

Clothes and an Empress

That aged and sombre woman who recently died at the age of ninety-four—Eugenie, once empress of the French—had worn her mourning garments and lived her shadowed and disappointed life for so many years that it is hard to remember her as being in the days of her power and prosperity the most beautiful sovereign in the world and the greatest lady of fashion.

Such she undoubtedly was, nevertheless. Her admirable figure, perfect features, auburn hair, brilliant dark eyes and exquisitely fair complexion needed no enhancement; however simply attired, she was a radiant creature. But she loved dress for its own sake and loved to employ it spectacularly. Her court was extravagant, and she led it in extravagance. Sometimes, realizing that the people murmured, she would try to shift her responsibility. When magnificent new costumes or elaborate new designs were submitted for her approval, she would shake her head and declare:

"No. They would say I am extravagant; already they do say so. No, really I cannot; but after some one else has first displayed such a costume, then I will have one also."

Reluctance of this sort was only occasional. It was she that introduced the cumbersome crinoline; she that popularized the vogue of tulle, gauze, tulle and other vaporous and filmy fabrics that were often intricately embroidered. At other times such fabrics were combined with richer and heavier ones, as in one of the empress's evening costumes, which a fashion writer of the sixties described as "an apricot silk puffed all round the bottom with apricot tulle, flounced from the waist, the flounces worked with silver, fuchsia pattern, and trimmed with Venetian fringe of white silk. Over this an immense train of white satin, softened by apricot tulle, worked with silver fuchsias, and with fringe round the borders."

Eugenie displayed three or four dresses in the course of each day, and even the most expensive and superb were never worn more than twice. The furs, fans, jewels and lace that she accumulated were incredibly numerous and costly. She received twenty thousand dollars of pin money every month—a sum far more imposing fifty years ago than to-day and of double the purchasing power; and this she invariably spent to the last sou; and

frequently she overdraw her account. She had a dramatic gift for playing the Lady Bountiful. The bridal gift that she received from the city of Paris, to be spent for diamonds, she accepted only on condition that she might use it to found an institution for the education of young girls; and of this institution she remained a faithful patroness. Twenty thousand dollars of a gift of fifty thousand from her husband at the same time she spent in charity; and she made, during her reign, many other gifts to charity, science and art.

It is an ironic circumstance that, when, after Sedan, it had been resolved that in order to rally the royal and discourage revolution she should mount her horse and ride through the streets of Paris to dissolve the impotent and unpopular legislature, the plan failed for lack of clothes! It would probably have failed anyhow; but that one last chance which her beauty, spirit and the appeal of her sex might possibly have secured was lost for lack of a simple riding habit. A severe black habit, with only the cross of the Legion of Honor upon her breast, was what she meant to wear. But there was none in her wardrobe; there was only the picturesque dress of the royal hunt, a gorgeous garment of sweeping length, of green cloth embroidered with gold, and a dashing three-cornered hat to match. Obviously that would not do; it was altogether too theatrical.

The next day the mob stormed the Tuilleries, and the empress fled just in time. For the occasion of her last appearance before her own court she did possess the proper costume. She wished to show herself to those faithful members of the household who had stood by her to the last.

"The door of the white drawing-room was thrown open," wrote an eyewitness, "and the empress appeared for a moment on the threshold—an inexpressibly touching little figure in her simple black dress and white collar. She made a curtsy and waved her hand, trying hard to smile, while many, not all of them women, sobbed aloud."

So passed the lovely lady of fashion from the throne that she never should have occupied. France, the glorious and great republic, revoked her exile and forgave her in her saddened age for the splendors and errors of her glittering prime.

Pleasure Essential to Life

Some people seem to think that there is a sharp dividing line between "essential" and "nonessential," and that an equally sharp dividing line separates "pleasure" from all the world activities that are not generally called "pleasure."

Nothing could be further from the fact.

What is not essential to one person may with equal justice be most essential to another person. And what is pleasurable to one person might be positively painful to some one else.

Even ignoring the difference in people's tastes and laying down an edict on some arbitrary measure alone—as when war boards tried to determine what was essential to winning the war—even then no just classification can be made. For soldiers demanded cigarettes and chewing gum, which are neither food nor clothing, and are certainly not munitions, and officers required "pleasure" cars in pursuit of duty. These things were real necessities to them.

Supposedly a necessity is something that contributes to the bare preservation of life. But, on the other hand, if you are merely going to preserve life, we may well ask, "What for?" A life without pleasure is no life at all, and would not be worth preserving.

Our wise men find only two states of human existence—pleasure and pain. You are always experiencing one or the other. An effort has been made to show that there is a third state, a sort of zero condition from which both pleasure and pain are absent.

Logic at Work.

Teacher—"Thomas, will you tell me what a conjunction is, and compose a sentence containing one?"

Thomas (after reflection)—"A conjunction is a word, connecting anything, such as 'The horse is hitched to the fence by his halter.' Halter is a conjunction, because it connects the horse and the fence."

Soot weighing one ton may result from burning one hundred tons of coal.

Blew Up German Monument.

The second anniversary of the signing of the armistice was celebrated in Belgium by blowing up with dynamite a monument erected by the Germans at Coullot in commemoration of the battle of Charleroi.

The average man has thirty-seven buttons to button and unbutton every day. Fame greater than that which exalts Edison awaits the inventor who can reduce the number to one.

A Bird's Barbed Wire Fence

In Central America are many strange birds with stranger habits, but probably none is more interesting than a little brown wren which may be seen along the roadsides or on the fences. This little bird, about the size of a canary, builds a nest out of all proportion to its apparent needs. He selects a small tree with horizontal branches growing close together. Across two of the branches he lays sticks fastened together with tough fibre until a platform about six feet long by two feet wide is constructed. On the end of this platform nearest the tree trunk he then builds a huge dome shaped nest a foot or so high, with thick sides of interwoven thorns. A covered passageway is then made from the nest to the end of the plat-

form in as crooked a manner as possible. Across the outer end as well as at short intervals along the inside of this tunnel are placed cunning little fences of thorns, with just enough space for the owners to pass through. On going out this opening is closed by the owner by placing thorns across the gateway, and thus the safety of eggs or young is assured.

It has been estimated that 80 per cent. of the total annual produce of Canadian farms is consumed in Canada.

Over seven hundred gardeners are already employed in tending British soldiers' graves in France and Belgium.

—and the worst is yet to come



SEALING INDUSTRY OF THE DOMINION

ORIGINATED IN 1763 IN NEWFOUNDLAND.

Canada Draws Revenue From Seal Fishery on Both Atlantic and Pacific Coasts.

The seal pack in the Northern Pacific waters is considered to be the most valuable herd of wild animals in the world, its value being placed at \$75,000,000 and yearly increasing.

A novel method of hunting seals, under the auspices of the government of Newfoundland, is to be introduced in the spring by two Nova Scotia aviators, which, if successful, may revolutionize the entire industry. The party of three men, with two aeroplanes and dirigibles of the type used so successfully during the war to "spot" submarines, will sail from Montreal early in January to join the Newfoundland sealers at St. John's, the augmented party of thirty-five or forty leaving for the Labrador ice-fields.

Hitherto the locating of seal herds has been done by men in the rigging of ships whose range of vision is naturally limited. This work it is intended to do with planes, "spotting" being possible by this means within a radius of fifty miles. The method then is as follows. The aeroplane, which carries five men besides the pilot and mechanic, descends to the ice where the animals are despatched by bullets from machine guns. The skins are then packed in bundles about the base of poles to which a flag is attached. This kind of hunting continues to the end of the season when the ice breaks up, the hunters proceeding from place to place, transported by plane as new herds are "spotted." At the close of the season the vessels visit the ice-breaks and pick up the bundles, being materially assisted by the planes in locating and signalling.

Close upon the announcement of the projected activities of these aviators, there arrived in St. John's two "blimps," or war airships, a present to Newfoundland from the Imperial government. These it is intended to use in the seal fisheries in the same manner, the cost of operation, estimated at \$60,000, being borne jointly by the Newfoundland government and the owners of the sealing vessels assisted in their catch.

The co-operation of the government in this new venture would augur a belief in the practicability and success of the novel enterprise, and doubtless their success, which is highly probable, will have a marked effect upon sealing on both coasts and tend to bring about a revolution in hunting methods.

were built for the pursuit, till later these were superseded by fast steamers. At the present time, though there are some sailing vessels still engaged, the steamer is the big unit in the activity and accounts for five-sixths of the catch.

Of late years the seal catch of Newfoundland has fallen off somewhat, due to the heavy toll and indiscriminate killing, which is now regularized by legislation. The 1908 catch, for instance, numbered 213,863 seals, and that of the following year 269,320 animals. A single vessel has been known to bring into St. John's a catch of 42,000, and a total of nearly 700,000 seals have been taken by the entire Newfoundland fleet in a single season.

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A Gentle Dentist.

Two dentists were talking "shop." One remarked: "My treatment is so painless that it often happens that my patients fall asleep while I am attending to their teeth."

The other dentist gave a depreciating shrug of his shoulders. "Pooh, pooh, my dear man! That is nothing!" he cried. "You should see my place, with all the latest improvements. Why, my patients nearly always ask me to send a messenger to fetch a photographer so that they can be photographed with the expression of gladness which my patent dental treatment alone can give them."

Chinese in London.

The Chinese population of London is increasing rapidly and the district which has been appropriated by the celestials is becoming overcrowded so that they are encroaching on the neighboring districts.

British West Indies Want Home Rule

A movement for home rule is on foot in the British West Indies, says the correspondent of The London Times.

In Jamaica, and, indeed, throughout the British West Indies, crown colony government has become repugnant to all classes, and the movement for representative institutions is now well nigh irresistible.

At the legislative elections last year in Jamaica every member was returned with a mandate to press for a change in the constitution, and now a committee of the Legislative Council is engaged in preparing a memorial to the Secretary of State for the Colonies asking that a royal commission should be sent to Jamaica to inquire into the political, in addition to other, conditions obtaining there. Early this year three members of the Legislature will proceed to London to present the case of Jamaica to the Secretary of State for the colonies. The Lesser Antilles have already prepared plans for a like deputation with the same end in view.

Desire for change from an antiquated system of government finds expression in British Guiana, the Leeward and Windward Islands, Trinidad and Jamaica, and friends of constitutional government are everywhere hopeful that the imperial government will consider and formulate a scheme by which this can be brought about. The present system is criticized as stifling the voice of the people; crown government, it is declared, is auto-

cratic and the government may float the wishes of the people even though the people's representatives press them ever so ardently.

Before 1866 Jamaica had a constitution, granted by Charles II., which was a representative one. It consisted of a governor, a privy council, a legislative council and an assembly of forty-seven members. In that year this constitution was surrendered and a Legislative Council established consisting of an equal number of official and unofficial members. In 1895 a change was instituted whereby the council consisted of the Governor, five ex-officio members, and other persons not exceeding ten, and fourteen persons to be elected, with a Privy Council which is the Executive Council.

This experiment in crown colony government has proved expensive. Nor can the enlargement of 1895 be considered an improvement. The Privy Council is an added burden. It is made up of officials, the commander of the forces, and a couple of planters. There is no representative of the people at its sittings, no one to advise on matters deeply affecting the taxpayer or check extravagance. In the hands of the Privy Council the Governor himself is more or less a puppet. However well disposed or otherwise he may be to projects of legislation, he must act clearly on the advice of the council, though, as it is continually urged in the colony, this body does not represent the people of Jamaica as a whole.

Lights of Home.

The lights of home, the lights of home, That glimmer through the orchard trees.

Of all the lights of all the world, There are no other lights like these.

The sparkling lights of city streets, How they bewitch, enchant, enthrall, Yet, measured for their true worth, What very shallow lights withal!

The starry lights that shine afar Majestically burn and gleam; But, through the mighty realm of space, How vast and far away they seem.

The sunlight dancing on the waves, The moonbeam's mellow, mystic light, The beacon light upon the shore, The camp fire glowing in the night;

The fairy light the dewdrop holds, The dazzling brilliance of the snow, The soft, luxurious sheen of silk, The radiance that jewels show; I love them all, and yet to me There is a fairer light than these; It is the golden, welcoming stream That glimmers through the orchard trees.

For everything I hold most dear Is there, behind that streaming light; "Home, and the folks you love the best," This is the greeting through the night.

The lights of home, dear lights of home, That glimmer through the orchard trees, Of all the lights of all the world, There are no other lights like these.

Both Good.

Once Day and Night in converse met, And argued long— Said Day: "I bring the world its light Its flower and song; All life and warmth are my hours' claim; My share is best." Said Night: "You bring the world its work; I bring it rest!"

Grease turned into sewers by wool-washing plants is recovered by the English city of Birmingham at its sewage plant and converted into a profitable byproduct.

Aerial Force to Guard French Frontiers.

France is to be the first country to have an aerial police force guarding her frontiers against smugglers or persons attempting to land without passports for propaganda purposes. The Ministry of Aviation has decided to organize the new service as quickly as possible, arranging for definite points along the frontiers over which all airplanes must pass and for airmen where customs inspections will be made.

Airplanes which cross the frontier elsewhere will be signalled to come down, and will then be followed to the nearest landing place by the aerial police unless these airplanes belong to special aerial transportation companies owning their own airdromes, where customs officials will be stationed permanently.

The regulations provide that a flier guilty of infraction of the civilian passport regulations be subject to the penalty which calls for immediate expulsion, with a caution not to repeat the offence, but the pilots of such machines will be watched much more closely thereafter. The question of duty on petrol supplies has been settled by establishing a special route card, each machine to be allowed enough gasoline to reach a declared destination. Apart from the supervision of frontiers to prevent commercial infractions of the laws the aerial police will be expected to give the earliest warning of the approach of enemy aircraft, thus providing a valuable supplementary force in the event that Germany, as many military leaders believe, decided to construct semi-military airplanes, ostensibly for commercial purposes.

Tarry Not.

The road to yesterday Why travel it? A tangled skein, so why Unravel it? The future calls you on, The past is dead, And all you hope to do Lies just ahead.

Limit for Feeding. The limit of the earth's capacity is 5,294,000,000 human beings. The world could feed no more. At the present rate of increase this limit will be reached by A.D. 2100.

Insurance for Canada's Soldiers

Canada's generous treatment of her returned soldiers, which included a bonus on discharge, a system of vocational training, and a universally approved land settlement policy, has been followed up by a scheme of government life insurance which has so many benefits for the ex-warrior that it was instantaneously popular and within a short time of inauguration had been extensively taken up by military men all over the Dominion. Within three months of the Act becoming effective, or up to December 1st, 1920, insurance to the amount of \$3,282,000 was issued by the Dominion government, and \$26,711 received in premiums, representing applications from 1,015 Canadian ex-soldiers. Shoals of inquiries continue to pour in.

The Act applies to all ex-soldiers and nurses and to widows of returned soldiers who died in Canada after discharge from the service. Policies are issued for a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$5,000, insurance being payable only in the event of death or the total and permanent disability of the insured. One-fifth of the maximum may be paid at death and the balance, as an annuity, over a period of 5, 10, 15 or twenty years.

Premiums are payable monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or yearly. An

additional advantage of the scheme is that grace of one month is allowed for the payment of any premium, other than the first, without interest, and should claim occur during the days of grace, it is paid minus the amount of the premium.

The scheme, as evolved, was mainly intended for disabled or partially disabled men whom existing companies would only take at very high premiums or not at all. The government scheme places all men on an equality, and no medical examination is necessary in order to take out a policy which is merely based on the age of the insured at the time of insuring. A great number of fit men are, however, taking advantage of the favorable terms and rates, and the advantages it offers in the payment of premiums.

The majority of the policies issued so far have been for \$5,000, the maximum amount to be obtained under the Act by the individual. Ex-soldiers in every walk of civil life have already insured under the scheme, many being, it is stated, insurance agents, including several chief officials of existing insurance companies. Large numbers of physicians have also taken out policies.

The period during which applications for insurance will be received is open until September 1st, 1921.