

Great Changes in London Society Life By PHILLIP EVERETT

London, March 21.—There have been recently some great changes in London's society life. That existence which was in the Victorian era as innocuous and stolid as the sphinx. Of course I only have to mention the fact for dancing. But I refer more particularly to the things customarily done at non-dancing parties.

On the first place conversation is coming back into fashion. It was thought that this ancient amusement had died with the eighteenth century, but it appears now simply to have hibernated for a hundred years.

Society people are finding their tongues again. The English are becoming more talkative, although still behind the French and the Americans of certain sections. Conversation is now an acceptable evening entertainment.

A fancy for the bourgeois game of "nap" has sprung up in society and almost amounted to a furore. It is being played in the most exclusive households for heavy points. Bridge and auction are still favorites, but are not prominent.

There is a great vogue for parlor games of quite an old-fashioned kind, especially for guessing blindfold. The only thing which is not wanted is amateur music.

Music, vocal or instrumental, is today thought a detestable nuisance unless it is equal to the best professional art.

It is found that the amateur singer and pianist is very conscious of this and refuses to display his talents unless he knows his work will compare with the best. Society has frozen out the drawing room ballad singer.

The precedence of Princess Arthur of Connaught, which was definitely defined for the first time at the court, has caused some heart burnings. Her marriage has made a tremendous difference in her position in the court circles. Hitherto it was somewhat remote and in the background, owing to the fact that her late father, the Duke of Fife was not of royal blood.

Now, as the wife of the King's cousin, she comes before all the daughters of the king's aunts, in front, too, of all the ladies of the Teck family.

Prince Arthur takes a very lively interest in the sartorial matters of his bride. Since her marriage, she has become one of the most chic of the royal ladies, and the excellent smartness of her court dress, and the up-to-dateness of her coiffure were common talk.

It is remarked since King George has been back in town how much older he is looking, though he certainly appears in the best of health. The thin patch on his head increases in size, and he is distinctly furrowed under the eyes. The truth is his majesty overworks. His activity is enormous, and he does not take sleep enough. Things which in previous reigns were relegated to the care of others, King George personally supervises.

Like Edmund Burke, he considers every moment of time not devoted to work as spent. His majesty keeps cutting down expenses steadily, and the last time he was at Windsor, he interviewed the heads of every department with the object of finding out the actual expenditure and the best means of reducing it.

The queen also visited parts of the castle's queen has never before set foot in, and made some sweeping changes in the household.

Research made by the Bishop of Oxford convinces him that the word "obey" in the marriage service has neither antiquity nor universality to support it.

This information was conveyed last night by the Bishop of Lincoln to a meeting of the National Union of Women's Suffrage societies over which he presided in Lincoln. The bishop was referring to his recent opinion in the upper house of the convention of Canterbury Province in withdrawing his amendment to omit the word "obey."

EFFECT OF HEAT ON GROUND

Depends Largely on the Nature and Color of the Soil.

How far does the heat of the full summer's sun penetrate into the ground?

Replies generally vary from one inch to many hundred feet. Actually the distance is about three feet. Beyond this depth the temperature of the soil does not vary appreciably from hour to hour, let the midday be ever so hot and the midnight ever so cold. At this depth the mean temperature in the summer is about 5 degrees Fahrenheit, and in the winter about 36 degrees Fahrenheit.

The surface heat takes a long while to penetrate downward. In fact curiously enough, the change in temperature of the ground takes just more than six months to reach the end of its 20-foot journey.

In agricultural districts you will hear farmers in the same village talking about "cold" soils and "warm" soils. This, although it sounds improbable to those who have never had anything to do with the land, is an actual fact.

Everybody knows from personal experience, that black clothes are hotter to wear when a hot summer's sun is shining than white ones, hence the "hannels" for men and the white frocks for girls. The reason for this is that black and other dark colors absorb heat while white and the lighter shades reflect it. And this applies to soils equally with cloths.

Those soils which by their ingredients are a darker color are literally warmer than their lighter neighbors. Peaty soils, some of which are nearly black, others a rich, dark brown, are the warmest. Light-colored clays and chalk the coldest. There may be as much as 15 degrees or 16 degrees Fahrenheit between the temperatures of two soils lying next each other and upon the same day.

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NOV 8

Interesting Facts About The Water Works

Reasons Why Tax Payers Should Favor City Ownership by John Sprunt Hill

Mr. Editor:— I notice that the friends of the Boston bondholders have been expending their money freely to publish the "Water Works Bill" \$52 for three days advertising is "going some" in a municipal campaign. Now, the purpose of all this great expenditure of money appears to be an effort to create confusion in the minds of the people in regard to taxation.

In the bill itself, as found in pages 888 and 889 private laws N. C. 1914 (the newspaper publication is not a correct copy of the law), under section 4, we find the following provision: "The board of aldermen or other governing authority of the city of Durham, out of the moneys derived from the collection of tolls or rents of water, or from sales of same, shall, after paying the cost and expenses of operating the plant or system of water works under its control, including the cost of such incidental improvements as may be deemed necessary for the purpose, apply the balance of such moneys, or so much thereof as may remain, to the payment of the semi-annual interest upon the bonds issued for said purpose and provide for a sinking fund for the payment of the principal of the bonds."

It is plain, therefore, that under the terms of the water works bill all of the earnings of the water business, derived from the collection of tolls or rents from water, or the sales of water, go toward paying interest on the water bonds and to establish a sinking fund, in order that the city may entirely own the water plant free of indebtedness in thirty years.

The balance of the receipts, after paying interest and the sinking fund, will go into the city treasury, and thereby help to lighten the burden of taxation. This balance ought to amount to a great many thousand dollars in the course of the next thirty years. From the sworn statement of the receiver, for 1912, the net profits of the Water company were about \$39,000. Tax payers, take out your pencil and do a little figuring yourself. By simple calculation on the present earnings of the Water company (\$39,000 per year) are sufficient to pay \$22,500, the amount of interest on the entire bond issue of \$600,000 at 4-1/2 per cent, and have a balance of \$16,500 per year to establish a sinking fund of \$8572 each year in order to pay off the bonds in thirty years, and still turn over to the city treasurer a yearly balance of \$7928. It must be clear, therefore, that the property owners of the city of Durham need not worry themselves very much about the increased taxes on account of city ownership of the water. On the contrary, in the light of the present earnings of the water company, and in the light of other cities owning the water works, they may feel assured of a decrease in the city taxes, and also pay for the water works in thirty years.

Now, the above calculation is based on a plant costing \$500,000, the amount of the bonds, while the profits of the Water Company are on their present plant which appears to be worth about \$270,000. If great improvements, costing something like \$200,000, were expended upon the present plant, it is fair to assume that it would earn at least \$50,000 instead of \$39,000. The fact is that the earnings of the Water company, in seventeen years, have increased over four hundred per cent, and the probabilities are that their increase of earnings during the next thirty years, judging the future by the past, would amount to as much as \$100,000 per year. Is it any wonder that some body is spending money freely to defeat city ownership? Let us turn on the light. Let us think well before we tie ourselves to thirty years more of the foul waters of the river. Let us think well before we give thirty years contract to Boston bondholders that will almost certainly take \$2,000,000 in earnings out of the pockets of the tax payers of Durham, and put this \$2,000,000 of net earnings into the pockets of Boston bondholders.

Hydrant Rental.
By the way, tax payers of Durham, who pay for the present water pipe extensions in the city, the Water company or the tax payers? Take out your pencil and figure again. The Boston bondholders are now charging the city about \$9,500 a year for 215 hydrants, and the water used for fires, sprinkling streets and public buildings. It is estimated on reliable authority that \$1200 per year would be a fair charge for all the water actually used by the city, which leaves a balance of \$8,300 for hydrant rental. Now, the laying of 6-inch pipe line 600 feet at 62 cents per foot laid amounts to \$370. The hydrant itself costs \$21, the branch pipe line and connection cost \$10, or a total of \$341, and this amount multiplied by 215 makes about \$73,300. It is evident, therefore, that we are paying the Water Company \$8,300 per year on an investment of about \$73,300; or a little over 11 per cent on the capital invested. Now, under municipal ownership the interest on \$73,300 for laying hydrants, at 4-1/2 per cent the rate of interest on bonds, would be about \$3,400, or a net saving by city ownership of \$4,900 per year on hydrant rental alone. Tax payers of the city of Durham, don't you think it is about time for us to quit feeding the old cow in Durham in order that she may be milked by Boston bondholders. Why not turn the cow around and let us do a little milking ourselves. It is no wonder that the friend of the Boston bondholders have money to spend to defeat city ownership.

Municipal Ownership.
If municipal ownership is such a bad thing, as the friends of the Boston bondholders would have you believe, why is it that in the north and west 205 water works plants have changed from private ownership to municipal ownership? and during the same period only 20 plants have abandoned municipal ownership? Why is it that nine-tenths of the water works plants in North Carolina are owned by the cities themselves? Why did Raleigh, Wilmington and Morganton recently change from private ownership to municipal ownership? If municipal ownership is such a bad thing for the people of Durham, why did the friends of the Boston bondholders go away from Norfolk, Danville, Raleigh, Wilmington, Charlotte, Asheville and Athens to Troy, N. Y., to find an old gentleman to help them out in defeating city ownership? This old gentleman for many years was superintendent of a privately owned plant in Charleston, S. C. For reasons he knows to himself he went to work for a municipal water plant at Troy, N. Y., and then turns around and talks about his employers. Not much information should be attached to the opinion and views of a man who

"Eats my bread, drinks my tea, Goes around town talking about me."

But, after all, tax payers of Durham, our case must stand or fall by conditions as we find them at Durham, not as they are found at Charlotte, where the small consumer gets his water for less than he does in Durham and the man using over 10,000 gallons pays a little more, or at Rocky Mount where the ordinary user pays 5 cents 1,000 gallons less than he does in Durham, or at Wilson where the ordinary user gets his water for 10 cents 1,000 gallons less than in Durham. The truth is that with city ownership we can run our plant at a great profit to the city without raising any body's rate. In all fairness, to the small consumer we should lower his rate, and this can be safely done in Durham without any serious loss of revenue.

It might be a good plan for us to adopt the Charlotte plan of making a lump charge, by the city, of say \$22.50 to pay for all work of opening and repairing the street, making connections, laying pipe, etc., to the yard of the property owner, and installing meter and paying ten years rental on the meter. Despite the erroneous information turned loose by the friends of the Boston bondholders, this Charlotte plan appears to be many of us far better and much cheaper to the Durham tax payer than the Durham plan. Tax payers, decide for yourselves, which is the better plan. In Durham we pay the Durham Water Company \$1.00 for making the tap in the street main, and then we pay local plumber, for opening the street, laying pipe into the yard, making connection, etc., a charge ranging from \$18.00 to \$25.00, and then in addition we pay the Durham Water Company \$2.48 a year rental for a \$7.00 meter. The street in front of the house generally shows a bump or depression for the next two or three years. It must be plain to any fair-minded man that the meter charge of \$2.48 a year in Durham is an extra burden upon the Durham tax payer.

It must also be plain to the Durham tax payers that it is better to have the city open and repair the street than to let a third party's work to the individuals. We are now paying, in Durham, about \$25,000 a year to repair our streets. At least \$5,000 of this amount is expended in making repairs to the streets caused by work done in laying water pipes.

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