characterized as the "bread of affliction," and is also referred to in the Bible as the bread that was unleavened because of the enforced hasty departure from Egypt. In post-biblical times the earnest desire to keep the injunctions most scrupulously led the teachers of Israel to enact laws, such as the use of special dishes that had been guarded from contact with leaven and reserved only for the Passover season.

A charming and effective feature in the celebration of the feast is the special Seder service around the festive family board on the first evening of the feast, to which the Orthodox add a second evening. At this family service a special ritual known as the "Haggadah" is read. This ritual contains the story of the redemption from servitude, certain reflections inspired by the memories of old and certain psalms. This is followed by the festive meal after which Grace is recited. The service concludes with the reading of additional psalms, the recitation of prayers and the singing of time honored hymns. To this home service stranger and homeless are cordially invited. On a table in front of him who presides over the meal are placed objects reminiscent of the ancient service and servitude, such as bitter herbs, reminder of the bitter lot of those who toiled in Egypt; a roast bone, calling to mind the ancient paschal lamb; a roasted egg, memorial of the free will offering that was brought in addition to the paschal lamb; parsley and the bowl of salt water, symbolizing the hyssop and its use in the first Passover observed in Egypt, and a connection of nuts and apples to represent the clay which Israel worked into bricks.

The Passover falling at the beginning of Spring, had originally a pastoral and agricultural character, which in time was overshadowed by the historical event associated later with the feast. Freedom and its obligation is the keynote of the celebration. The Reform synagogues hold special services only on the first and seventh days, while the Orthodox observe also the second day and an additional eighth day.

Comedy Play.

On Thursday, April 17th, in the Methodist College Hall, the three-act comedy entitled "Rise, Comes to Star," will be staged. The personnel will be Lieut. and Mrs. L. Cooper, Mrs. H. A. Outerbridge, Mrs. C. Huton, Miss M. Mitchell, Messrs. Knight, Love and Capt. Tait. The proceeds will be in aid of the Society for Protection of Animals, and the affair promises to be the acme of comedian acting.



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Dead or Not Dead.

An interesting case is before Judge Wood in the courts at Los Angeles, California. The point is, "Can a dead man be divorced?" The husband died a few weeks after he had entered an interlocutory decree from his wife.

By his death she became his widow and entitled to her widow's share of the estate, which is placed at one million dollars. The attorney for the estate asks that a final decree be entered in the suit, which is opposed by counsel for the wife, who asks the court "is the court going to drag him from his grave and say that he is not

dead and enter a final decree of divorce which God entered six months ago?" Judge Wood took the matter under submission.

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