

WHEN ROYALTY TRAVELS

Traffic Suspended for Hours on Roads Used by Edward VII.

GUARD AGAINST MISHAP

Block System of Signalling Suspended as Being too Dangerous for Monarchs—Royal Trains Preceded by Pilot Engines at All Times Guarded by Railway Officials.

Royalty on the railroad presents a very amusing aspect. Every time King Edward goes from one part of England to another the mercantile community of Great Britain loses something like \$5,000. This is due to the fact that English railway officials use most extraordinary methods in safeguarding royal trains. Even in performing so simple a journey as from Windsor to London—a distance of about 25 miles—traffic is suspended for hours when the king travels that way.

On longer journeys, the loss to business houses along the line of royal route is something enormous. When the king last journeyed from Scotland to London it was estimated that the direct loss to tradesmen was something like \$15,000 on account of the tying up of traffic and delay to perishable goods.

When King Edward travels along a certain line all passenger and freight traffic—even including the fast express service—is suspended. Most elaborate precautions of every description are taken to insure royal safety. For instance, for 15 minutes before the departure of the royal train from any station all trains are held up.

The ordinary block system of signalling is suspended, as being too dangerous for monarchs. Railway officials do not seem to consider this a reflection on their own methods for safeguarding the public. They know, however, that if any of the royal party should be injured when traveling on any special line, that particular line would "see its finish," so far as the British traveling public is concerned.

Each portion of the line on which the king travels is guarded from section to section by railroad men with flags. They direct the movement of the train. There are two signalmen to every quarter of a mile. For instance, in signalling the train from Olkestone to London, upward of 388 men are required.

When his majesty is about to travel the railway station is cleared of all ordinary passengers, and only a favored few are allowed on the platform. Just before the royal carriage arrives up a roll of crimson velvet carpet is carefully laid along the platform between the king's carriage and the train.

Usually the king's carriage is preceded by a few outlaws—men on horseback who clear the way—and often infrequently by a small body of avuls, the horse guards being the favored regiment, as the king himself is a colonel in that regiment.

Railway officials line the platform and make a low bow as his majesty passes by en route to his carriage. Usually the president of the road—"managing director," as he is termed in England—accompanies the king; though, of course, in a separate carriage. It would not do for a mere railroad president in England to ride in the same compartment with the king himself.

The reward of the managing director for his somewhat perfunctory task is, however, often quite great. Knighthood, the Order of the Garter, and other honors are often conferred by the king upon men who have aided to make his journeys pleasant by their official presence.

As the king passes along the railway platform the various officials bow in such a manner that they are always facing the royal party. Many an official has lost his job by inadvertently turning his back upon some member of the royal family when passing to a train.

As soon as the king is seated in his carriage, one of the railway directors everly approaches King Edward, anding him a dozen copies of the day bill of the journey. This is printed in letters of gold on purple ink, and is really an elaborate time table.

The name, rank and occupation of every person traveling on the road is printed on the royal train is also printed on the day bill. Its practical use is to remind his majesty that on the same train with him are numerous officials charged ready for anything in the way of a "tip" from 50 cents up to a banonety.

If Queen Alexandra should be traveling with the king, or perhaps alone, she is presented with a bunch of flowers just as the train moves from the station. The presentation is made always by some little girl—the daughter of an official, or of a local mayor.

The speed of royal trains is limited to 40 miles an hour. King Edward rejoices in the possession of several royal trains, which are used exclusively for conveying his majesty, the queen, and members of their suite. When great potentates, such as the kaiser, the king of Italy, or the like, visit England, royal trains are placed at their disposal. King Edward has recently suspended the practice of placing the royal train at the convenience of dusky monarchs, who so frequently visit England; a practice always observed in Queen Victoria's reign. She even received and conveyed in a royal train King Khama, the Kafir.—Pellsburg Gazette.

GRAVEYARD LIZARDS.

Superstitions About the Chameleons in New Orleans Cemeteries.

On any sunny day in the old graveyards of New Orleans may be seen hundreds of small bright green, slender and fragile lizards, or chameleons, running over the walls of the above ground tombs and darting in and out among the vines and tall grasses which grow between the sepulchers. Seldom is it that harm comes to them. A New Orleans superstition holds that the person who is so unlucky to maim or kill one is sure to die within the year.

How this superstition originated is not easy to discover. It has endured as long as the oldest Creole mammy can remember, and an old negro doggerel thus voices the belief:

Kill er lizard on de grave,
De yain' no charm yo' life kin save.

Dire tales are told of the visitation descended upon those ill starved persons who have destroyed these little skirmishers and, in the reverse, it is accounted the greatest of good fortune should one of them voluntarily cross your hand. On such bright days when the chameleons are drawn out in great numbers to bask in the warm sunshine, men and women and children, mostly negroes, may be seen in the graveyards resting one or both hands against a tomb and waiting at times for hours for a chameleon unsuspecting and brave enough to scamper across the patient digits.

Should this happen, the lucky one goes home in triumph, free from fear of future witchcraft and flinging defiance at the hoodoo doctors, whose spells they feel they have certainly counteracted. In fact, so potent is considered the power of the little chameleon of the graveyard that not even the witch doctors will harm one, and though they use the bones of green lizards in the charms which they sell to negroes they hunt for them in the swamps and on the lake shore. To kill one of these is considered no great crime against luck and it may be added that the great majority of chameleons which are sold to tourists come from the graveyards.

DOING BUSINESS IN LONDON.

Dinner Table Often the Scene and Champagne the Medium.

Of the business life in London, Ella Rawl's Financier, Juliet Wilbo Tompkins, writes as follows in "Everybody's":

"Business in London is done largely over the dinner table. If it is asked and the affair has apparently the brilliant irresponsibility of any other social event; for open discussion, only men are assembled. Champagne is inevitably the ether through which all business projects flow. The role of Mr. Sprague's new partner was largely that of hostess. Every one who could be of service, direct or indirect, to the Multiple Unit Control was given his chance and his dinner, and Miss Rawls presided with a calm grace that never deserted her, even when, as often happened, she had to take the table a lone woman with ten or a dozen men. Asking brilliant companies to meet an inventor is not always a simple matter; genius is as likely as not to arrive an hour or so late, with a mind above apology and the traces of the beloved machinery clearly visible; but natural ease and a firm belief in 'the control' pulled the young hostess through and had their steadily increasing influence in Sprague's favor.

"To these dinners and lunches came engineers, M.P.s, peers of the realm, heads of traction companies, writers for the press. Miss Rawls talked electricity and multiple unit control until she was popularly supposed to be a leading authority and something of an inventor herself. Of course, her great advantage lay in the fact that the system she was pushing was, as has since been proved, the best thing of its kind yet invented. The facts were all on her side; her task was to get these facts a proper hearing. For this, her clear business head, her strong grasp on the salient points, were the best weapons. Moreover, as hostess and guest she had the gift of rousing friendliness, and direct, almost selfish interest—both of which inclined men to listen. It was, after all, fairly simple."

Renting Trunks.

A dealer in trunks and traveling bags tells of an odd business which he does in summer. The vacation gear who has no trunk or valise hires one. New trunks, of course, cannot be had on lease. Only the second hand ones are let out. "You see," said the dealer, "there are a good many young people—clerks, salesmen, stenographers, male and female—that want a vacation of only a week or so, and they don't care about going to the expense of buying a valise or a trunk. Borrow? Oh, yes, they could borrow, I suppose; but you know what opinion people have of trunk borrowers, especially in vacation time."

Keeping Time by Wireless.

Dr. Max Reithoffer, professor in the Technical High School of Vienna, in conjunction with Herr Karl Morawetz, the government inspector of clocks, has completed a system for synchronizing clocks by means of wireless telegraphy. The plan has been submitted to the City Council, and permission has been secured for regulating the public clocks by this agency. The city clocks are to be served free by the system, but for synchronizing private timepieces a small fee will be levied.

THE KAISER'S CONCERN

No Other Monarch Surrounded By So Many Flunkies

FREAKS OF ETIQUETTE

Admittance to Court Calls for Good Birth or High Position in Army, Navy or State—When Strangers are Introduced Their Antecedents are Investigated.

Some 350 noblemen are chamberlains of the imperial household and 40 men of the highest birth are gentlemen of the household.

Apart from this vast array of aristocratic satellites the emperor has an exclusive military suite, a naval suite and a secret military cabinet of two generals, two colonels, five majors and 42 other officers. Another department is the secret civil cabinet of the emperor, headed by His Excellency Dr. von Lucanus. The medical suite of the emperor consists of three physicians. The empress has her own household, consisting of a chief mistress, a chief mistress and a half a dozen mistresses, all of whom are princesses and countesses, besides a chief master of the household, a master of ceremonies, a vice master of ceremonies, and a medical suite. Each one of the kaiser's six sons has also his own household and his own suite of attendants, though on a much smaller scale.

These high noblemen, of course, are not permanently in attendance, but the kaiser is always surrounded by a large group of them wherever he goes and, whatever he does. When he rides out they follow him in the order of their ranks. One of them assists the kaiser to mount his horse and another affixes the stirrups. A third carries the kaiser's overcoat and a fourth a spare handkerchief for his majesty. The emperor is thus continually in an environment which tends to increase his haughtiness and imperial pride and his sense of his own supreme importance.

Ladies who are admitted to the presence of the kaiser must curtsy so low that they almost lie upon the ground at his feet. All persons, men and women alike, must kiss the hand of the empress when they are presented to her or when she addresses them. When the emperor desires strangers to dine with him he does not invite them, but the marshal of the court informs them that his majesty commands their presence at dinner on such and such a date and at such and such a time. The guests assemble and are escorted into the dining room where the vice-marshal of the court shows them their places. They must not, however, take their seat until the kaiser has taken his so that they have to remain standing round the table until the kaiser enters the room. The kaiser invariably compels his guests to wait for him on such occasions, frequently as long as 15 or 20 minutes. Two heralds then advance from the direction of the kaiser's private apartments and take up their stand on either side of the door through which the emperor will enter. The master of the ceremony then appears in a gorgeous braided uniform and bearing his wand of office with which he strikes the floor three times. This is the sign that the emperor is at hand and a moment later his majesty becomes visible, marches briskly into the room, acknowledges the profuse bows of his guests with a slight inclination of his imperial head and takes his seat. Close upon his heels follow those of his military, naval and personal suites who are doing duty for the occasion.

No one at the imperial table may begin to eat or drink until the kaiser has set the example. No one is allowed on any pretence whatever to leave the table while the emperor remains sitting. When the dinner is over the emperor rises, bows slightly and disappears through the door by which he had entered and after his departure his guests are free to disperse.

There are very stringent regulations regarding the dress which must be worn in the presence of the emperor. Officers of the army must invariably appear in full parade uniform with their swords dangling at their lefthand sides and wearing on their breasts all their orders, decorations and medals. Ministers of state, high administrative officials, and gentlemen who move in court society are obliged to appear in court in civilian dress consisting of the black knee breeches, silk stockings and buckle shoes. All male persons who do not belong to high society, but who happen to be in the presence of the emperor for any particular occasion, are compelled to wear a full dress suit, with silk hat, patent leather boots and white tie.

Women are obliged to appear at the imperial court in extremely low cut dresses, displaying the largest possible proportion of their bodily charms. The cut must not be rounded, but must be square, and the shoulders must be absolutely bare, with the exception of two supporting bands.—Boston Post.

A Servian Custom.

In Servia an old institution called the Zadruga still exists. It is the living together of a whole tribe, numbering about 150 persons, under the absolute authority of one chief, who keeps all the money, makes all purchases and decides every detail of family life.

HOISTING COAL AT A MINE.

Smallest Details Looked After in the Anthracite Region.

To most men—such as are even engaged in other lines of engineering construction—the mechanical details of mine hoisting can not fall to be of interest, says R. V. Norris, in Engineering Magazine. It is here shown that they are vital to the success of the majority of coal mining industries.

With many, the mining of coal is classed among the roughest kind of mechanical operations, in which the pick, drill and mauler play the most prominent part—an idea which has survived the era of primitive mining operations. Modern mining, however, has been brought to a stage of engineering refinement never dreamed of by the pioneers of the industry. To the lay reader the condensed presentation of the state of the art as now conducted, even so far as it relates to the lifting of coal from its normal level to the surface, is a revelation such, as without expert instructions, could not be gained even by a tour of inspection throughout the anthracite districts. The manner of obtaining the great supply of fuel, which is so intimately related to the progress of civilization, of which supply the Pennsylvania anthracite regions are one of the most important sources of supply, will ever continue to possess an interest superior to that of many industries to which coal getting is commercially vital.

The facts given illustrate the importance of skillful engineering to minor hoisting, and serve to place in a strong light the great advancement made during the last twenty-five years by careful study and skillful construction. It will be seen that even the smallest details have received attention, and that what might seem of small moment to those unfamiliar with the requirements of coal hoisting prove upon examination to be far otherwise.

PRODUCTION OF STUPIDITY.

Thought to Be Due to Over-Stimulation by City Life.

Any dearth of ability from which the civilized world may be suffering, says Sir J. Crichton Browne, is to be ascribed not so much to the infertility of the cultivated classes as to the artificial production of stupidity in various ways, and to the incessant draining from the country—which is the fit and proper breeding place and rearing ground of intellect—of the best elements of the people, to be swallowed up or deteriorated in the big towns. The idea that the agricultural laborer is set apart from his fellows by dulness of intellect is as untenable as the belief that the city urchin is cleverer and better endowed mentally than the little yokel. The rule seems to be that the mental development of children is hastened by city life, but soon stops short. Up till thirteen or fourteen years of age they are precocious, and then come to a standstill. City life at its best is bad for children, involving as it does early puberty, exciting distraction, superficiality of knowledge, insufficient rest, and the want of soothing influences which the country affords. At its worst, with tight squeezing in squalid tenements, poor food, foul air, constant contact with vice, and manifold temptations, it is drying up the reservoirs of strength in the population and leaving an immense proletariat of inferior quality.

A Diet of Dahlias.

Few guess that the dahlia has had a drably unromantic origin. This favorite early autumn flower was first introduced from Mexico by the Swedish botanist, Dr. Dahl, after whom it is named, as a substitute for the potato! Felicitously enough, the revolution against the tyrannical rule of the Mariphas was plotted in the revolutionary year 1789. But British gardeners soon perceived that the acid flavor of the tubers, which are still eaten in the south of France, would never be appreciated by our insular palate. They wisely devoted all their attention to the development of the flower, with the result that we now possess the double dahlia.—Westminster Gazette.

Romans Set the Gauge.

Ancient Rome is responsible for the gauge of our railway tracks, for Stephenson, when he invented the locomotive, decided upon the space between the width of the rails made by the old Roman chariots, explaining that he did not believe that he could improve upon the experience of a power such as Rome had been. Every standard gauge road the world over is built upon these measurements, which have been found as satisfactory now as when Nero rolled through the streets of Rome with the wheels of his chariot the same distance apart as are those of the modern Pullman.

Origin of the Metric System.

Some very interesting facts have lately been collected about the foot, the most widely used measure of length in modern times. The measure is derived from the length of the human foot, but apparently has varied more than that portion of the skeleton can possibly have done in historic times. The ancient Welsh foot, for instance, was nine inches long, whereas the Piedmont foot was twenty inches. In modern times it has varied from the Spanish foot, of less than eleven inches, to the Venice foot, of more than thirteen inches. Almost every country has used a foot measure of a different length. It was this confusion which led the French nation to devise the metric system.

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"Our daughter who was attending college became very nervous and we were advised to try Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription," writes Mrs. M. C. Fox, of E. Leonard St., Grand Rapids, Mich. "We did so and then you advised us to get the 'Golden Medical Discovery' also. She took four bottles of the 'Favorite Prescription' and three of the 'Golden Medical Discovery,' and you never saw such a change in a person. She said she did not feel like the same person. She was about seventeen years old at the time. I will gladly recommend Dr. Pierce's medicines to every one. I advise parents who have young daughters who suffer from nervous troubles to try Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription at once. I am sure it will help them."

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The Greed of Gold

How great a matter a little fire kindleth! It was a banquet that first fixed attention on the misuse of equitable funds, and brought Mr. Hyde before the public eye. The evolution has been a natural one: First the attempt of the President, James W. Alexander, to take advantage of a seeming opportunity to wrest control of the Society from Mr. Hyde; the mutual mud-slinging; the effort of outsiders to profit by the inside fight; the burial of the hatchet by Messrs. Hyde and Alexander as a matter of self-preservation; the tardy effort to put on the brakes, by the sale of control to Thomas F. Ryan; the failure to shut off the legislative inquiry; the overwhelmingly disgraceful disclosures implicating the Mutual Life and New York Life as well; and finally the ill-concealed game of purchase tried on the hitherto practically unknown but now much-feared Attorney Hughes, by trying to force upon him the Republican nomination for Mayor of the City of New York.

Some of the results to date are:

1. In spite of indignant denials on the eve of the last presidential election, the charge that corporation moneys were being used for election purposes is confirmed. Insurance money was used, money taken from funds that should be held as sacred as savings bank funds, and justly applied to reducing the cost of insurance.
 2. Similarly, large amounts were paid out for working with the legislatures of various States—sums too large to be counted as salaries—another proof of corruption, both in business and in politics, and of unfaithfulness in handling trust funds.
 3. The whole insurance business with its large surplus and reserves have been shown to be too great a temptation to the trustees of it, and the funds have been lavishly used to build up fortunes for a certain set of men. Their characters for faithfulness are gone glimmering and their attempted defence to date only sinks them deeper in the public judgment.
- Rome had its recital of the wrongs done by officials in the provinces. Virgil speaks of "Aur sacra fames"—the accursed greed of gold; and this Republic has views of it now on every hand, in business, no less than in politics.—Cent per Cent in November.

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PASSING OF THE BED.

Space in New York Too Valuable For Old Fashioned Article.

"This day is witnessing the passing of the bed," said a folding bed manufacturer on 14th-st. "Ground space is getting too valuable in New York to use for an old fashioned bed or to devote solely to sleeping purposes. People have got to have something to sleep on that they can fold up and get out of the way in the daytime. We have the most curious calls for beds made to order. People bring diagrams of flats and apartments in here and order us to make beds that will fit certain spaces. Some people have new beds made to order every time they move, so as to utilize every inch of space."

"Lots of people in New York sacrifice space and comfort for a fashionable address. I had a call from a woman the other day to go up to a fashionable hotel. She lives at a country home most of the year, but when she comes to town for a few months in the winter she and her two daughters crowd into one room at this hotel. They had one double folding bed, and they wanted me to construct a special bed that could be rested on two trunks at night. That was the only way they could get another bed into the room."

"I know a woman who started keeping boarders in an old New York house, the old family home which she had inherited. In every room was a fine big, roomy, old fashioned bed. One after another of her boarders demanded to have this bed removed and a couch substituted or a table bed, or a bookcase, or any other kind that they could fold away out of sight in the daytime, and make their rooms look like a sitting room. The woman found she couldn't sell her old fashioned beds. No one would have them, and rather than give them away—which she couldn't bring herself to do—she is actually paying storage on them."—New York Tribune.

Struck by a Woodshed.

Because Mrs. Fozzy's landlord refused to build a woodshed for her all the weavers of the Beach mill went out on a strike, and remained out until a promise was made that a beautiful and commodious woodshed should be added at once to Mrs. Fozzy's house.

Mrs. Fozzy's house is owned by Mr. Beach, the owner of the mill which employs the weavers. Most of the weavers are bachelors, and take their meals with Mrs. Fozzy, who has the reputation of being the finest cook in town. For a long time she wanted a woodshed to keep the kindlings, which are so necessary to get up the roaring fire that puts just the right "bake" on biscuits and pies. For a long time the mill-owner has declared that he saw no reason why he should erect a woodshed for her convenience.

She was at last forced to use strategy or continue to go without a woodshed. So she gathered her weaver boarders together and said there would be no more rich puddings, juicy pies, light biscuits and luscious stews for them until she had a woodshed. She said that if she could not have a woodshed she could not keep boarders, and they need not return for any more meals.

The weavers were panic-stricken until some one murmured "strike." Then they "went out." Mr. Beach asked their terms of settlement, and they said they would not return until Mrs. Fozzy had a woodshed. At Mr. Beach's earnest solicitation they finally compromised by saying they would return if he would promise that the building should be erected as soon as he could get hold of the proper carpenters. Mrs. Fozzy approved of the compromise, and the men have returned to their work and their meals.—New York Tribune.

Primitive African Banking.

In many parts of Africa the system of banking is as yet very primitive. The natives of that part of South Africa which to a great extent, is inhabited by bushmen and Hottentots have a peculiar system of banks. These Kaffirs, among whom this curious system of banking obtains, live near Kaffiraria in the south of the Colony country. The natives come down south from their country to trade in the several villages and towns in large numbers, stay with the Boers for a time, then return to Kaffiraria. Their banking facilities are very primitive, and consist entirely of banks of deposit alone, without banks of discount or issue and they have no checks. But still they enjoy banking privileges such as they are. From those who trade, of their own number, they select one who for the occasion is to be their banker. He is converted into a bank of deposit by putting all the money of those whose banker he is into a bag and then they rally forth to the store to buy whatever they want. When an article is purchased by any of those who are in this banking arrangement, the price of the article is taken by the banker from this deposit money bag counted several times and then paid to the seller of the article, after which all the bank depositors cry out to the banker, in the presence of the two witnesses selected, "You owe me so much!" This is then repeated by the witnesses.

What Englishmen Talk About.

There is no conversation possible between the French and English. If we speak of literature to the Englishman he, nine times out of ten, deafens us with some incomprehensible chatter about golf or cricket.—Pierres Mille in Grand Magazine.

Russia has poured millions into Manchuria, but she has the consolation of knowing that she has a good yau for her money.