

BRITAIN BIDS FOR AIR SUPREMACY

Government Appoints an Expert Non-Party Aerial Committee

WANT SCIENTIFIC TALENT

Funds Placed at the Disposal of New Authorities for Construction and Navigation

LONDON, May 28.—Britain has at length realized the necessity of recovering lost ground in the race for aerial supremacy, and in an important statement the premier announces the formation of a committee of experts to work in conjunction with a reconstructed department of military aeronautics.

Funds have been placed at the disposal of the new authorities for the construction and navigation of aerial vessels, and every effort is to be made to keep pace with the enormous strides made in the study of aeronautics by France, Germany, and the United States.

The house of commons the prime minister, in reply to Mr. Lehmann, announced the appointment of a special committee, with Lord Rayleigh as president, whose duty it will be to report upon the progress of the work of the committee.

Mr. Asquith said: "The government is taking steps towards placing its organization for aerial navigation on a more satisfactory footing. As the result of a report made by the committee of imperial defence the work of advancing and constructing dirigible balloons and aeroplanes has been apportioned between the navy and the army."

"The admiralty is building certain dirigibles, while certain others of a different type will be constructed at the war office balloon factory at Aldershot, which is about to be reorganized for the purpose. The investigation and provision of aeroplanes are also assigned to the war office. "With the view of securing that the highest scientific talent shall be brought to bear on the problems which will have to be solved in the course of the work of the two departments, the National Physical Laboratory has been requested to organize at its establishment at Teddington a special department for continuous investigation, experimental and otherwise, of questions which must from time to time be solved in order to obtain adequate guidance in construction."

"For the superintendence of the investigation at the National Physical Laboratory, and for the general advice on the scientific problems arising in connection with the work of the admiralty and war office in aerial construction and navigation, I have appointed a special committee, which includes the following names: Lord Raleigh, President. Dr. H. T. Glazebrook (director National Physical Laboratory), chairman. Major-General Sir Charles Hadden (representing the army). Capt. R. S. Bacon (representing the navy). Sir Alfred G. Greenhill. Dr. W. N. Shaw (director of the Meteorological Office). Horace Darwin. H. R. A. Mallock. Professor J. E. Petavel. F. W. Lancaster."

DEATH IN PROLONGED FAREWELL HANDCLASP

LONDON, May 28.—How a hand-shake over-prolonged caused a death was told at the inquest at Colchester on Lily Wade, sixteen, the daughter of a lighterman of Wyvenhoe.

The girl returned by the midnight train from Colchester to Wyvenhoe and stood on the platform, laughing and talking with some young men belonging to Brightingness, the next stopping place. Among them was Bob Howe, twenty, yachtman, and as the train moved off he shook hands with the girl, and prolonged the farewell, pulling her along the platform.

Seeing the girl's danger, Signalman Exworth ran and caught her by the waist in an effort to pull her away. But the resistance was so great that when Howe let go both the signalman and the girl were flung between two carriages on to the permanent way.

The girl fell on to the lines, having both her legs crushed, but Exworth fell onto the piping encasing the telegraph wires which run parallel between the metals and the platform wall. The wheels of the carriages passed him so closely as to cut his face. Others who received no bodily injury, although the experiment has unnerved him.

When the girl was discovered, after the train had passed, a crowd ran to her to render what aid was possible, but she cried: "Never mind me; attend to the porter who tried to save me." She died next day in Colchester hospital.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death, indirectly and unintentionally caused by Howe holding deceased hand," and censured the young yachtman severely for his foolish conduct. Exworth, who has twenty-one years service with the G.E.R., was commended for his plucky action.

Cable News in Paragraphs

Well Known Thames Lock Closed

Penton Hook Lock, near Staines, a part of the river much patronized by boating people, is being deepened and widened, and is closed to navigation.

Another Dartmoor Warder Hurt

Another attack by a convict on a warder was committed at Dartmoor prison. Warder was in charge of a party of men when one of them seized the warder and cut him severely on the head with a spade.

Race With Burning Train

A goods train engine-driver going from Stoke to Hanley saw a truck full of paper had been set on fire by a passing engine, and raced his train at full speed to Hanley, saving a considerable portion of the goods.

Keat Landlord's Fine Rescued

While a woman named Saxby was at work in the hon gardens at Yalding the son fell into the river. The mother promptly jumped in, and both would have been drowned if Mr. Freeman of the Anchor Inn had not plunged in and brought them out.

Death of a Famous Potter

Charles Toft, one of the best known and the most successful of the potters of the pottery of the past generation, the father of Albert Toft, the sculptor, has died at Burton-on-Trent, at the age of 87. He was a descendant of Thomas Toft, the famous 17th century potter.

Kept Awake by a Cricket

A tramp named Mullett, who was charged at Southborough with refusing to perform his task at the workhouse, said he was tired, having been kept awake by a whistling noise in his cell, adding "amid laughter." "It whistled like the very devil!" The "it" was only a cricket.

45,000 Fused Guns Proved

At the annual meeting of the guardians of the Birmingham Poor House it was stated that the number of guns proved showed a falling off of nearly 45,000 as compared with the previous year. This was partly attributable to the restriction in the importation of guns into Africa.

Oldest Jewish Minister

Prof. Marks, father of H. H. Marks, M. P., and the chief minister of the West London Synagogue, Berkeley Square, with which he had been associated 68 years, died on Monday at the age of 97. He was born in London, and first educated at the Jews' Free School.

Woman Usurer's 886 Per Cent

Interest charged by a woman named Sarah Benton was equivalent to 886 per cent, said the prosecuting attorney at Willenhall police court, near Wolverhampton, when she was fined £10 and costs for acting as a money-lender without being registered.

Child's Instinctive Commensurate

"I could venture for twenty minutes said the Bishop of London, at the annual meeting of the Home and Colonial Society at Wood Green, "to fool 300 adults, but I should never venture to do it with 300 children. They would find me out in five minutes."

Saved by Sand

While a new gas main was being laid at Colchester an explosion occurred through gas from the old main catching alight, and six men were injured. Two were partly buried by falling earth, and sand had to be thrown over them to prevent them from being burned to death.

Great Florence Nightingale

LONDON, May 28.—Florence Nightingale, heroine of the Crimea, has entered upon her nineteenth year, and messages and congratulations reached her at her quiet home in South Street, Park Lane, from all over the world. Since her last birthday her feebleness has increased, and now she is kept entirely confined to her room. She cannot read, but her brain is wonderful and her sympathy is still undimmed. The welfare of nurses has still her eager interest.

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COUNTERFEIT ART NOW SHOWN UP

London Dealers Have Been Selling Collectors Bogus Antiques

LONDON, May 28.—A case which possesses interest for collectors all over the world occupied three days of Justice Grantham's time in the king's bench division and possibly may have a sequel in the legislature. The action was brought by the executors of the late Charles John Dickens, member of a well known drapery firm in Regent street, against a Bond street dealer in antique china known as Joseph Phillipot, from whom damages were claimed on the ground of fraudulent representation and breach of warranty in regard to a sale of Dresden Sevres china.

Some sensational disclosures were made in the course of the trial as to the prices Phillipot paid for the spurious china which he foisted upon Dickens as valuable pieces. Dickens was an old man and collecting china was the hobby of his declining years. He paid Phillipot \$65,000 for twenty-eight pieces which at the highest estimate were not worth \$5,000. In another case he was induced to purchase for \$2,500 an article which could be bought for \$5 a dozen.

It was further shown that Phillipot acted as an intermediary of other dealers who similarly swindled Dickens, palming off upon him "modern antiques." The jury returned a verdict of \$51,710 damages for the plaintiff and the judge intimated that the case ought to have been tried in the criminal court.

Fear for National Collections

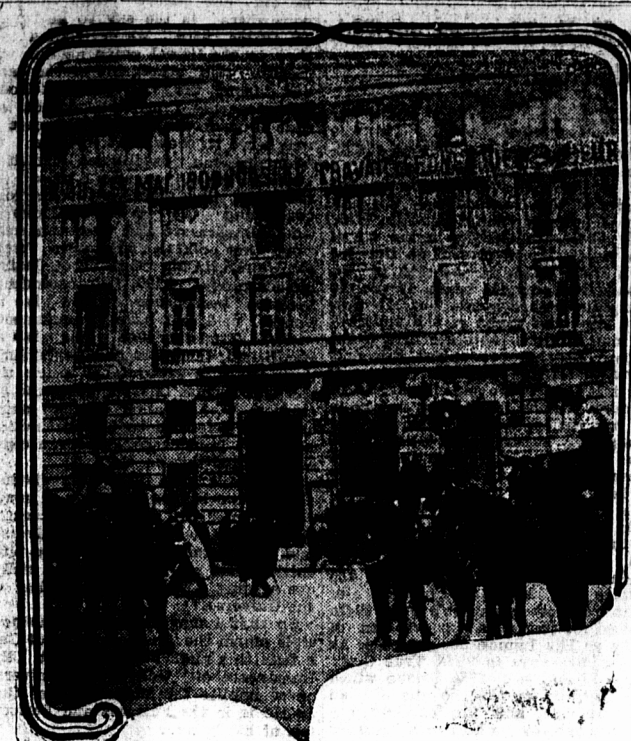
The case has drawn attention to the fact that the manufacture of spurious articles in recent years has been carried to a fine art, and it is admitted that probably the British national collection may contain many doubtful specimens. Disclosures at the trial showed the necessity of some organized body to protect the collector, and steps are being taken to form an art collectors' protective association, which among other objects, will endeavor to secure special legislation to safeguard the well intentioned but inexperienced amateur.

It was shown also during the trial that there exists a gang of unscrupulous dealers who band together to keep down public auction prices and enable one of their number to secure art objects for less than the recognized value. Even the leading firms of auctioneers are not secure against the manipulations of the ring, and legislation in this direction is suggested. One of the best authorities sums up the situation succinctly by saying that no amateur can be quite sure. The safest and best plan is to put himself in the hands of a reputable dealer.

Doctors Criticize Sargent's Work

Sargent's picture of Mrs. Waldorf Astor, which hangs in this year's academy, is severely criticized in an unexpected quarter. The British Medical Journal, one of the leading weeklies, takes the painter to task because of the "strained position of his sitter's shoulders, which are held too high, the scapulae being pulled back so that their vertebral borders are almost touching one another."

Some other artists are criticized similarly. "It is not a peculiarity of one artist or one sitter," says this anatomical expert, "for it occurs many times."



Strong measures have been taken by the French government to prevent any disorder from the strike of postoffice, telegraph and other government employes in Paris. This picture shows the 8-hour day sign posted outside the Bourse de Travail, and the guard of Cavalry around the building.

Wealthy Song Writer Is Ruined By Music Pirates

LONDON, May 28.—Ten years ago Milton Wellings occupied a large house in Hampstead, paid income tax annually on a sum of over £1,000, rode his own horse in Rotten Row, and owned property in the country. Today he lives alone in a bed-sitting room in Fulham, unable to command even the bare necessities of life.

If there's peace for the sun in the ocean's soft breast, Why should my heart suffer this ceaseless unrest? God, can it be right? Why shineth the star Whilst Thou from mine eyes art hid—Goes from me? Am I alone doomed to darkness so drear? For ever? Ah! yes, if Thou art not near.

Those words were penned by Mr. Wellings when his world-famous songs had brought him prosperity. Now that he finds himself absolutely penniless—his career completely wrecked by the "music pirates" of the streets—they might almost reflect his own sad outlook upon life.

"Ah, it seems like a hideous nightmare," said Mr. Wellings. "All of a sudden, at a time when I was at the height of my prosperity, the blow fell. No sooner did pirated copies of my songs appear on the streets than my income was swept completely away. My market had gone."

He recalled, with a ring of sadness in his voice, how he had to sell his home and dispose of his property (a couple of houses) in the country. His horse, of course, had to go. "People would say: 'Why did you not save?' Well, he had at the time about £800 in the bank, but all that money had disappeared long ago.

"I did my best," said Mr. Wellings, "to get a living. I went on tour with small theatrical companies, first as pianist and then as manager, visiting out of the way places all over the kingdom. When I did this I used another name."

AEROPLANE IS FACTOR TO GOVERNMENTS

High Authorities Admit That Airships Will Soon Dominate Armies and Navies

LONDON, May 28.—It is not easy to explain how grave a factor in modern civilization the aeroplane has become in the estimation of all of the European governments. A question which has been seriously discussed in all the chancelleries is: Will the aeroplane end war, or will it first destroy the present system of international relationships?

It is now freely admitted by many high authorities that within perhaps three or four years airships will dominate all of the navies and all of the armies. Such alarmists as Capt. Tullio affirm that half a dozen aeroplanes in evil hands could destroy London.

England has at last an aeroplane that can fly, but it is a mystery which has set the whole country wondering. It flies only at night, and it has been seen at widely different points in the vicinity of Peterborough. Nobody knows whence it comes or to whom it belongs.

MRS. ASQUITH GETS CALL FOR DISPLAYING GOODS

LONDON, May 28.—Mrs. Asquith's idiosyncrasies have, from time to time, caused no little bother, as, for instance, her luncheon parties in honor of a Salome dancer. Now her championship of a French dressmaker whose creations were exhibited at No. 10 Downing street, the historical residence of the British premier, have got her into another variety of hot water. The following telegram was sent to the premier by the Bradford chamber of trade:

"The Bradford chamber of trade, representing 1,500 British tradesmen, respectfully protest against the use of your official residence as a showroom for advertising French dressmakers' goods, as reported by the Drapers' Record."

According to report, Mrs. Asquith sent out a couple of hundred invitations to friends who evinced keen interest in the models displayed by the Parisian costumer.

Mrs. Asquith, who is a witty woman, will doubtless consider that the Bradford chamber is lacking sense of humor, but it is an open question whether, in view of her husband's political situation, her action was wise.

"Then my health began to fall, and things went from bad to worse. Lately I have known what it is to have to sleep on the Embankment—to go for a whole day or more without a morsel of food. It has been terrible. For the present I have a roof over my head, but my position still is precarious. Would you believe it, all the money I have in the world is three ha'pence!"

"This is the man who wrote 'Some Day,' 'At the Ferry,' 'Dreaming,' 'Tell Me Again,' 'Banbury Cross'—songs which have pleased tens of thousands in all parts of the world. 'Some Day,' for example, has been translated into numerous languages.

Mr. Wellings told an interesting story of the circumstances under which he came to write this song. "For a long time I could not set the words satisfactorily to music. I had been in the Isle of Wight with my wife. I left her there and returned to our country cottage in Berkshire.

In the train I heard that a yacht had been wrecked off the Isle of Wight. I knew that my wife had intended going yachting, and naturally I was anxious to know that she was safe. I wired, asking whether she was all right, but no reply came. Then every hour I despatched a telegram; I must have sent eight or nine altogether—money was plentiful in those days. Still there was no news.

"Whilst I waited, in great distress of mind, these words in 'Some Day' appealed to me with peculiar force: 'Are you dead, or do you live? I worked throughout the night upon the song, and whilst I wrote I suffered agony. When morning dawned the manuscript was complete. Later on I had a telegram from my wife asking what was the meaning of all the wires I had sent her."

As to the future, Mr. Wellings said the suggestion had been made to him that he should hire a pony and cart and a piano, and getting the assistance of a vocalist, tour the seaside places during the summer months. "It means putting my pride in my pocket, but I don't mind that. All I require for a start is about £10 or £12. I know I could make as much as that in a week."

Mr. Wellings is now nearly sixty years of age. Altogether he has composed over a hundred popular songs. Now he needs a helping hand in order that he may make a fresh start in life—"fresh start" at sixty!

THE WORLD'S LARGEST COVERED RESERVOIR

Engineering Triumph of the Twentieth Century—Lake That Will Hold 60,000,000 Gallons of Water

LONDON, May 28.—London was recently placed in possession of the largest covered water reservoir in the world. It is situated at Honor Oak, and has taken eleven years to construct, but all concerned have reason to congratulate themselves on a unique engineering triumph.

Great difficulties have been met with. Once One Tree Hill came pressing on and pushed a completed wall so much out of place that it had to be taken down and rebuilt, but all obstacles were finally removed, and the Lord Mayor on Wednesday had the satisfaction of opening a reservoir that will add 60,000,000 gallons to London's water supply.

As the material found on the site was very suitable for brickmaking, all the bricks required have been made on the spot. By this means a large saving in the eventual cost of the reservoir was effected, as not only was an outlay on the carriage of the bricks avoided, but there was no expense of removal, cartage and disposal of the surplus material.

Here are some facts about the new reservoir:

Total cost £236,000
No. of bricks used 16,000,000
Cement 20,300 tons
Concrete 95,000 cubic yds.
Clay in puddle wall 14,000 cubic yds.
Excavations 173,000 cubic yds.
Extent of reservoir 141 acres
Water area 10 acres
Greatest depth 34 feet
Thickness of walls 6 to 18 feet
Covering arches 4 miles
Jack arches connecting piers .. 3 miles
Men employed, average 600

The top water-level of the reservoir is situated 144 feet above Ordnance datum, and its principal use is to afford low-pressure service to the southern portion of the water board's area, although by means of mains which exist beneath the River Thames it will be possible to transfer the supply to the northern side should it at any time be necessary.

The reservoir is constructed on the natural clay formation, the bottom of the divide up the reservoir into four sections; these walls are cambered back to back, the space between the walls being filled in solid with concrete. The outer retaining walls of

The source of supply to the reservoir is by means of a 24 in. pipe, connected by a branch to the board's main, which conveys filtered water from the pumping station at Hampton to the Nunhead reservoirs, a distance of about seventeen miles. The other pipes are also 42 in. diameter, and each of the four divisions communicates with, and is connected to, a series of valves in a valve-house situated at the junction of the four sections of the reservoirs, from whence the water is distributed to the districts as required.

After making a tour of the reservoir, the lord mayor, who was accompanied by the lady mayoress and the sheriff, was formally welcomed by E. B. Barnard, M.P., the chairman of the board, who said the people of Great London were the real proprietors of the water undertaking, and, as such, were well-come that day. They were doubtless aware that they now supplied water daily to 7,000,000 people, and as this vast population they had anticipated they not only had to safeguard the present, but they had to make provision for the future.

In responding to the lord mayor's remarks there were reasons for associating the city with the board, as the city contributed so largely to the board's funds—not very willingly, it was true, but of necessity. In its wisdom parliament had resolved that the private enterprise of the old water companies should cease, and it was now, therefore, the duty of the board to provide an efficient water service. The population of London was on the increase, and with its education to greater cleanliness, an increased supply of water was absolutely necessary.

Amazed at Vastness

They were all amazed at the vastness of the reservoir, and he heartily congratulated the engineer, the contractors, and the board itself on their achievements. He had been requested to christen the reservoir the "Beauchcroft Reservoir," as a memorial of the work he had done and was doing for London, and this he did with the greatest possible pleasure.

With a special presentation key the lord mayor then opened the cupboard containing the key for turning on the water, and thousands of the present generation were released, a pretty effect being secured by a play of limelight on the opening column.

SPLINTERS IN BRAIN

LONDON, May 28.—A doctor gave evidence at the West London police court in the defence of Robert Dowdall, of Chaucer-road, Acton, who pleaded guilty to a summons for driving a taxi-cab in a negligent manner in Richmond road, Kensington. The defendant had been previously convicted of negligent driving, and was, in fact, fined £20 for knocking down the ex-lord mayor in Northumberland avenue.

The doctor stated that from March 6 to March 26 the defendant was suffering from convulsions of an epileptoid character. The man received a bullet wound in the Boer war, and several splinters entered his brain, with the result that it was injured. His brain was foggy and his gait unsteady, and he was quite incompetent to drive.

The magistrate ordered Dowdall to pay two guineas costs, and allowed him twenty-one days in which to pay the money.

ABUSE MAKES JEWS MISERS?

LONDON, May 28.—The bishop of Stepney made a remarkable appeal on behalf of the charitable fund for Jews in the east and of London.

He believed the Jew's love for money was due to the terror which had come upon him through ages of long hunting. He believed, because the Christians had thieved, and he saved because he never knew when and where he might be strangled in destitution.

He believed the Christians were largely to blame for the Jew's tenacity in regard to money.

FOR SIXTY YEARS A CHURCH VERGER

Once Delicate Boy Celebrates His 103rd Birthday—Descendant of Kings

LONDON, May 18.—James Carne, verger of the Church of Columbia, and parish clerk of St. Columb Minor, Cornwall, celebrated his 103rd birthday, having been born on May 8, 1806.

Although of such great age, Mr. Carne still carries on his duties, attending the church services regularly. He cannot see to read, but he can repeat the Psalms and many portions of the bible and prayer book from memory. He rises daily between 8 and 8.30, and retires between 9 and 10, taking a glass of grog before going to bed, but he abhors tobacco.

Mr. Carne remembers well seeing the smugglers riding inland with a keg of spirits slung on each side of a horse, and he becomes very animated when he tells of the incidents associated with the battle of Waterloo, and how "we beat old Bonaparte."

Three generations of the Carne family have held the same office for 169 years. Mr. Carne's grandfather, John Carne, who died in 1801, aged 80 years, served fifty years as verger, and was followed by his son John, who died at the age of 84, after a service in the church of fifty-four years, retiring in 1843 in favor of the present verger, who until nine years ago never missed a service, the death of his wife causing then a break in his record.

Mr. Carne was a delicate youth, and being considered unfit for the rough work of a mason, the occupation of his father and grandfather, he was apprenticed to a tailor, but afterwards became a postman, and for thirty-one years walked his round of ten miles daily.

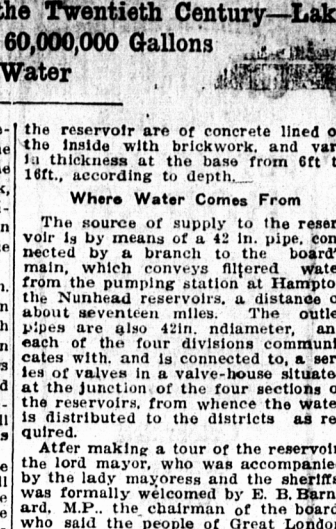
When he became verger he had to march up and down the aisle of the church leading the choir boys. Later a clarinet, a flute and a big bass violin were added, and later still a cornet. The practices were held an hour before services in the porch of the inn near by. Bridge's "Oh, Be Joyful" was sung in the church every Sunday for many years before it was superseded by another by the same composer.

Mr. Carne possesses an old stone on which are carved the laws of Moses, and which has belonged to the church since 1523. At one time the laws were read aloud by the verger before the congregation dispersed.

The aged verger claims to be a descendant of the Cornish kings. His lineage has been traced by Sir Paul Molesworth to a famous Cornish prince of the fifteenth century.

THE BRITISH PREMIER, MR. ASQUITH, IS HAVING HIS TROUBLES WITH THE SUFFRAGETTES

Despite all his efforts to avoid these persistent ladies, he was recently captured by two of them, Mrs. Frank Corbett and Mrs. Olive Furgus, who preached woman suffrage to him all the way to his office. This snapshot shows the manner in which the premier received the lecture.



The British premier, Mr. Asquith, is having his troubles with the suffragettes. Despite all his efforts to avoid these persistent ladies, he was recently captured by two of them, Mrs. Frank Corbett and Mrs. Olive Furgus, who preached woman suffrage to him all the way to his office. This snapshot shows the manner in which the premier received the lecture.