

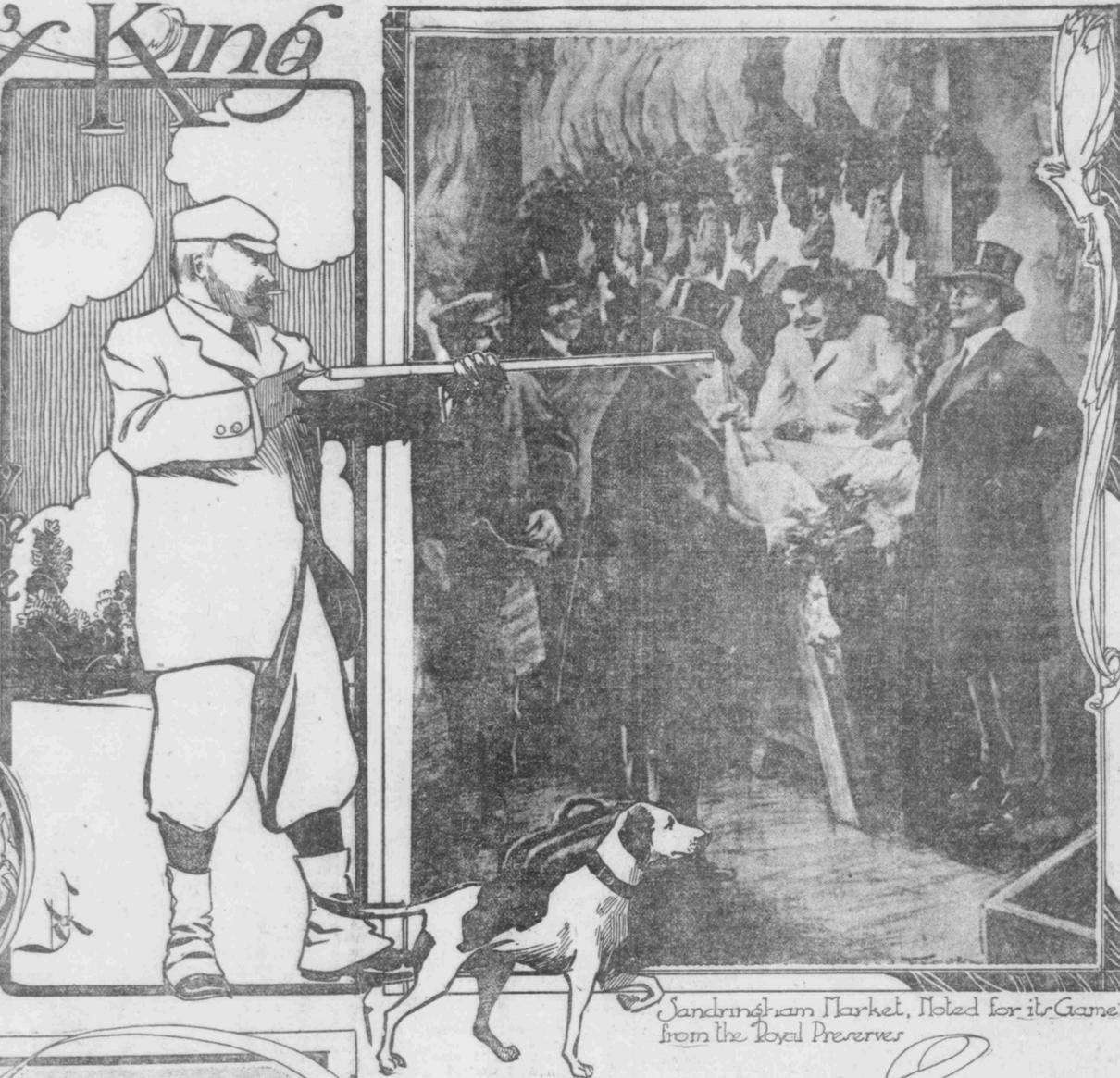
# England's King

## Country Squire

### Sandringham Where His Majesty drops the Firesome Etiquette of Throne and Court



Queen Alexandra



Sandringham Market, Noted for its Game from the Royal Preserves

The recreation of the best types of royalty in Europe from the pomp and circumstance of exalted rank and their desire to return, as much as society will permit them, to simple and more healthy methods of life is more strongly shown by King Edward of England than by any other great sovereign aside from the unhappy Czar of Russia, King Edward, who loves roast short ribs of beef and Irish potatoes better than any other dish known to the royal cooks also much prefers his private country home to the famous palaces left him by such famous old English monarchs as Henry VIII or the ill-fated Charles I, who loved Buckingham Palace best of all the Stuart royal residences.

The loyal Englishman, too, is proud of the fact that the man whom he considers the first gentleman in Europe, Sandringham is not one of these but the private property of Edward as a simple English citizen, and he farms this estate and makes it pay, a thing that many an untitled Englishman has failed to accomplish to his cost.

Popular as the King undoubtedly is among all classes of his subjects, it is as a country gentleman that he is seen at his best. This is the role he fulfills when at Sandringham, his country home, where he can doff his crown and snap the bonds of royal etiquette. As such he is a model landlord, a successful farmer, a sanitary reformer, a generous philanthropist, well-liked employer and the most practical of all temperance reformers. The schools and churches which he has built for the three villages which he has built for the permanent welfare of the people. No one who is not a royal subject is here, in the King's own village.

The King's country home, known as Sandringham House, where His Majesty is now staying, was purchased for him by his father, the Prince Consort, some five years ago, at the cost of \$1,200,000. The house stands in a park of some 500 acres. To this we add the farms, kitchen gardens and plantations, the estate comprises some 12,000 acres. It has a rent roll of about \$5,000, and, if rumor is correct, the King has always made a point of spending this on improving the estate, in which case he must have spent in this way alone considerably over a million dollars. To understand what the King has accomplished at Sandringham is to realize that he has done there, in a few years, what other monarchs have done in centuries.

#### A Typical English Count

Sandringham House may be described as a typical country mansion; it is by no means a palace, indeed, if the truth must be told, a downy home could be mentioned for larger and more elaborate. Yet Sandringham House has a dignified and pleasing appearance. It is of modernized Elizabethan architecture, built of red brick, with Ketton stone dressing. Over the door at the main entrance one reads the following inscription: "This house was built by Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, and Alexandra his wife, in the year of our Lord 1893."

As a matter of fact, the estate was purchased some nine years previous to that date, but the Old Manor House was in such a condition that, after vainly trying to patch it up and add to it, it was found desirable to pull it all down and build an entirely new residence. Thirteen years ago Sandringham was again in the hands of the builders after



The Kings of England and Portugal

a disastrous fire, when the entire roof of the main building was damaged and the whole of the two upper floors were burned beyond the possibility of saving them. But the King, who was then, of course, the Prince of Wales, cheerfully set to work to rebuild the ruined portion of the house, and Sandringham, or at least the new part of it, is today completely fireproof, with iron and concrete floors and roof. The fire cost the King \$70,000, and made Sandringham an unusually costly residence for that particular year. It will be seen from the above that the house is entirely a modern structure. It has a frontage of some 500 feet, and it is so designed that the majority of the principal rooms overlook the terrace and the beautiful gardens beyond.

#### Where the King Enjoys Life.

Of the rooms in the house, with their costly treasures, His Majesty forbids anything like a detailed description. There are three drawing-rooms, two small ones and a large one. They are all connected with the entrance hall by a broad corridor, which is ornamented with pieces of ancient tapestries, stuffed birds, etc. The large drawing-room is a magnificent apartment, fitted with windows reaching from ceiling to floor. The walls are paneled with pink and blue and with moldings of gold and cream. The furniture is upholstered in pale blue, with threads of deep crimson and gold; the hangings are of rich chequered; the floor of polished oak, with rich Indian rugs distributed here and there. A plentiful scattering of music and books gives it a homelike appearance. The apartment best known to the people of Norfolk county is the ballroom. It is of immense size and of lofty construction. There is hardly a father, a laborer or servant in the employ of the King who cannot say that he has not had a good time in this

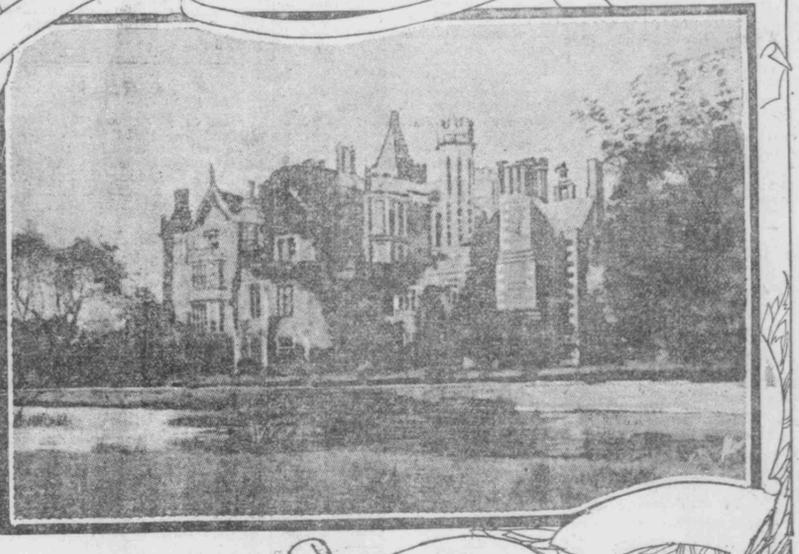
apartment. There are three "annual" dances held there—the "county," the "Tenants" and the "servants" balls. Until a few years ago the King and Queen always led off the dancing on these occasions, but since he ascended the throne His Majesty has been too much occupied with affairs of state to always put in a personal appearance, but with characteristic thoughtfulness sees that everything is done to make the ball a success and his working people made happy. The King's workroom many would describe as small, but it is in this room that His Majesty answers his correspondence and transacts all the business affairs connected with his estate. In an adjoining room may be seen a complete postoffice. You can buy a stamp or take out a money-order at Sandringham House in the very same way as you can in a postoffice in the Strand in London. The spacious dining-room, the three libraries, the conservatories, the billiard-room, gunroom and an interesting apartment containing numerous sporting trophies and cups won by the King's cattle competition are all handsomely and artistically furnished.

#### King's Gardens and Parnhouses.

After all it is the gardens and farms that are the chief charm of Sandringham. Indeed, it was these latter which decided the King to give up Osborne House and retain Sandringham when he came to the throne. To fully appreciate the beauty of the gardens at Sandringham, one should stand on the terrace front, when a scene of rare beauty enchants the eye. There are no geometrical beds of gorgeous mosaic, nor groups of statuary—in fact, none of the flashy devices of so-called "grounds" gardens. The velvet turf descends in shallow slopes to the lake, with its blue surface dotted with tiny

islands, whose trees are mirrored in the water. Here the lake narrows until a pretty rustic bridge is able to reach across it, and further on it diminishes into a stream, trickling through purple heather and fringes of feathery bamboos, while everywhere is the singing of birds and the soothing cry of the wood pigeon. Beyond the gardens is the park, which has a peculiar personal interest. From his mother the King has inherited a taste for memorial trees, and the illustrious guests at Sandringham have not often escaped without being asked to plant one. At the base of each is an iron label carrying an inscription that describes the kind of tree and tells who the Kaiser and the Czar downwards there is scarcely an European potentate of importance who has not growing in Sandringham Park a tree planted with his own hands.

Reverting again to the gardens it is interesting to note that pink climbing roses are said to be the favorite flower of their Majesties, and no fewer than 20,000 were planted at Sandringham in the autumn of 1893 and 1894. So prolific have these plants proved that from a single bank four feet high no fewer than 10,000 roses were taken in one morning. The Queen has also a passion for violets of every hue, to the raising of which 200 feet of glass houses is devoted. Mention may also be made of the walled-in garden with their treasures of rare fruits ripening seductively in the sun; the alpine gardens and the wonderful rockeries. His Majesty's delight when at Sandringham is to visit his farm. As soon as his correspondence is finished he hastens away from his house across the parks to the kennels and studd, taking visitors with him when he can persuade them to join him. His Majesty is a farmer in the true



Sandringham House The Kings favorite residence and where the King of Portugal was entertained during the Christmas Holiday

sense of the word, as distinguished from the owner of an estate upon which there are farms. Indeed the King, whose training has been essentially that of an English country gentleman, takes the liveliest personal interest in every detail connected with his land, himself marking out trees to be felled and directing where others should be planted, and superintending the choice of stocks, and all questions that have to do with the carrying on of the lands and farm. It is a wonderful farm, for nowhere else is so much high-bred stock to be seen upon the same area.

The glory of the farms, of course, is their stock. At Sandringham are to be found a splendid herd of pedigree Short-horns and Southdown sheep of the first quality as the prizes that they take at all the leading shows attest. The Sandringhamshire horses are famous—the finest, indeed, to be seen anywhere. In December on the farm there were between 70 and 80 head of Irish breds from the finest blood in the world. Of the thoroughbreds the same may be said, if it is necessary to do so, seeing that they include the two Derby winners, Parsimon and Diamond Jubilee, and 15 magnificent mares. In addition to these, hackneys are also bred. Nor are the Short-horns the only cattle, for with them are herds of Irish Dexters and Jerseys. In fact, it would be interesting to know what is the total value of the stock upon the Sandringham farms. This must be enormous, but great as has been the capital outlay, the probability is that the investment pays since when the produce of such stock is put upon the market it commands high prices, and is, of course, much sought after by breeders for the value of its blood. The Queen's model dairy is a place where she and her daughters have spent many delightful hours in the mysteries of butter-making. Also there are technical schools on the estate and a

village club. The latter was founded by the King for the benefit of the villagers and the men and youths employed on the estate. It was the late Earl of Derby who said: "Half the secret of the King's unrivaled popularity is that he is a sportsman to the backbone." Indeed he is a past master of the gun, and ranks among the dozen best shots in the United Kingdom. He has shot bears at dangerously close quarters in the Carpathian Mountains, and dozens of fierce boars have fallen to his gun in Germany. He sent a bullet through the head of one at a distance of over 200 yards. But it is pheasant shooting that the King loves best, particularly when he can shoot over his own preserves at Sandringham. From 10,000 to 12,000 pheasants are reared on the estate annually, and the first shoot which takes place on the King's birthday is one of the chief events of the year. On that day about 60 beaters are employed, all of whom are uniformly dressed and each carries a flag. There are about 13,000 acres of shooting belonging to or rented by the King, and the Prince of Wales rents about 10,000 acres. What the bags have been like is no secret. The best season was that of 1895-97, when, according to a card which hangs in the head keeper's office, there were obtained 12,583 pigeons, 85 partridges, 529 hares, 4,185 rabbits, 77 woodcocks, 8 snipes, 62 teal, 271 wild ducks, 13 pig-sons and 27 various birds.

#### The Job Nearest Heaven

The man who occupies the most elevated position in the world is neither a monarch nor a multimillionaire. He is simply a poorly paid stationmaster on an Alpine railway. The name of the station is Gornergrat. It is near Zermatt, Switzerland, and is only reached after a difficult climb over a choss of glaciers. Its altitude is about 9,500 feet above sea level.



#### European Nurses At the Front.

#### Japanese Red Cross Society the Best Equipped Institution in the World.

At such a time the manner in which the Japanese wounded during the present war have been looked after is naturally of great interest, and it can be stated now that the facilities for this work are almost unlimited. Japan has taken especial pains with this organization, and the Japanese Red Cross Society can lay claim to being one of the best equipped and most perfected in the world. In fact, so much is thought of the Japanese nurses and their system of working that a special attaché has been sent out by England to report on their work in the field for the benefit of the British society.

In the same way several ladies from other European countries are working in the hospitals of Manchuria, attending to the Japanese wounded and studying the methods of the Japanese Red Cross Society. There are also a number of American nurses, Miss McGee, a well-known lady physician, having had no less than eight trained American nurses under her.

Many of these women have had practical experience in field hospital work, and speak in the highest praise of the Japanese physicians and their patient, willing little nurses.

The Japanese Red Cross Society has considerably over 500,000 members, and during times of peace has an annual growth of 100,000 members, with an average income for that period of \$1,000,000.

Naturally, the society has taken considerable time to reach its present magnificent state of preparedness for such eventualities as the present one, having had practical field experience, both during the China war, when over 1,000 men and women members of the society volunteered and took charge of all the hospitals at the scenes of hostilities, and during the Boxer rising, when two fully equipped hospital ships were built and rendered excellent aid.

The system of training the nurses to become members of the society is a particularly rigorous one. If the head office is joined, three years have to be devoted to learning the practical nursing and the scientific side of the work. But anyone wishing to join at one of its many branches, when a period of only two years is necessary, and a shorter time still is required of a member if only qualifying for subordinate positions, such as assistance nurse, medical men are attached to the society, and many of these, together with doctors of the Army Medical Corps, are dispatched to the coming scenes of hostilities long before the present war broke out, and were equipped with the most likely food resources for the Mikado's troops. Samples were taken of fruit, vegetables and other foods, and so the diet was investigated carried out that wells in the vicinity were tested with microscopes for the presence of the spread of disease from contaminated water.

The usual percentage of deaths for disease alone in many great wars is four, but by such precautions as the Japanese have taken, the figures for Japan has reduced the figures to one per cent.

#### The Bohemian Twins.

There has arrived in London from Liege, Bohemia, the Misses Rosa and Josefa Blazek, who are, no doubt, the most extraordinary examples of human abnormality in existence. Probably no physiological curiosity of equal interest has been seen in Europe since Eng and Chang, the Siamese twins, visited London in 1828, before settling down in the United States, where they married two sisters, and have reared healthy, normal families.

The physical condition of the Misses Blazek differs little from that of the Siamese twins. The bodies of the latter are connected near the chest. In the case of these young women the adhesion occurs for some distance up the side, terminating slightly above the waist. Their heads are not quite on the level, Josefa being somewhat the taller of the two. Although the girls of necessity spend their lives side by side, they cannot look into each other's faces. The most that is possible is a sidelong glance that Rosa is enabled to take of her sister.

Physically, their actions are independent, but mentally the girls have a separate existence. Nor do their tastes, inclinations or temperaments coincide. Consequently they live in a state of constant compromise. The couple—if the plural be permissible—appear very happy and contented, or, as Rosa explained, "We are very much attached to each other in every respect." They enjoy the usual complement of 100 lbs. They walk with a sprightly, stilted movement, but, of course, four feet are seen in operation.