

His Majesty the King

"One touch of Nature makes the whole world kin," and the news that was flashed suddenly round the world of the indisposition of His Majesty has knit millions of people not only throughout the British Empire but in lands which owe no allegiance to King George. The illness has taken a turn for the worse. The knowledge of His Majesty's predisposition to pulmonary trouble coupled with a rise in temperature and the summoning of physicians to Buckingham Palace has increased the general anxiety.

King George has won a firm place in the affections of his people, and by his constant and understanding sympathy with the ideals of the various nations that constitute the Empire he has identified himself with all its varied interests. His unswerving devotion to duty, his serious conception of the onerous responsibilities that devolve upon him as the head of the State, and his unselfish denial of his own interests that he may the

better serve the State, have won for him an ever-increasing measure of esteem and affectionate regard of his people everywhere.

Since the days of Queen Victoria, when the daily life of royalty was shrouded by a curtain of official secrecy, the world has learned much of the magnitude of the tasks which devolve on the Sovereign, and the long hours of labor that his exalted office commands. More than this, not only his subjects but thousands of men and women from all parts of the world, many by personal contact, have come to regard King George as a man worthy of admiration, a man among men, a good sportsman, a man of deep sympathies, of infinite tact and unflinching courtesy, with that gift that the gods bestow on kings and princes of his discernment that instinctively does the right thing at the right time.

Anxiety is intense and the prayers of an Empire and of the whole world will be offered for his speedy recovery.

Parliament Backs Wireless Merger

British Bill, Passes Second Reading, Despite Opposition of Labor

London.—The Imperial Telegraphs Bill, to give effect to the wireless cable merger, has passed its second reading in the House of Commons by 253 to 134 votes, the chief new point raised in the debate being whether this measure might lead to the domestic inland telegraphs also being transferred to private hands.

Arthur M. Samuel, for the Government, defended the merger on the ground that the bargain made with the new company was a good one and was approved by the overseas dominions.

Ramsay MacDonald, opening it, claimed that it would put any future Labor Government in the equivocal position of having either to accept a step in an opposition direction to Socialism, or to reverse the legislation of its predecessor. He hated the former course as a Socialist, and the latter as a constitutionalist. The Government, he declared, had no right to decide so important a question of imperial policy in a "dying" session of Parliament before the general election.

Walter Baker, another Labor member, warned Parliament that if it accepted the merger it would be difficult to avoid including also the inland telegraphs, for which, he declared, careful plans already had been laid.

John Withers, Conservative, suggested that further safeguards were desirable to insure an equitable division of the new shares among the different existing classes of Marconi shareholders.

Herb-Cure Patient Stone-Blind Again

Indian Whose Case Created Wide Interest Goes Back to Bed

St. Catharines.—George Elijah Lickers, 28-year-old Indian whose alleged cure from blindness and paralysis by herbs, caused a continent-wide sensation last spring, is again stone-blind and the paralysis from which he was believed to have been freed is again creeping back upon his limbs. Charles Silversmith, an Indian who lives near Port Weller, was the man who gave Lickers the herbs which were believed to have cured him.

Two weeks ago Lickers lost the sight of his right eye; on Tuesday night he became totally blind, and today he lies in bed a pathetic sight, unable to see an electric light hanging directly over his head, with his left arm numb, and with his legs cold from the knees down.

Silversmith claims that Lickers, by undue anxiety, has frightened himself into his present condition.

Woman Quits Parliament After Forty-Four Years

Annie Began Carpet-Mending in Building as a Girl

London.—For forty-four years Annie has been carpet-mender in the Houses of Parliament. Soon she will retire to a well-earned rest.

For almost a half century Annie every morning has taken a penny street-car ride from her home in Kennington to Westminster. Then she has settled down to her work on the floor of one chamber or another, with needle and thread, to repair the holes in the carpets made by the restless feet of members of Parliament.

Annie started work in the houses when she was eighteen years old. Now she is sixty-two. When Lady Astor first came to the House of Commons, Annie was the first woman she met there. Lady Astor smiled at her and said: "You see, my dear, they can't get on without us." Annie replied: "Of course not."

Britain First Among Customers of United States

Commerce Can Be Missionary of Friendship, Says New Consul-General

London.—Albert Halstead, the newly appointed American Consul-General in Britain, addressing the American Chamber of Commerce at a welcoming luncheon, quoted a number of remarkable statistics as an argument for what he described as a "tactful consideration of one another" by British and the United States.

Among the United States customers, for example, he said, Britain ranks first, with the Dominion of Canada a good second. The United States, on the other hand, is Britain's third best market overseas, being surpassed only by India and Australia.

"Though commercial rivalry sometimes leads to serious differences," Mr. Halstead said, "when there is a solid basis for understanding, interest and good will, then commerce itself is a missionary of friendship."



NOBEL PRIZE WINNER
Prof. Charles Nicoll, director Pasteur Institute at Tunis, has been awarded the 1923 Nobel prize for research work in connection with spotted typhus fever.

Mr. Lloyd George Hopes Naval Accord Has Gone 'Forever'

Oxford, Eng.—A hope that the Anglo-French naval accord has "gone forever" was expressed by David Lloyd George in an address at Oxford University. The war-time Premier used strong terms in discussing the disarmament policies of the Baldwin Government.

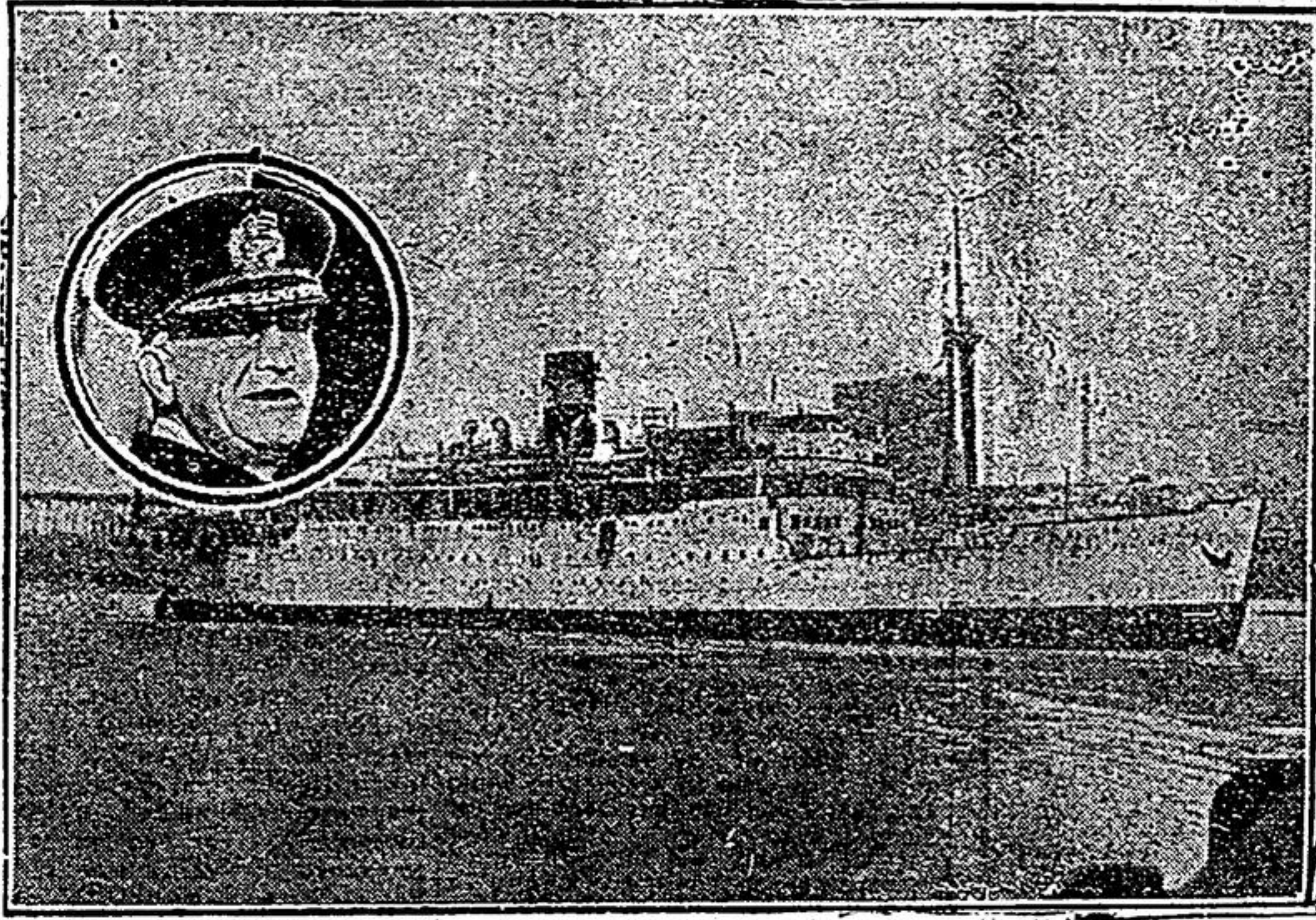
"The naval accord has well been called a compromise," he said. "It compromises our honor and the peace of the world. I hope it has gone forever. So long as we go on with huge armaments in the face of our pledged word, the covenant of the League of Nations, the Locarno Treaty and the Kellogg Pact are mockeries and shams."

"I am told that our relations with France and Germany are better than they have ever been. I wish it could have been said that our relations with America are better. I am alarmed about the situation. The nations are sharpening their knives on the very stones of the temple of peace."

Pacts for Peace

Leo Maxse in the National Review (London): Had the American Peace Pact been signed ten years before the Great War instead of ten years afterwards, it would and could not have had the slightest influence in stopping Germany from invading Belgium, though it would undoubtedly have immensely strengthened the Pacifist section of the Liberal Government, who would have made it a plausible excuse for still further deploring British armaments. But it would not have restrained Germany by one hour or deflected her by one inch, as she maintained that in attacking Belgium she was waging a war of "Self-Defence," which is expressly excluded from the operation of the Kellogg Pact.

Canada Adds to Her Atlantic Fleet



NEW SHIP OF THE CANADIAN NATIONAL FLEET
The Lady Nelson, first of the five Canadian National liners for service between the Dominion and British West Indies, arrived at St. John. Inset, Capt. J. M. Relth.

Opens Department at Scotland Yard

Byng Appoints Solicitors to Safeguard Public Witnesses

London.—Gen. Lord Byng has only been Chief of the Scotland Yard forces for a short time, but already he has decided to introduce a system which will safeguard the public from excessive zeal on the part of the police. There will now be a special interrogation department at Scotland Yard which will have four solicitors well versed in taking statements from persons who are likely to be called as witnesses.

It is intended that all statements shall be taken only by officials of the department and not by police officers on duty. Persons making statements will be specially advised and warned of the consequences which might arise to themselves. In this way, it is believed that such scandals as that attaching to the interrogation in the Leo Money case will be avoided and the liberty of the subject will be preserved.

Lord Byng is determined to restore the reputation of Scotland Yard. Sir William Joynson-Hicks has revealed that the question of criminal prosecution of the officers who have been accused of taking bribes is under consideration. It is stated that Goddard, who was dismissed from the force, had £12,000 in his possession, which is now held by Joynson-Hicks.

Big Increase in Use of Gasoline

Edmonton, Alberta.—Sales of gasoline in the province of Alberta for the first ten months of 1923 have exceeded by about 6,000,000 gallons the sales in any previous year. This increased consumption is attributed to the growing use of tractors, motor trucks, which are being more generally used by farmers for hauling grain and other products of the farm, and harvester combines in the province, as well as the increased number of automobiles licensed during the present year. Much of the gasoline used in Alberta is produced in the Turner Valley, which is about 45 miles south and west of Calgary.

Slaying at Eloping Pair's Feast Stirs Up Yugoslavia

Government May Move Against Wife-Stealing Custom

Belgrade, Yugoslavia.—Wife stealing, still common in parts of Yugoslavia, has led to a tragedy which has stirred the whole nation. From time immemorial it was the custom in rural districts, when parents refused consent to marriage of their daughter, for the wooer to forcibly carry off the girl. Such was the case with Dragomir Filipovitch, in love with Milka Jovanovitch of the village of Mislopdina.

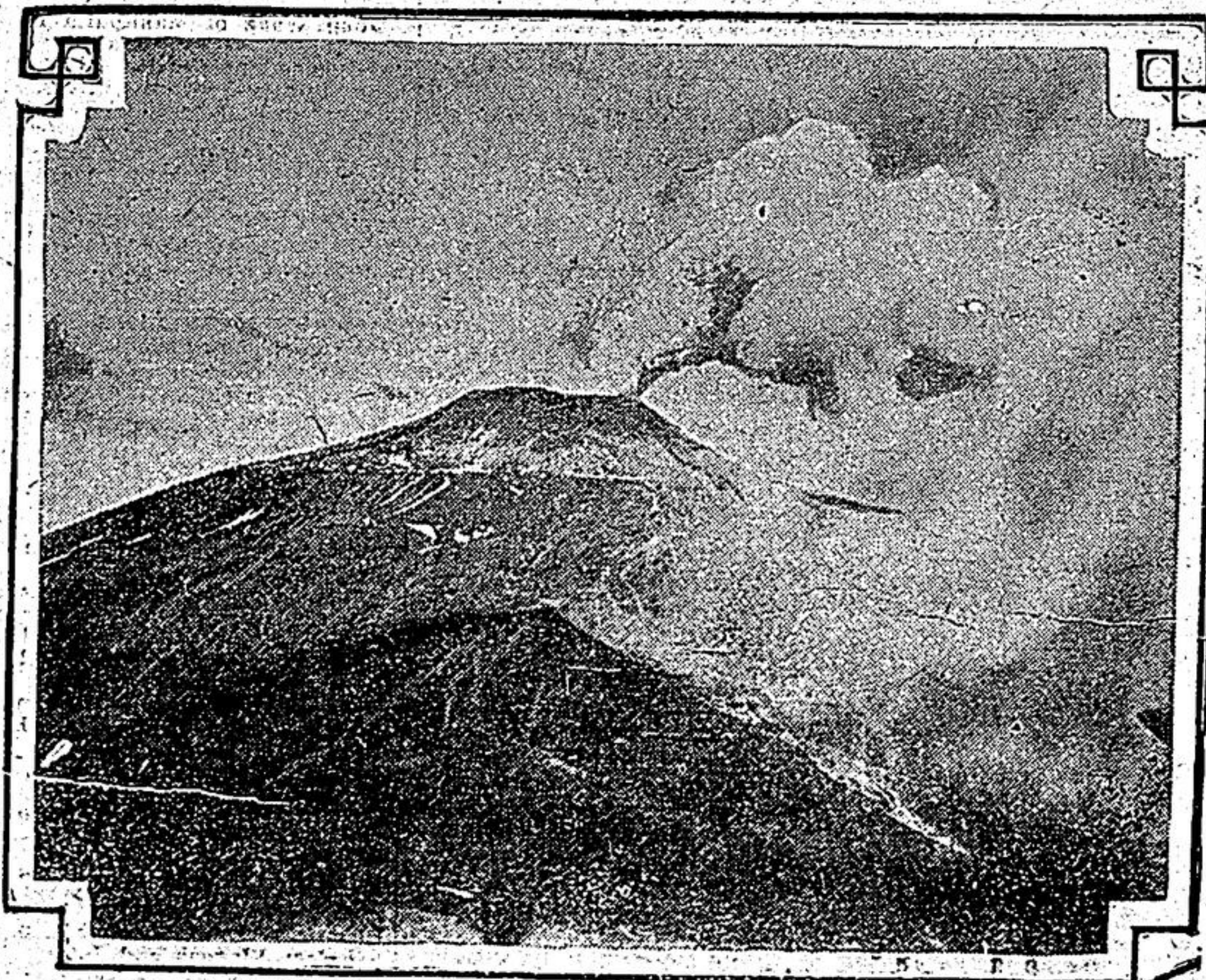
Meeting with opposition from Milka's father, a rich peasant, Dragomir and his friends went to Jovanovitch's house at night, seized the girl and took her off to Dragomir's house in a neighboring village, where an elaborate wedding feast had been prepared. Milka's father, however, discovered the theft of his favorite daughter and formed a rescue party. Breaking in on the wedding celebration at Dragomir's house, he demanded the return of his daughter.

A free for all battle ensued in which revolvers and knives were drawn. The girl's brother fell dead and six others were wounded. Police interfered. Dragomir was held to be tried for murder and wife stealing, the girl went for her lover and her dead brother, and the government is considering measures to terminate the growing practice of wife stealing.

Herbert Hoover

Nation and Athenaeum (London): It is undoubtedly Mr. Hoover's ambition to promote the welfare and even the world supremacy of American trade. Whether this will lead him to pursue policies which will accentuate Anglo-American friction is, from the British standpoint, the most interesting question which his election raises. Of one thing we may be confident: His policy in world affairs will be clear, consistent and determined. This makes it the more important that British policy should not be open to legitimate criticism from the United States.

The Active Volcano of the Sicilian Isles



LAVA FROM MOUNT ETNA BURIES TWO VILLAGES
Molten streams pouring down the sides of the volcano destroyed the Sicilian villages of Mascali and Annunziata and other places on the island are in danger from the fiery liquid rock.

Congratulations to Mr. Fielding

In a little red brick house in Ottawa, not ten minutes' walk from Parliament Hill, but seemingly far removed from the stress and turmoil of public affairs, William Stevens Fielding celebrated on Nov. 24th the 80th anniversary of his birth.

An invalid now, the "little gray man" who for 17 years bestrode Canadian commerce like a giant but beneficent colossus, is fighting the battle for health and strength with the same indomitable courage which distinguished his long career as a public man. From his bed he has watched the seasons come and go, the fullness of summer merging into the splendor of autumn, and now the trees gone bare.

Outstanding character of countless parliamentary battles, Mr. Fielding was the recipient of congratulations from hundreds of leading citizens of all political parties and in all sections of the Dominion. He was visited by his former colleagues and by the leading members of the opposition. For it was characteristic of Fielding that, though a fighter, he was a giver of shrewd blows in unexpected quarters—he rarely made an enemy.

Throughout his illness he has never been forgotten by his friends and he has never had occasion to recall the remark of Townsend-Pitt's colleague, who controlled government patronage in Britain for many years and whose balls and receptions were crowded with churchmen and politicians eager for advancement. Townsend fell from power and when next he held a reception his halls were deserted. "Ah," he exclaimed, "even bishops can forget their Maker."

Fielding is one of the last surviving members of Laurier's first cabinet, the cabinet of "all the talents." He assumed high office in the confederation whose formation he had opposed tooth and nail, but he accepted defeat and gave his best to prosper the Dominion. When he became minister of finance the population of Canada was about 5,000,000. When he resigned office in 1911 it was 7,200,000. The value of manufactured products in 1896 was \$450,000,000. In 1911, \$1,200,000,000.

Statistics may seem cold and hard but only in this way can one tell the story of what Fielding helped do for Canada. In the difficult years of the post-war depression, Fielding, grown old and weary, was called once more to the great responsibility of the finance ministry. Confronted with falling revenues, expanding debt and enormous current expenditures, he applied himself to the task of bringing order out of chaos, of balancing Canada's budget. Strachey once said that his hair stood on end when he watched chancellors of the exchequer devising new and painless methods of plucking feathers out of that golden goose—the taxpayer. Fielding devised new taxes; increased old ones, shaved expenditure to the bone, and it may be said that the business men of Canada never doubted his ability to right the ship of state and chart a course to safety and prosperity.

And who can tell to what degree the present prosperity of Canada is ascribable to the wise policies of Fielding carried on and enlarged by his pupil and successor, Hon. J. A. Robb.

Fielding's days as a minister are done, but the old energy still animates him. His secretary, who came with him from the maritimes long years ago, is still in the department, and Fielding will not have anyone but her. She goes frequently to the humble home on Charlotte St. At first the dictation is clear and brisk, the words apt and to the point. All the old lucidity and power flash out. But after a sentence or two the weakening and confusing pall of sickness descends, the words trail off, the directness is blunted and the letter is unfinished.

It is to his boon companions of former days that Fielding remains the same as of yore. That inimitable teller of stories, Kirk Cameron, never comes to the capital without calling upon Fielding. Always he is greeted with a bright smile and, "Well, Kirk, tell me the latest."

In his prime, Fielding had an amazing capacity for seeing visitors—delegations, party supporters and friends. His office was, as it were, a court in which he presided listening patiently and with understanding to the complaints and advice. Well he knew the wisdom of Gladstone's remark that, "Delegations are schools for the education of ministers."

Today he holds court in an invalid bed in the capital of the Dominion he served so long and faithfully, and it is perhaps not the least tribute to his greatness that the friends of his days of power and influence are still his friends.

Youth is Not Degenerate

London.—"We hear a good deal of nonsense about the degeneracy of the present-day youth," said the west London Coroner, presenting a Royal Humane Society certificate to a 14-year-old boy who attempted to rescue a drowning friend.

"I am not of that opinion. What is in the blood will come out in an Englishman, when the need arises. I hope all boys will learn to swim, for, in my opinion, swimming is more useful than learning to play the piano."



ARMISTICE DAY MEDAL
Issued by the Royal Mint of England for public issue. The obverse of the medal typifies "Deliverance." The design is by G. L. Doman.

Who remembers the old days when father got all the blame for the ashes on the rug?

Of late it has become something of a problem to the proof reader of women's fashion pages to determine whether the new word is a misprint or merely the name of a new color.