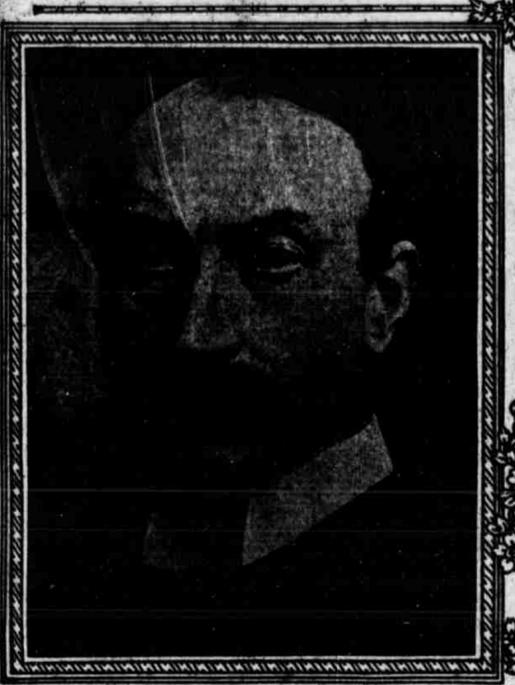
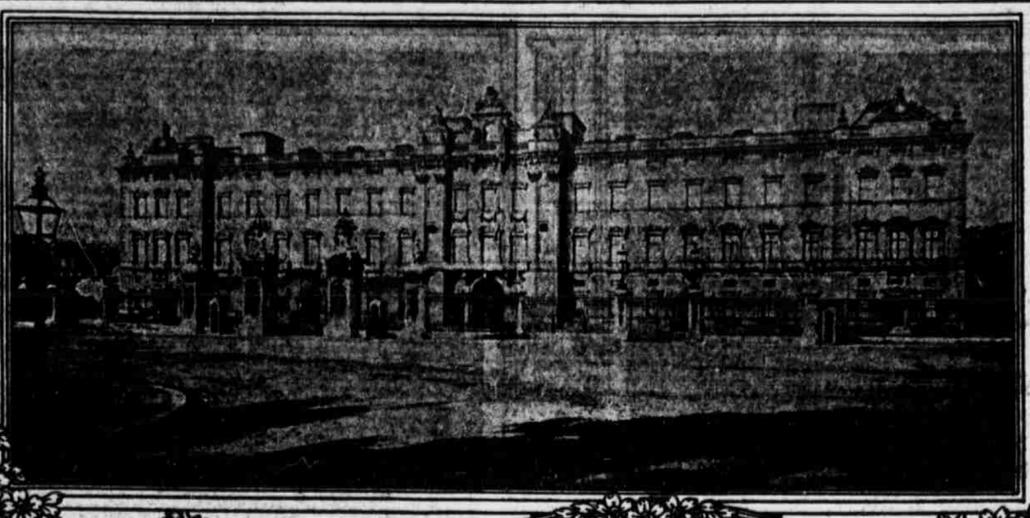


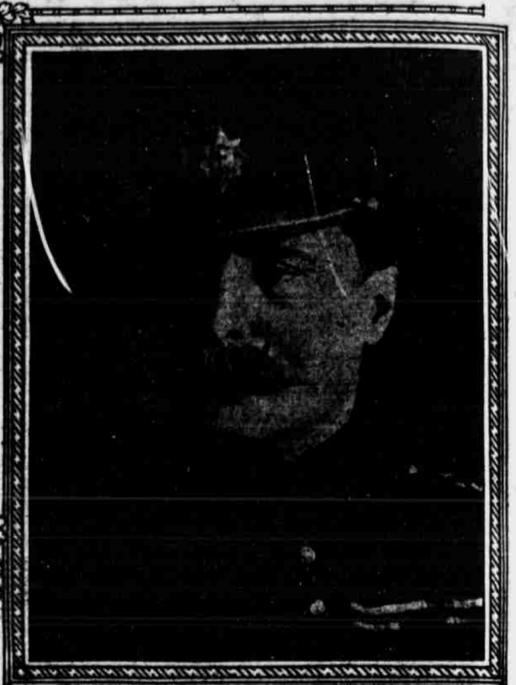
How 11,000 Maidens Will Make Their Bow at Buckingham Palace



LORD SANDHURST



BUCKINGHAM PALACE



SIR DOUGLAS DAWSON

King George Solves Problem Arising From Great Number of War Delayed Presentations by Arranging Garden Parties Instead of Holding Court

By FREDERICK CUNLIFFE-OWEN

KING George, by an announcement in the London Official Gazette, has brought joy and relief to the hearts of some 11,000 maidens of birth and position in Great Britain, who during the last five years have emerged from the status of "bachelors" into that of womanhood; also to their mothers or chaperones, as well as to about 2,000 youthful matrons who have married since the beginning of the great war. Nor is this feminine satisfaction by any means confined to the fair-lesges of the British Crown. It has extended to certain circles in New York and in other big cities of the United States.

About Easter time it became known that owing to the fact that no courts had been held by George V. and his consort since the summer of 1914 there were 11,000 debutantes awaiting that presentation which is indispensable to their successful launching into society and necessary in order to invest them in an official sense with certain prerogatives proper to their station in life.

Customary at 18.

Presentation at court usually takes place at 18, but save for those girls who have come out this season all of those awaiting presentation are past the age and have been somewhat unkindly dubbed "cold storage debutantes." Maidens who were presented prior to the war and who have assumed the bonds of matrimony since also are awaiting the requisite presentation on marriage.

Now as the maximum number of presentations which it was possible to crowd into a court prior to the war amounted to 300 or 400, it was manifestly out of the question for the King and Queen to deal with this vast accumulation of arrears during the course of the London season, which does not exceed ten weeks and which will come to an end in the first days of August. Even if the sovereigns had held several courts a week, for which they had neither the time, inclination nor strength, in view of all their other duties and obligations, it would have been impossible to catch up. Court

officials were in despair. So were the cold storage debutantes, also the brides of the season, and likewise a number of American women and young girls who had been given to understand that they could not hope for presentation as long as the lists of applications of British matrons and girls were so terribly overcrowded.

With that sound and practical sense which distinguished his father, the present King has caused it to be announced that no courts will be held this year, but that during the course of the present month a series of garden parties will, weather permitting, be held in the beautiful grounds of Buckingham Palace, "commemorative" to which, issued by the Lord Chamberlain, will be regarded as equivalent to presentation at court and be officially recorded as such.

Palace Grounds Are Extensive.

As many as two or three thousand can be invited to the garden parties at Buckingham Palace, for the grounds, a triumph of landscape art, embrace an area of forty acres or more, dotted with a couple of large lakes and shaded with superb old trees planted several centuries ago. In fact, it would be possible to have some 5,000 or 6,000 guests present without crowding the royal gardens to any appreciable extent. They are surrounded by a lofty wall and present so rural an appearance that were it not for the ever present hum of the huge metropolis on either side, the scene would be far away in the country instead of in the very heart of London.

At the courts held before the war by the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace which ordinarily began at 1:30 and ended before 1:00 A.M., each woman presented to the sovereign by name as she curtsied her way past the throne. There can be nothing of the kind at the garden parties at Buckingham Palace this season. The royalties will pass in procession along the walks and across the lawns between the rows of their guests, ranged on either side, the men in military uniform, the women in courtly attire, and the confitures of lace and feathers that were de rigueur at the evening courts held before the war, will wear afternoon visiting toilettes, and the men,

when not in military uniform, will be required to wear what is known as morning dress, that is to say, frock or cutaway tail coat and high silk hat.

Prior to 1914, garden parties were given at Buckingham Palace more especially for the benefit of those to whom the monarch desired to show some recognition and yet who were barred for one reason or another from official presentation at court, such as, for instance, great actresses. No matter how unexceptionable the conduct of the latter, nor yet how worldwide her celebrity, she is, by reason of her profession, excluded from presentation at court. The late Queen Victoria was very fond of the great singer, the late Mrs. Albert, and when she was at Balmoral frequently invited the great lyric actress to spend a day or two at the Castle and to dine with her privately. But she could not admit her to official presentation at court because of her calling. Actors, until their retirement, fall under the same ban, even if knighted. Moreover, there are plenty of other people who do not possess the requisite qualifications for presentation, and yet are known to the sovereigns and held in kindly regard by them. These, too, used before the war, to be invited to the royal garden parties, at which, for instance, the Labor Members of Parliament were honored guests. Garden parties held this season, however, will be of an entirely different character. They are restricted exclusively to those qualified for official presentation.

All Candidates Scrutinized.

Formal presentation at court may be said to carry with it the imprimatur of the British Crown. Presentations in the case of foreigners can only be made by the presenter's Ambassador or Ambassador after the name has been duly passed upon by the Lord Chamberlain, who shares the responsibility with the envoy. In the case of British subjects, the presentation can only be made by some one who has already been presented and who assumes full responsibility for the candidate; a responsibility which does not, however, preclude the Lord Chamberlain, the Comptroller of his department and its lynx eyed myrmidons from subjecting the candidate to the most searching scrutiny. If this investigation proves unsatisfactory the application is denied and the proposer is hauled over the coals and in extreme cases his or her presentation is cancelled. So that people have to be very careful, for their own sake, as to whom they present at court.

This scrutiny of the Lord Chamberlain and of his department does not by any means cease with the ceremony of presentation. A record is kept of every presentee, male and female. If their subsequent conduct is such as to excite unfavorable comment, even though it does not engage the attention of the law, it is apt to lead to a quiet but formal intimation on the part of the Lord Chamberlain to the offender that his or her name has been removed from the list of persons who have been presented at court and that a notification that effect has been forwarded to all British embassies and legations abroad. If the offender's indiscretion has been such as to involve judicial proceedings, or his or her reputation has been unfavorably affected by testimony in connection therewith, the Lord Chamberlain is apt to publish a formal announcement in the London Official Gazette to the effect that the offender's name has by orders of the King been removed from the list of those presented at court. This is equivalent to a worldwide declaration that their Britannic Majesties have seen fit, and for good cause, to "cut" the person in question—to sever their acquaintance with the party concerned. It is an irremediable stigma of disgrace and entails ostracism not alone at home but also abroad.

If British embassies and legations have to be notified of the private or public cancellations of presentation it is because British subjects who are on the list of the presented at the Court of King George can ask of their names on the list of ministers presentation at the courts to which these functionaries are accredited. This does not mean that the envoy is

obliged to present all applicants. But he cannot present any man or woman who has not been presented at the Court of England. Nor if accredited to a republic can he ask for them invitations to any official functions and entertainments. Naturally, therefore, a person who is disqualified from presentation at the English court, or whose presentation has for one reason or another been cancelled, cannot look for any official recognition, endorsement or countenance on the part of British embassies and legations abroad.

Nor is the scrutiny of the Lord Chamberlain's department limited to British subjects and to events within the boundaries of the British Empire. Embassies and legations keep him posted about everything affecting it directly or indirectly which goes on abroad. Moreover, both he and his subordinates have plenty of foreign friends who keep them supplied with all necessary information. In fact, the present Lord Chamberlain, namely, Lord Sandhurst, has American relatives, his wife, Lady Sandhurst, being a sister of Mrs. Frederick W. Whitridge of New York.

Fear a Wholesome Deterrent.

It cannot be denied that the knowledge of the fact that the Lord Chamberlain of England and his myrmidons are keeping themselves duly informed as to the behavior of all those who have been presented at the Court of St. James's acts as a wholesome deterrent. There are plenty of people who refrain from misconduct, not by reason of any principle, but merely because of fear of the consequences. But whether it be principle or fear, the result is the same, and anything that contributes to keep men and women from going wrong is an advantage. Presentation at court in England, which in the case of a maiden must be made anew on the occasion of her marriage in order to keep her name on the list of the presented, entitles a person to apply direct to the Lord Chamberlain for invitations to

Courts and other state functions other than private entertainments of the King and Queen. It does not follow that these applications are always granted. It depends on the nature of the function and upon the limitations imposed upon the number of those summoned to take part therein. But if the applicant has not been presented his communication remains unnoticed, since its sender has no locus standi. Persons whose presentations have been privately cancelled are not disposed to put in an appearance, even at any private entertainments, at which members of the reigning house of England are present. If they attract the notice of royal displeasure were two persons and a peer. There was the wife of an Earl who wrote a malignant and slanderous paragraph for the London World which appeared in its columns during the absence of the Continent of the editor and proprietor, the late Edmund Yates. The paragraph impugned the reputation of a married peer of great standing and the then unmarried daughter of a brother Earl, Edmund Yates was sued for criminal libel. He refused to divulge the name of the writer of the paragraph and suffered a year's imprisonment. But Queen Victoria ascertained the name of the culprit and ordered him out of the house, with the alternative of ejection by the servants.

Cases of officially announced cancellation have been few and far between, the most notable one that I can remember being that of the elderly and universally respected Belgian wife of the late Sir Travers Twiss, Judge Advocate General, whose stormy antecedents at Brussels prior to her marriage were brought to light twenty years later in connection with the prosecution by her husband of a notorious guilty of blackmailing her. It was a lamentable case, but the evidence was such that Queen Victoria, who pitied the couple profoundly, had no alternative but to gazette Lady Twiss's presentation as cancelled. There was no such sympathy, however, for the American born Lady Grandville Gordon, who in the course of divorce proceedings gave such evidence as rendered her exclusion from court inevitable.

There was also a Countess well known in America who was shown during the course of a divorce suit to have been led by well nigh insane jealousy of the correspondent, who had

been her own lover to notify the unsuspecting petitioner of the betrayal of his wife. The name of the now white haired peeress guilty of this particularly feminine form of treachery was not mentioned in the proceedings, though it was hinted at. But that was quite sufficient to bring her, by the orders of the Sovereign, under the ban of the Lord Chamberlain.

An Earl's Impudence.

As for the Earl whose presentation was cancelled for indiscretions too numerous to mention, he had the impudence to induce a lady with whom he was dining and who was ignorant of the fact that he was barred at court to allow him to escort her to an entertainment at a great house in St. James's Square at which Edward VII. and his consort, then Prince and Princess of Wales, were present. The host was speedily notified, and after apologizing to the royalties he stropped up to the young peer, three of whose married sisters—reigning beauties—were present, and curtly ordered him out of the house, with the alternative of ejection by the servants.

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Two Thousand Matrons Also Await Social Formalities, the Interest in Which Extends to United States

the last half century of American presentations at the Court of England being subjected to the penalty of public cancellation in the columns of the London Official Gazette. In each instance it was because of the discovery that they were disqualified from presentation in the first place, and not for any misconduct after presentation.

As for Lord Sandhurst, who ever since 1912 has been acting as guardian of the gates of the Court of St. James's and as Cerberus of English society in his capacity as Lord Chamberlain, he is a soldier by profession, was a Lord in Waiting of Queen Victoria, and afterward Governor of the great Indian Presidency of Bombay. He is descended from Lord Chief Justice Mansfield of a hundred years ago. But it was his father who was the first of his family to be raised to the peerage for his services in suppressing the great Sepoy mutiny of sixty years ago thus preserving India to the British Empire.

In his capacity as Lord Chamberlain the censor of the drama in the United Kingdom, and no play can be presented on the public stage without having received his license and approval. He is even responsible for the manner in which it is presented on the stage, and one of his predecessors, the present Marquis of Lincolnshire, then Lord Carrington, came in for a good deal of amusing attention on the part of the press in this country through his official condemnation of the attire of the American actress, Fay Templeton, on the stage of the London Gaiety Theatre.

Gave Fay Templeton a Sash.

It was during the Victorian era, and Fay Templeton was only allowed to reappear before the footlights on the condition of her adding a sash to her garb which went by the name of the Lord Chamberlain's scarf. There is no appeal to law from the decree of the Lord Chamberlain. His edicts are final, and there has been much bitter complaint among dramatic authors and theatrical managers on this account.

The Lord Chamberlain's emblems of office consist of a white wand, which Charles I.'s Lord Chamberlain, the Earl of Pembroke, used for hitting on

the head those courtiers who disregarded his commands in the matter of etiquette and place; also a gold key, fastened by a bow of blue ribbon attached to the waist toward the back of the uniform. He exercises the superintendence and control over all officials and servants above stairs at court, and the lords in waiting, the royal medical attendants, the Poet Laureate, the Keeper of the Royal Jewel House, the so-called "King's Musick," and the Master of the King's Swans, who has jurisdiction all over the United Kingdom.

He Walks Backward Well.

Like his colleague, the Lord Steward of the Household, he has to be an adept in the art of walking backward, and Americans who have attended State balls or courts will recall that the royal procession on entering and leaving the throne room is invariably preceded by the Lord Chamberlain and the Lord Steward, walking backward. This has to be done not merely on level, but also up and down stairs, which is still more arduous. Walking backward is a token of very great respect. It is an act of homage which many of the old regime in Europe still accord to every great lady of their acquaintance when they back out of her presence at the conclusion of a call and is based on the doctrine that it is discourteous to turn the back on any one who is entitled to deference.

With regard to Lord Sandhurst's deputy and comptroller of his department, Sir Douglas Dawson, he is a nephew of the first Earl of Dartrey and a grandson of the late Lord Cromorne. The first Lord Cromorne married as his second wife Philadelphia Premeau, only daughter of Thomas Premeau of Philadelphia, who himself married to Margaretta, daughter of William Penn, the founder of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. He is a guardian, spent ten years as Military Attaché in Vienna and Paris, took part in the unsuccessful Nile expedition, and is devoid of supererogation. For he makes his principal home at Medmenham Abbey, midway between Marlow and Henley, on the Buckinghamshire side of the Thames, and celebrated as having been in the eighteenth century the headquarters of a notorious Despensers's Hell Fire Club.

Collecting Stamps Under Fire

PHILATELISTS in the United States may be interested in some stories about stamps and stamp collectors that have been brought to light by the ending of hostilities. Paris stamp collectors in the darkest days of the war when the Germans were only a few miles away and shells from the long range guns crashed into the city by day as did aerial torpedoes by night, pursued the avocaine tenor of their way.

Stamp collecting seems to flourish here as nowhere else in the world. Thursday afternoons the collectors meet to barter and bargain. Fair weather or foul, they are always there. It is a curious little gathering, mainly of middle aged and old people. Some are evidently in a state of genteel poverty, but they are willing to scrape and deny themselves in order to secure a rare specimen occasionally.

Buying a stamp is an operation not to be lightly treated by those folks. There must be much talk and jockeying of the price. Of course the merchant, if he be a professional, first sets a price much higher than he is willing to take. The prospective buyer knows the initial figure is absurd and tells the seller that he knows a place where he can get a much better specimen of the same stamp for half the money. And so it goes until a bargain is struck. The bona fide amateurs also attend. Their bargains are less harsh than those of the merchants, but none the less intense because clothed in courtly phrases.

Imagine a postage stamp which, though actually used for franking letters, has never sold. This is the curious story attached to a British Egyptian Expeditionary Force (commonly called the Palestine) stamp. As a caution against speculation it was not placed on sale in the usual way, but was affixed by the postal authorities to letters and packets ages upon which postage had already been paid.

In some war collections too, may be seen a typewriter stamp headed "G. R. I.—Long Island," and of the face value of one shilling. This unique production was "issued" by the British civil administration of Cyprus (Long Island), in the Gulf of Smyrna during its occupation in 1915. The most singular feature of the stamp is that it is absolutely superfluous as such, because the correspondence of the British forces did not require prepayment, and the natives could not be allowed in the circuit of their communication with the outside world.

Many London firms preserve Russian stamps that were designed to serve as currency and to be used for postage. Printed during a temporary absence of small change of the same value—their bear on the back this inscription: "Having circulation on a par with silver subsidiary coins." Just as remarkable is the British Honduras stamp of 1915. When a consignment of stamps was ready for shipment from London to British Honduras, a number of German soldiers were at large in the Atlantic, and there was a risk that it might fall into the hands of the enemy and be used to rob the British revenue. So the stamps were overprinted with a notice denouncing them as being easily identifiable. The Germans, however, did not capture the stamps and they were sold in the usual way.