

# The Mighty Metropolis

## How the Greatest City Is Governed

London is rapidly changing. The old city is putting off its old clothes and buying new. Its streets are being widened, many of the old buildings have been torn down, and there is a fair possibility that the day of the American skyscraper may come, for flats are going up in the fashionable section, writes Frank G. Carpenter.

An army of workmen is now busy on the Strand. As I saw the street ten years ago it was so narrow that two omnibuses could hardly pass. To-day it is being changed into a wide avenue which shall run from Trafalgar Square to Holborn, not far from St. Paul's. Where the two streets come together about three acres of buildings are to be torn away, and this space will be leased out by the city for new business houses.

In tearing down the Strand the owners of the various properties have had to be bought out. In many places the buildings have been replaced. The Gaiety Theatre, for instance, had a new structure erected for it below and back of where the old theatre stood, and the same is true of other institutions. This work is going on in the very heart of London on some of the most costly ground of the world. The city fathers have had to plate the soil with gold to get it, and when the improvement is completed it will, it is estimated, cost at least \$25,000,000.

### HOW LONDON IS GOVERNED.

From what I have said about London's city improvements you will see that the government here is something of an institution. This is, you know, the capital of the United Kingdom, the seat of Parliament and the residence of the King and Royal family. It has all the chief officials of the government, but its own administration is separate and apart from these. It is difficult to understand it, for the town has now a dozen or so mayors and a maze of other authorities. Not long ago it had 500 separate authorities, each exercising some sort of control, but most of these were swallowed up in the London city council. At present there is a county government, a city government and a borough government. The borough government might be called a ward government, for the city is divided into twenty-seven boroughs, or wards, each of which has its own mayor, its own council and a certain class of officials.

### LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

The general government, however, is the London county council, comprising 137 members, of whom nineteen are aldermen. This council practically governs London. It fixes the taxes and spends the money, and that right royally, too. Last year its expenses amounted to \$80,000,000, or to more than the revenues of many a state government. The council arranges for the debt of the city, which now amounts to more than \$239,000,000. It steps a little deeper into debt every year, and it enters upon all sorts of public improvements, granting franchises and permits for all kinds of undertakings.

It is hard to realize the powers of such a council. That of London county controls the music halls, the tramways, the bridges, the waterworks, and all public improvements. It has already spent millions in erecting houses to rent to the poor, and now it is building several little municipal cities on the outskirts of London for that purpose. It does, in fact, a wholesale and retail real estate business. The tenement buildings will bring in moderate rents and the city officials will collect them. The county council will probably hold the fee simple title to the ground along the Strand, and it will lease it at ground rents to builders. It is estimated that the city will eventually receive something like \$10,000,000 in rents from this source, and if it does as Birmingham is doing, that is, provides that at the end of the lease the buildings revert to the city, London will become the richest corporation on earth.

### BIG SALARIES.

I have looked somewhat into the matter of salaries here in London. The county council spends \$32,000,000 a year, and much of this goes out for labor. The officers of the council receive from \$4,000 to \$10,000 per year. The clerk, engineer and architect each gets \$10,000; the assessor \$7,500, and the head of the street car department \$5,000.

The officers of the city corporation are still better paid. The recorder has \$20,000 per annum, the town clerk \$17,500, and the controller and remembrancer \$10,000 each. In addition there are other salaries ranging from \$11,000 down.

### LONDON'S LORD MAYOR.

Perhaps the best paid mayor of the whole world is the Lord Mayor of London. He has a salary of \$50,000 a year and his house rent free. He lives in the Mansion House, across the way from the Bank of London, within a short distance of the Tower and London bridge. I have met him at his palace during

my stay, and he has room and to spare.

The Lord Mayor does not control, however, any part of the metropolis except that known as the city or the part that forms the chief commercial and money-making center. It lies east of the temple and embraces the port, the docks, the custom house, the bank, the exchange and the hundreds of great wholesale establishments, banks and other corporations which make London the financial center of the world. This is the city proper, and it is a city of the day. It has a population of 300,000 and through it every day more than a million go in and out while it is light, but at night it is almost as deserted as a city of the dead. Its thousands of capitalists and clerks then leave it and it is handed over to the watchmen and policemen, the Lord Mayor, in fact, being about the only prominent citizen to remain all night through.

### LONDON'S BIG DOCKS.

I have spent much time about the docks watching the great steamers load and unload goods for and from all parts of the world. I don't know where one can get a better idea of the immensity of this city. You might live about Hyde Park for years and hardly know London was a port. Still London is the greatest port of the world. It surpasses Liverpool and all the others. The whole River Thames from here to the sea is its harbor, so that the port is really sixteen miles long, and it ranges in width with the width of the river.

Standing on London bridge you see a forest of masts, not only in the river itself, but rising high above the great wholesale structures bordering it. The docks are mighty basins cut out of the lands along the bank, enormous vats of water covering acres surrounded by warehouses. St. Catherine's docks have an area of twenty-three acres, the London docks and Millwall docks each cover 100 acres, while the Surrey docks and the West Indian docks have each 350 acres.

Even larger than these are the Royal Victoria and Albert docks, which are almost three miles in length, and have an area of 500 acres, and those of Tilbury, further down the Thames, which are quite as large. If you could put a big farm under water, and allow mighty warehouses to rise up along the borders and through the fields and add hundreds of steamers loading and unloading at them, you might have some idea of these docks. They are profitable institutions, and the London county council is planning to bring them under the control of the city. They now belong to private companies, and the city proposes to buy out the present owners and to manage the docks by a public board, under the direction of parliament. This will probably be done at some time in the future.

### WATER FROM WALES.

Another thing which the county council is planning is the bringing of water for London clear across England from the Welsh lakes. At present London is supplied by the Thames and Lea Rivers, but it already uses 205,000,000 gallons a day, and it is estimated that the demand will soon be such as to impair the navigation of the Thames. Birmingham is getting its water from Wales, and so are other cities, and London will in all probability have to do likewise. The waterworks are now in the hands of private companies whose gross income last year amounted to something like \$10,000,000, and whose profits were over \$5,000,000. The London county council proposes to buy out these parties and run the waterworks as a city institution.

This would undoubtedly be better for London in a sanitary way and also for its fire department. This city has ten fires every day the year through. It has more than 3,000 fires every year, and the fire brigade is a very important part of the metropolis. This now consists of 1,200 men, and it is equipped with 70 steam engines, of which eight are river engines to protect the shipping of the Thames.

### THEY HAVE BETTER MAILS.

There are two things, however, which I find much better here than in the United States. I refer to the postal and telegraph services. These are under the general government, and are very well managed. If I remember correctly our postal service is run at a loss. The English postal service makes a profit of about \$18,000,000 a year and gives better mails at lower rates. You can send a letter weighing four ounces to any part of the United Kingdom for a penny or two cents, and overweight costs a half penny, or one cent, for two ounces. You can send parcels which weigh as much as eleven pounds for six cents for the first pound and two cents for each additional pound, and the book post is about the same as ours.

The telegraph service is lower than in America. The cost of a despatch to any part of Great Britain and Ireland is one cent a word, the lowest charge being 12 cents, and both

address and signature being paid for. In the general postoffice in East London there is a telegraph room where 500 men are employed receiving and sending despatches, while in the basement there are four steam engines which supply the pneumatic tubes by which the telegrams are forwarded for delivery to the various parts of the city.

I like the postal savings bank system which is in use all over Great Britain, so that every little village has its savings bank. You can deposit money wherever there is a postoffice and the savings banks are so well patronized that they now have more than \$300,000,000 on deposit.

### PERSONAL POINTERS.

#### Notes of Interest About Some Prominent People.

In Texas women have taken to ranching. One of the most successful of these is Mrs. Pauline Whitman, who owns a ranch of two hundred thousand acres in the Pan Handle. There she raises fifteen thousand cattle annually, using only twenty cowboys for their handling, and successfully competing in the market with the kings of the cattle trade.

On one occasion in Manchester, England, during the performance of "Macbeth," Sir Henry Irving came to the line where he has to say to one of the murderers, "There's blood upon thy face!" The great tragedian stared so hard at the actor who was playing the "murderer" that that worthy quite forgot he was acting upon the boards. "Great Scot! Is there?" he replied in alarm, and rushed off the stage.

Mr. S. W. Allerton is a millionaire farmer who owns thousands of acres of the richest soil in the Western States. When a lad of twelve he drove cattle to market for a living, and in those days enjoyed many a feast from the orchards he passed. Now that he is a millionaire he has not forgotten the joys derived from his roadside apple feasts, and has had all his farms skirted by fruit trees planted by the roadside. From these wayfarers are allowed to pluck as much of the fruit as they can carry.

While King George of Greece was staying at the Park Hotel in Wiesbaden he noticed a window pane upon which his father, the King of Denmark, had cut his name with a diamond. King George took off his own diamond ring and engraved his name below his father's. A few hours afterwards the Czar saw the window and immediately cut his name. Then came the Kaiser, who added his name to those of the three Royalties. A British diplomatist and an American millionaire are now striving to outbid each other in order to get possession of the piece of glass.

Lord Salisbury has a favorite cat. It is a cross between a Persian tabby and a chinchilla grey, and has the name of Floss. It is sleek and well-bred, with fur as soft as down—just the sort of cat one would expect to find in the aristocratic atmosphere of Hatfield House. She is allowed the free run of the place, and, when she sees her master, displays all signs of feline emotion which pleased and happy cats are wont to manifest. As soon as Lord Salisbury sits down the cat takes possession of his knee, and there the ex-Premier will allow it to remain, stroking and talking to it. At home it is his most constant companion.

The Crown Prince of Denmark's recent visit to England has been an enjoyable one, for he is on terms of close intimacy with the Prince of Wales. He possesses considerable coolness and personal strength, which he has shown on more than one occasion. One day, when the heir to the Danish throne was driving with the Princess, the bells on their horses startled the animals in another sleigh, which was overturned, the occupants becoming entangled in their rugs. The terrified horses bolted and the unfortunate passengers were in great danger, but the Crown Prince immediately leaped out of his sleigh, seized the runaway, and by sheer physical strength brought them to a standstill.

A good story is told of President Roosevelt. He usually leaves the White House at about three every afternoon, and on one occasion a fussy little man, chaperoning a big fellow in a loud check suit, a moustache, and a fierce imperial, had been waiting at the door for half an hour. As soon as the President made his appearance the little man took him familiarly by the arm and dragged him over to the man with the imperial. "President," he said, pompously, "I want you to meet my friend." He mumbled something and President Roosevelt took the hand of the man with the imperial and said, "I am very glad to meet you." Then he turned and looked the fussy little man over carefully, and there was a twinkle in his eye as he continued: "And now, if you will be so good, I wish you would make me acquainted with the man who introduced you to me!"

Little Ethel (horrified)—"We've invited too many children to our tea-party. There isn't enough for them to get more than a bite each." Little Dot (resignedly)—"That's too bad. We'll have to call it an 'at home.'"

### FRUITS AS FOOD.

#### Health and Nourishment From Apples and Nuts.

It is said that those who eat fruit need fewer stimulants than those who do not. There are many persons who simply cannot combine the two together. A case is cited of a dipsomaniac who would drink anything rather than water. She required something which would bite and sting and she would drink red ink, or, in fact, almost anything that was acrid. And so some fruits—at the outset, perhaps, unripe fruits—might help to remove any unnatural desire for drink.

Fruits have always been considered a valuable remedy for invalids suffering from almost every kind of disease. Albert Broadbent, an authority on the apple, says for instance:

"With rare exceptions apples are good for those disposed to gout and sluggish liver, and for those who follow a sedentary life. The juice of apples without sugar will often reduce acidity of the stomach becoming changed into the alkaline correctives and thus curing sour fermentation.

"Where unsweetened cider is used as a common beverage, stone or calculus is unknown; but how much better the fresh ripe fruit must be."

Oranges, again, are used as a cure for influenza, especially in Florida. Nearly every fruit will purify the blood, partly because of the soft water (which takes up more injurious material in the system than hard water) and partly because of its salts. Lemon is famous for this reason.

But such fruits are by no means rich in proteid. Somewhat richer, though often overestimated in this respect, are

#### FIGS, PRUNES AND RAISINS.

The banana abounds in fatty and oily material.

Nuts are the proteid kings among fruits. It is on them that the apes maintain much of their vigor.

Thus the almond can be thoroughly masticated, or else pounded or milled. It is rich in oil, as well as in proteid. Almonds and raisins, which are so often taken after a full meal, are, like cheese, absolutely a complete meal in themselves; so great is our ignorance about food values.

It is said of the almond: "Nut-cream is recommended for brainworkers. It is made as follows: Pound in a mortar or mince finely three blanched almonds, two walnuts, two ounces of pine kernels; steep over night in orange or lemon juice. This cream should be made fresh daily, and may be used in the place of butter.

"Milk of almonds is made of the kernels finely minced, with boiling water added. Almonds roasted to the color of amber are delicious to eat with biscuits or bread and butter.

"Grated in a nut mill they are good to serve with any kind of stewed fruit. They are useful medicinally, because of their soothing and emollient properties. They should always be blanched in hot water, the skins being indigestible."

Good fruits should be chosen, and not pulpy and fibrous rubbish. These fruits should be carefully washed and eaten while still fresh, if possible.

As to the peel, some cannot digest it; but the juice within and near the peel is valuable, and hence the peel should be boiled and the strained water taken as a drink, or at least added to some dish.

The fruit cure is probably the pleasantest of all cures. It has many varieties, oranges, apples and grapes being three of the best known kinds.

### INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN.

The ways of the new Amir of Afghanistan are, according to recent Indian papers, causing considerable dissatisfaction to the British Indian Government. Since his accession to the throne he has had but little communication with the Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon, and has imprisoned a number of British subjects on suspicion of being spies. He has also raised many obstacles to trade in addition to those imposed by his late father, and is showing a disposition generally to have as little to do as possible with his great neighbor in the east. In addition to the measures taken to secure the fidelity and increase the efficiency of his army, he has ordered tents to be furnished for ninety-six thousand men; and depots of grain and forage have already been formed in different parts of the country. Up to the present time Central Asian politics has had but little interest for the world at large. The energy of the Russian advance has, however, brought about a change, and before very long the affairs of the two remaining independent Mohammedan States of Asia, Afghanistan and Persia, will become matters of international concern.

### ALMOST AS BAD.

Educated Egyptian—"You have no wonderful hieroglyphics in your country, sir; no mysterious inscriptions, no undecipherable tomes of an ancient literature whose secrets the wise men of the world have tried for ages to discover, and of which they are still as unenlightened concerning the meaning as ever they were." Tourist—"No, we haven't any of those things; but"—brightening up—"we've got our railway time-tables."

### SMOKERS ARE DULL BOYS

#### OBSERVATIONS OF A SCHOOL TEACHER.

#### Says He Could Pick Out Tobacco Users in Any Class of Boys.

There is one point on which teachers without exception are agreed, and that is that smoking by growing boys is utterly incompatible with proficiency in studies. A teacher in a city school who had a wide experience as an instructor, both in private and public schools, spoke with much earnestness on this subject one day recently, when asked what the result of his observations had been.

"I do not propose to discuss the tobacco question," he said. "I am not a fanatic on the subject. In fact, I am a smoker myself. All that I have to say is in the way of statement of facts that have come under my own observation. Those facts warrant me in saying with a much positiveness as I know how that any boy under twenty who is a regular smoker may just as well give up all hope of competing in point of scholarship with boys who let tobacco in all its forms alone. This is a sweeping assertion, and I might even make it more sweeping and still keep within the limits of my honest convictions. I might go so far as to say that a boy under twenty who is addicted to excessive use of tobacco—and in these days of cigarettes almost every boy who is addicted to its excessive use—I might say, go so far as to assert it as a fact that any boy with the tobacco habit thus firmly fixed upon him ought as well abandon all hope of even a moderate proficiency in his studies.

"Hundreds of instances come to my mind in confirmation of this. I have noted case after case of a sort of 'Rake's Progress' among boys in the tobacco habit. I have seen boys with the brightest of minds who made fine progress in their studies begin to flag and drag until they brought up in the end among

#### THE VERIEST DULLARDS

in their classes. Tobacco did it. There was no need to ask the cause. It was too common an experience to require explanation. I venture to say I could pick out the tobacco users in any class of boys, no matter how large, and pick them out too, by no physical, external indications. You would need no other guide than what the results of the recitation room indicated.

"I think that smoking even among persons of mature years is a great promoter of laziness. It is in my own case, and I know it is in the cases of many others of my acquaintance. I like a strong cigar, and the interval after smoking, and before I get back my full mental and physical energy, is as much a part of the smoke as is the cigar itself. But with persons who have attained their full growth and maturity it is nothing in this respect to what it is with growing boys. With them it seems, in addition to making them lazy, to have a peculiarly benumbing, befogging effect upon the mind.

"This is a matter for parents and not for teachers, except in such schools as include a general supervision of the pupils' conduct out of school hours in the general course of instructions. Teachers may lecture boys on the subject until the crack of doom and it will have little or no effect. I have tried it and tried it with as little cant as possible, but with a simple statement of facts as I am stating them to you. I knew it would have little, if any, effect and I was never happily disappointed in this respect. Still I have continued lecturing the boys and shall continue to do so as a matter of principle. Occasionally I have made special pleas with boys who were bright and whom I saw beginning to go the old tobacco road down to the dunce corner. It may have done a little good in a few instances, but I doubt if the good was lasting.

"There is one thing, however, that is making for a reform in this respect, and that is the growing hold athletics are taking upon schoolboys. Smoking does not go with a good physical condition in a boy any more than drinking does in a man, and the training for athletic contests does more in a month to uproot the smoking habit among schoolboys than the lectures of parents or teachers would do in a year."

#### THE CHEEKY MIDDY.

A good story is told of Lord Charles Beresford and a young midshipman, a son of Lady Florence Dixie, and a most cool, up-to-date youngster. Amongst other accomplishments young Dixie managed to run up a big bill in his mess, and the fact having been brought to Lord Charles' notice he had the erring middy up before him and gave him a bit of his mind—and Lord Charles can give it pretty strongly on the subject, ending up by saying: "But I suppose it's the old story—the fool of the family sent into the navy." "Oh! no, Lord Charles," coolly replied young Dixie. "Things are quite changed since your day." This rather cheeky, but smart, answer, was so much after Lord Charles' own heart and style, that any good which the lecture might have done was quite discounted by the merriment which followed.