

The Good Ship "Ophir."

The twin-screw S.S. "Ophir," which, in her new role of Royal Yacht, was chartered with the conveyance of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York around the world, and in the fulfilment of her mission is destined to strengthen the ties of personal loyalty, and confirm the tendency towards Imperial unity in Great Britain over seas, was built to run as a mail and passenger steamer between England and Australia, in the Orient Line.

It is doubtful, and more than doubtful, whether in the whole of the mercantile marine any other vessel was so well fitted for, or with equal ease so adaptable to, this special service.

The principal dimensions of the "Ophir" are: length over all 482 feet, beam 53 feet, 6 inches, depth 37 feet, gross register 6,000 tons, horse power 10,000, speed 18 knots per hour.

Her internal economy and behaviour at sea has earned her the reputation of being one of the most comfortable of passenger steamers. She is also beyond question one of the safest. Her designs were prepared concurrently with the sitting of a Board of Trade Committee upon the subdivision of ships, and to its findings the "Ophir" gave

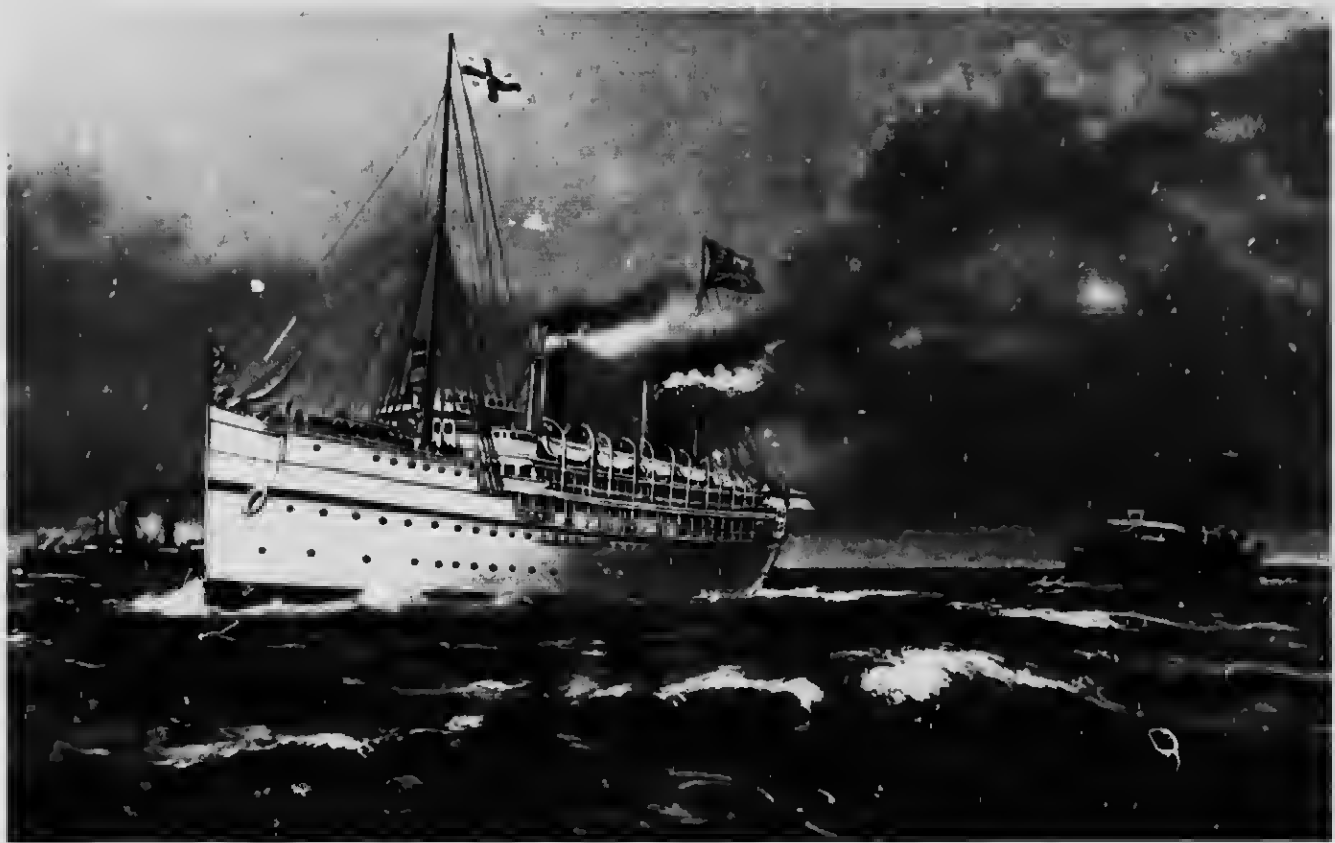
well with "Nicky," which is remarkably "short" for Nicholas II., Czar of All the Russias.

The private rooms of the Duchess of Cornwall and York are in size exactly similar to those of the Duke. The furniture, also, is of the same style, except that a fine brass bedstead takes the place of the Duke's small white swing-bed, that the window curtains are more lace-like, and that the plain oak and leather of the sitting room are here smooth, with inlaid satin-wood of a golden yellow, and soft silks and brocades.

The cabins in which the suite are lodged are, for the most part, remarkably spacious and airy, and all are comfortable beyond the dream of average sea-going humanity. There are special rooms for all sorts and conditions of things. For instance, one room is set apart for the medals which are to be distributed in the various colonies. Two special attendants are in charge of this treasury. Another room holds nothing but the presents which our Royal visitors took with them.

THE MIGHTY EMPIRE THE HEIR-APPARENT HAS VISITED.

It is the proud boast of the British people that there is no Empire upon which the sun never sets, and that the best of Britain's dramas is being around the world.



HQ. FOR QUEBEC! THE ROYAL PARTY IN CANADIAN WATERS.

effect in the fullest degree. She is subdivided by water-tight bulkheads as to float in safety with any two compartments thrown open to the sea.

The most interesting rooms are, of course, the small suites set apart for the private use of their Royal Highnesses. They each consist of a bath-room, dressing-room, bedroom, and sitting-room. One enters by way of the dressing-room, which, except for the carpet, is perfectly white. White walls, white furniture, and white marble wash-stand, with here and there a glint of a silver bar or handle. A small white "swing-bed" is the chief piece of furniture in the Duke's bedroom, and at the head of the bed hang two large photographs. One represents the Princess of Wales carrying a small Prince "pick-a-back," and under it is written in Queen Alexandra's handwriting, "Timmy and Baby." The second portrait represents the Duchess of Cornwall and York in what is said to be an unpublished photograph.

Through the bedroom you reach the private sitting-room, a cool and delightfully cozy room, furnished in light oak and sage-green leather. There is a most interesting family portrait gallery in the Duke's sitting-room, consisting of very fine photographs and engravings. A large portrait of the late Queen predominates, but above the Chesterfield couch there is a photograph of Queen Alexandra.

It represents the beautiful lady in a particularly youthful and graceful attitude; the head-troops somewhat, but the eyes are rosy, laughingly raised. The inscription, evidently written by an affectionate relative, "Old Mother Dear," is a pleasing suggestion of the charming home life of our Royal Family. But nearly all the portraits in this room are signed in obviously ludicrous mood. There is a fine likeness of Princess Charles of Denmark, signed "Harry"; Princess Victoria gives the name by which she is called at home, "Toris"; the Dowager-Empress of Russia signs "Mummy," and the Great White Czar has inscribed an excellent photograph of him-

The truth of that has been illustrated by the tour of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York. They have been to the very ends of the earth; they have sailed many seas; they have been in varied climes; they have been greeted by different races, and yet, wherever they have landed, they have stood on British soil. A review of the trip affords an object lesson of the vastness of the Empire over which the Duke of Cornwall and York will some day be called upon to reign. In Europe there is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the home of the race and the seat of imperial power, besides the possessions of Gibraltar, Malta and Gozo, small but exceedingly valuable being the keys of maritime Europe, positions commanding the world's great avenues of commerce. British territory in Europe has an area of 121,008 square miles, and a population of 41,322,875 souls. British India has a population of 287,223,431 and an area of 1,800,258 square miles. Besides this vast Empire there are other British possessions in Asia, with an area of 31,035 square miles and a population of 4,652,757. In Africa, not including the two colonies recently annexed but in which peace has not yet been fully restored, there are 396,780 square miles of British territory and 5,100,884 British subjects. On the American continent Britain has possessions whose area is 3,052,572 square miles and whose population numbers 7,373,385. And the Empire is Australasia with an area of 3,174,052 square miles and a population of 4,000,817. Besides these possessions, Britain exercises a protectorate over territory in Africa, Asia and in the Pacific, whose area is 2,240,400 square miles, and whose population numbers 36,210,000. These figures in the aggregate mean that Britain's sovereignty is acknowledged over 11,746,757 square miles of the earth's surface, and that the people living under the protection of her flag number 396,850,157 souls. Scattered over the whole world her possessions have the greatest possible variety of soil, climate and products, and afford to her people development in every line of useful production.