

### THE TOPICS OF LONDON

#### BLANCE AT AFFAIRS IN ENGLAND'S BUSY CAPITAL.

Coming Election of Members of the Council Will Prove Interesting to American Shippers—King Edward Possesses Extraordinary Powers of Which the People Are Not Aware. Falling Off in Number of Deaths from Starvation.

London, March 8.—The coming election of members of the London county council is likely to prove interesting to American shippers.

The condition of the port of London has long been a subject of indignant protest from everybody compelled to use it.

During the busy season there is usually a shoal of vessels lying off Gravesend, unable to find dock accommodation, and it is a notorious fact that the navigation of the River Thames, below London bridge, is worse than Hell Gate in New York.

The management of the docks is in the hands of fifty-three distinct, independent authorities, entailing enough red tape to fit out any ordinary vessel's cables, etc.

At the coming election, the Radicals, or, as they are called in local politics, the Progressives, have a platform calling for municipal ownership of all the docks and the excavation of a thirty foot channel as far as Blackwall, cleaning out the fossilized corporations and privileged companies, remodeling the docks up to date, and intrusting their future management to a committee representing the council, the shippers, the government and the London corporation.

The programme is the most drastic onslaught on the London corporation system there has been for centuries.

Some of the privileges attacked date back almost to the Norman conquest, and were granted when piracy was not infrequent as far up the river as Deptford.

THE KING'S POWERS. King Edward VII possesses many very extraordinary powers and privileges which not many people are aware of, and which it is possible even his majesty does not quite realize.

Some of his possessions are distinctly curious. As an example he is the sole proprietor of the beds of all British tidal rivers, such as the Thames, the Mersey, the Dee, the Tyne and many others.

It is an old saying that the king can do no wrong, but possibly it is not understood that this is actually and literally the case in England as far as the king and the law is concerned.

His majesty is exempt from taxation. This comes about by the simple process of reasoning that, as the revenue of the realm, is his prerogative it would be useless and absurd for him to tax himself.

THE KING'S RIGHTS. The king may demand the immediate return to England of any of his subjects, no matter where they may be at the time, and has the power to declare that any particular person shall not leave the country, no matter for what reason.

There has been no disclosure of the nature and scope of the Victorian memorial, which will be proposed by a committee headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Salisbury and Lord Rosebery.

and some architectural scheme for the perpetuation of the queen's memory. If there be a feature of the latter kind it will offer the opportunity for American co-operation.

THE CORONATION. The departure of the Duke of Cornwall for Australia will be followed by the visit of the king and queen to Scotland, when they will go to Balmoral. This is the programme outlined by the court officials, with the coronation as an undecided question.

THE LONDON LABOR SITUATION. The London Labor party, who in England from starvation have fallen from 18 to 12 in 1,000,000; deaths from scurvy, 1 in 1,000,000, have remained stationary; but with deaths from intemperance the case is quite otherwise—there are perhaps 120,000 Catholics. Today there are in England and Scotland twenty-one bishops and about 2,000,000 of Catholics, with some 3,000 priests.

### Fashions for Spring

New York, March 8.—Among the smartest of the new gowns that are intended for summer wear are some most attractive thin fabrics that are made over silk linings, either of the same shade, or of entirely different coloring.

The gowns are trimmed with white lace, with the heavy yellowish lace, or with queer fichu collars of white silk embroidered in medallions of lace outlined with a fine gold thread.

The shape is a curious one, for at the back it is more like a square collar finished in tulle, and in front the ends are long enough to tie and hang down on the skirt or form a V-shaped reverse.

Between the folds in front is a narrow tucking of batiste or crepe de chine in cream white, put in as though to make the effect more becoming than if the same dull colored lace were used altogether.

The heavier Russian laces are also used for this purpose, and look especially well on the new shades of blue and red that are so popular.

There is a queer shade of green that is trimmed with black lace over white tulle, or white satin, and little knots of yellow at the throat and belt that is quite unusual as to color and exceedingly smart, not too generally becoming, though, to run the risk of its being a common combination.

Appique in cut work of all descriptions and designs is to be immensely popular this spring. An exceedingly smart style of taffeta waist in light blue, very fine tucks, has a collar and boner, very fine tucks, has a collar and boner, very fine tucks, has a collar and boner.

With a black cloth costume, the skirt of which is made in this way, is an exceedingly smart cut, quite short at the back and with long points in front, and the entire coat is outlined with this same trimming, a conventionalized leaf design.

The new taffeta gowns show a most elaborate carrying out of this idea. There are medallions of lace, and the silk is cut out underneath the medallions and then a very narrow silk or satin braid is put on to outline the pattern.

These skirts are lined with different colors, or with black, if preferred, are exceedingly smart, and while many of them are very expensive, there is an unusually wide choice, for many of them come in what are called the pattern gowns.

The same idea is carried out on net and on liberty satin, but is not so new. The medallions used on the crepe de chine and satin foulard gowns are not finished with any braid, but with embroidery stitches, or are appliqued down on to the material itself in a most extraordinary difficult fashion, all giving an opportunity for good needle women.

This season will be marked as one when most beautiful handwork is the rage. Many of the embroideries are done entirely by hand and, while the limitations are so cleverly executed, it would take a very keen eye to discover the difference.

The preference is for the more expensive and what is called real work. Even with the embroidered possumettes and spangled nets an immense amount of work is done by hand and some of the fastidious women say they would rather have a yard of the hand-work than an entire gown covered with machine work.

As it is, there are enough orders coming in to all the dressmakers and shops for all kinds of trimming to make both equally fashionable.

ACTORS AT HOME. How Some Footlight Favorites Pass Their Leisure Hours. From the New York Sun.

A number of actors have recently taken houses in New York and made their homes here permanently, leaving the city only to fill their engagements, and returning at every opportunity.

Richard Mansfield, Ada Rehan, Nat Goodwin, Maude Adams, Annie Russell, E. H. Sothern and John Drew are among the actors who live here.

Some of these are more or less in society, although possibly John Drew is the only one that takes his social career seriously. It is used to be said that Mr. Drew drank more tea in the course of a season than all the other actors in the country, but at that time he had the social field all to himself.

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home for a young actress. Miss Adams several years ago thought that she might like society, and was taken up very extensively by the same New York set that launched Ethel Barrymore socially; but she soon discovered that however pleasant some features of this social life might be, it seriously interfered with the work of a woman so much in demand by the public and not of a very vigorous constitution. So she gave up society and devotes herself uninterruptedly to her art.

Ada Rehan has always held herself aloof from society and refused all invitations that might have brought her into association with any other than a professional world. Her house is far up on the West Side, and her only intimate friends have been in her profession. Occasionally in London she went into society, and some of her intimates abroad are women of title; but in New York she has had no social life outside of the theatre.

Annie Russell moves in rather a quieter set than those that make up smart society, knows a number of people who write and some that are more in the swim of social life. Her house is in rather a remote neighborhood, and is, outside, a very modest establishment, but it is quite charming within.

John Drew lives in one of the Twenties, in a very substantial fashion, and his house might be the abode of a banker or stockbroker to judge from its appearance. Far up at the other end of the town in neighborhoods less distinctly fashionable live Richard Mansfield and E. H. Sothern. Mr. Sothern confines his social life entirely to his own profession. The same is not true of Mr. Mansfield, who is endeavoring to acquire somewhat the circle of acquaintances that made John Drew envied some years ago.

John Drew gave a coming-out tea for his daughter last winter, the function was quite the same in character as all such entertainments, with nothing about it to suggest that the young woman making the acquaint-

ance of society was the daughter of a line of actors and destined for the stage herself.

Elsie De Wolf was well known in society before she became a professional and has maintained that position to the present day. She lives with a friend in Irving place and these two women entertain very charmingly most of the celebrities in society and art that come to New York. Consequently invitations to their house are quite eagerly sought by persons who would not care a rap to go to an exclusive ball.

Mr. and Mrs. LeMoine have lived for some years in attractive apartments on the East Side and Mrs. LeMoine actively resumes her social life whenever her engagements allow a stay here.

It is Ethel Barrymore who more than any one else has been made the particular favorite of society. For the last three years women who never before thought of taking any interest in an actor or actress have been vying with one another to show attentions to this attractive young woman, who sits in stockholders' boxes at the opera and moves always in a social atmosphere never possible before to anybody in her profession.

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From the New York Press.

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A girl has got to be twenty-five before she is wise enough not to try to be wittier.

It's a funny thing that you never feel near so sleepy Sunday morning, when you don't have to get up.

Consoling Thought.

First Chinaman—I understand that we are to pay the powers an enormous sum of money. Well, that shows that we have defeated them much worse than America did Spain.

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