VETERAN ACTREESES

SOME OF THE FAMOUS STARS OF OTHER DAYS.

They Still Live in London .- Mrs. Charles Calvert Recalls Her Early of that of 1912. Appearances on the Stage.

Recollections of a delightful afternoon spent at a certain little house in St. John's Wood a few months ago were recalled to the mind of a writer in Tit-Bits by the recent announcement that the Victorian actress, Mrs. John Billington, has celebrated her ninetieth birthday. A wonderfully-preserved woman, whose stage" record goes back nearly seventy years, Mrs. Billington, whohas devoted much of her later life to the instruction of stage novices, is able to recall with remarkable vividness many important events of

her long life. She made her first London appear ance exactly fifty-seven years ago, b"t previous to that she had been appearing in the provinces, notably at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester, where she made her debut. Charles Mathews, Phelps, Webster, Mme Celeste, Lady Bancroft-all these famous actors and actresses of long ago Mrs. Billington appeared with while she has happy memories of Thackeray, Leech, Dickens, Wilkie Collins, and Mark Lemon, the first editor of Punch.

Curiously enough, three days previous to Mrs. Billington's ninetith birthday, Mrs. Charles Calvert was the recipient of many congratulations on her eightieth birthday, and she recalled the fact that it was seventy-four years ago, when she made her first appearance on the stage, when she played one of the children in that famous drama, "The Stranger," with which Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean were makin, such a big hit.

And she also mentioned, apropos of the huge salaries paid to famous artistes to-day, that in the early days she and her sister Clara were quite content when they were earning the combined salary of \$10 a week. One of the most memorable events in Mrs. Calvert's juvenile career was the occasion of her first benefit, for which she obtained as her share of the profits the princely sum \$43.75. Like Mrs. Billington, Mrs. Calvert married a famous actor, the records of the Billingtons and the Calverts forming an absorbing chapter in the history of the last fifty years of theatrical life.

Another famous veteran actress is Miss Genevieve Ward, who will celebrate her seventy-seventh birthday this month, and who was appearing at His Majesty's Theatre in Shakespearean plays as late as 1911. It is fifty-nine years ago since Miss Ward made her debut in opera in Milan. Later she completely lost her voice, and, taking up dramatic work, she became one of the most popular of tragedy queens. She has acted in almost every part of the world, her tour through Australia in the 'eighties being a veritable triumph, which she crowned by devoting the proceeds of her farewell performance to the hospital established for women in Melbourne, To-day the "Genevieve Ward Wing" of the Melbourne Women's Hospital is a fitting monument to this veteran actress.

Cholera In Volcanoes.

Cholera has usually found a useful ally in superstition. In the old days the disease was believed to be bottled up in volcanoes and to be released by eruptions. The most effectual way to avoid it was to sleep in bed with your head due south. In Russia during the terrible epidemic six years ago the peasants would not trust the doctors, whom they actually accused of causing the disease, but drank a fearful mixture of tar, resin, and petroleum as preventives, and fired guns from the doors and windows to scare the cholera away.

Rooks were the birds whose conduct in connection with the cholerar was observed in Ireland in 1832. According to the contemporary Dublin Morning Register, immediately the cholera came all the birds vanished from the rookery in the Marquess of Sligo's demesne, one of the largest in Ireland .. "For three weeks, during which the disease raged violently, these noisy tenants of the trees completely deserted their lofty habitations. In the meantime the Revenue police found immense numbers lying dead upon the shore near Erris, about ten miles distant."

When Tommy Pronounces French. I spent the night-sleeping better than at home-on straw in a watersurrounded post looking across to Dixmude, which our own soldiers aptly speak of as "Thickmud." It s true that our men are rather strangers this way, writes a correspondent of The London Outlook. They have their hands full over at Ypres, which they call, as a matter of course, "Wipers." The British Tommy dees not commonly carry maps, and consequently the peculiar, half-humorous twists he gives to place names have a tendency to become permanent. There is, for example, a place near Poperinghe called Watou, which has quite easily become "What-O!" just as Wytschaete has changed with celerity to "Whitesheet," and Fleurbaix to "Flower-Box," while Croix-au-Bois -impossible for a British tongue to circumvent - has become "Cross-

Wonders of the World's Cables.

The various Governments of the world own together 880 cables, having a total length of 14,480 miles and containing 21,560 miles of conductors. The French Government which takes the lead as to length of cables, has 3,460 miles in fifty-four cables. As to number, the Norwegian Government come, first, with 255 cables, having a total length of 248 miles. Finally, as to the length of conductors the British Government comes first, with 5,468 miles of conductors, divided among 115 cables.

having a total length of 1,588 miles. Private companies to the number of twenty-eight own 288 cables, having a length of 126,864 miles and con-

More Stringent Bulldings Laws and Closer Inspection Required.

During 1914 Canada's total of fire losses showed a considerable reduction over 1913; yet it was in excess

From an analysis of the causes of fires for 1914 some encouragement may be obtained in the belief that progress is being made in education along fire prevention lines. Carelessness has always been a prolific cause of fire loss, and a reduction of fires attributable to this cause from 183 in 1913 to 127 in 1914 is appreciated. Attention must still be directed, however, to the 30 losses caused by cigarette-smoking and cigar and cigarette stubs carelessly thrown away.

One feature of the year's fire record-which requires immediate attention is the large increase in the number of apartment house fires. No doubt part of this increase may be attributed to the proportionate growth in the number of apartment blocks being erected, but there is a serious danger arising in our cities from the number of one-family houses or old buildings which are being converted into apartment blocks, without corre- to become purses. sponding protection from fire or of the lives of the inmates from fire danger. Stringent building laws should be provided covering this transformation process, and thorough inspection should be insisted upon both during the progress of reconstruction and at least annually by both the municipality and the insurance companies in-

Too little attention is paid to the matter of building inspection, with the result that overheated pipes and heating apparatus is a common cause of fires. With proper inspection this could not be, as legal power is g to prosecute for maintaining dangerous fire conditions and all insurance policies are based upon the safe condition of heating and lighting equipment. It is a question whether fire insurance companies are not making it too easy for applicants to obtain insurance, and whether, as in the case of life insurance companies, thorough examination of the risk involved and the remedying of any dangerous or abnormal fire conditions should not be insisted upon before a fire insur-

ance policy could be legally issued. More attention should also be paid to the interior construction and heating of residential buildings. During 1914, no less than 750 dwellings were destroyed by fire, and of there a large proportion through forcing of

the heating equipment. During January, 1915, no less than 66 fires were reported as caused by defective heating apparatus, 11 by defective wiring, and 19 from carelessness with matches, - Conserva-

United For Canada.

An interesting fact at the opening of the Dominion House recently was that the address in reply to the speech from the throne was moved and seconded by a German and a

Frenchman respectively. W. G. Welchel, M.P. for North Waterloo, a German by birth, was mover of the speech in reply. He is a thorough loyalist to Great Britain and the Empire and spoke for the vast majority of the German population of Canada, who are among the best and most respected citizens and loyal to British institutions, notwithstanding their love for the fatherland. Most of them left Germany on account of the war spirit that fills the military element there and especially pay for three more tickets, the fines

the Prussian Junkers. The seconder of the address was Honore Achin, representative of the merly sent the Nationalist leader, had not even seen the famous singer. people who are happy only when Henri Bourassa, to the House of Commons. Mr. Achin is an advocate and was born in Montreal and educated at Ste. Therese and practices his profession at Nominique, Quebec. He was elected to the House of Commons for Labelle in 1911 in the Conserva-

tive interest. The mover, Mr. Weichel, lives at Waterloo, Ont., in the heart of the German part of the province, and is a hardware merchant. He was educated at the Elmira public schools and was first returned to the House of Commons in 1911 in the Conservative interest. He has been mayor of Waterloo and is one of its most patriotic and progressive citizens.

Maple Sugar Booming.

That the gift of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught of a box of maple sugar to every member of the first Canadian contingent has resulted in quite an unexpected boom to the industry throughout the Dominion is shown in a cable received from Lord Stamfordham, secretary to His Majesty the King, notifying her royal highness that the Canadian product is to be found, not only on the royal table, but also in every hotel and large store in London.

The Maple Sugar Association. through Hon, Jos. E. Caron, Minister of Agriculture in Quebec, and G. Boyer, M.P., Rigard, and other manufacturers, have also sent an official communication to the duchess. thanking her for having fostered in this manner the means of this new channel of trade. An engrossed address was presented a few days ago to her royal highness on behalf of the association.

Prisoners of War, 2,177.

A return tabled in the Commons a few days ago by the Minister of Justice shows that since the outbreak of the war 2,177 Germans and Austrians have been taken into custody in Canada as prisoners of war. The detention camps are at Halifax, Quebec, Kingston, Betawawa, Spirit Lake, Kapeeskasing, Brandon, Lethbridge, Vernon and Nanaimo.

A Counsel For Life.

What never ran smooth yet can nardly be expected to change Its. character for us, so we must take it as we find it and fashion it into the very best shape we can by patience and good humor.-Charles Dickens.

The man who flirts with trouble is apt to get it where Uncle Bill got the

gaining 127,632 miles of conductors, to talk about himself,

CANADA'S FIRE LOSSES.



"BOBBY BERESFORD TO MARRY WASHINGTON GIRL." "Bobby" Beresford, former lightweight amateur champion boxer and a younger brother of Lord Decres, who is to marry Miss Catherine Britton of Washington. Young Be resford, it is said, met Miss Britton on board ship when she and Miss Nona McAdoo sailed for the war zone

THE FOUR PARTNERS.

They Wanted to Hear Patti Sing, and There Was Trouble,

In the year 1869 Adelina Patti visited the city of Maastricht, in Hol-The great singer was at the height of her fame, and as the management of the theatre had to pay her a large sum the price of seats was put at twice the usual amount.

Four impecunious, music loving citizens of Maastricht desired to hear the great singer and, not being financially able to buy a seat apiece, put their money together and bought one seat for the opera of "Lucia." Each was see one of the four acts, and they drew lots to see in what order they should attend.

ance everything went well until the place of Christ. Over it is the beaufourth act. When the third act was over the man who held the seat left Cafe Venetian, passed over the seat check to his successor. The latter, a hatmaker named Groonyer, immediately took his place, congratulating himself that he would have the last view of the great singer. But when the act opened imagine his disappointment at hearing the tenor sing in lugubrious tones "Lucia is dead." That hatmaker had not known that Lucia di Lammermoor dies in the third act of the opera. He was not to see the great Patti, after all. Wrathfully he left the theatre and

returned to the cafe. When he saw his friends sitting there and laughing at him he lost all control of his temper and stormed about, abusing his partners violently. At last he grew so violent that he had to be ejected from the cafe and was arrested for disorderly conduct. Thereupon he brought suit against his three partners for the amount he had paid toward the ticket, and won his case.

Next, the manager of the opera house heard of the matter, and himcourt that the words on the ticket, a pail of coal for me. "Not Exchangeable," were meant for given in his favor.

So the admirers of Patti had to long walk ahead of me? and the costs of the court proceedings, which made it an expensive theatre party, especially for the constituency of Labelle, which for- choleric hatmaker, Groonyer, who

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s sand color. This model in voite is these sections being on a lengthwise

The note of severity introduced earli- rations, along which the pattern may

or in the season is continued in the be cut. It is the long sleeve, however,

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Go where you are most needed. Start in anywhere, only get busy and keep busy. But don't be impatient. God often takes a long time to get his servants

ready.-Christian Herald.

Cave of the Nativity. In Bethlehem of Judea is a cave On the evening of the perform- or grotto said to have been the birth-

tiful Church of the Nativity. the opera house and, hastening to the low the level of the church and is reached by means of two spiral stair- Government gave me a big order. cases. It is lined with Italian marble and lighted with many lamps. A silver star marks the precise spot at which Christ is said to have been born. Sixteen lamps of precious metal shed their soft glow upon the shrine, while golden censors send up incense continually.

Marvelous Activities.

A diner in a restaurant thought he would have a joke with the waiter, and asked him if he had ever seen a

sausage roll. "Say," said the waiter, "I have not only seen a sausage roll, but I have seen a biscuit box, a table spoon, a chimney sweep, a chain link, a nose gay, a camera slide, a garden fence, a sword fish and a wall

Saving His Strength.

Mr. Bunker-I've walked at least twenty miles playing golf and-Mrs. Bunker (breaking in) - I self brought suit against each of the don't doubt it, and yet you made an four men for the price of three seats. awful fuss this morning when I asked The manager was able to convince the you to step down cellar and bring up

Mr. Bunker-Well, did you imagjust such cases, and the decision was ine I was anxious to tire myself out carrying coal when I knew I had that

Might Be All Right. Philosophers tell us to brighten the world with smiles, which would be all right were there not so many

sheerness and vividness of their mate-

rials. Much of the severe effect is em-

bodied in the shoulder yoke and long.

Sand colored novelty volle is suggest-

ed for the development of this waist.

At the wrist the sleeve is finished with

a turn-back cuff, while the neck has a

collar turning away from the front in

V effect. They crochet buttons supply

the simple decorative scheme of the

waist, for which 216 yards of 44-inch

or 2% yards of 36-inch material are

The collar of the blouse is made so

that it can be worn high or in turn-

down effect. Therefore, in cutting out

the material it is necessary to have the

facing "E" placed on a lengthwise fold

of the goods so it will be in one piece.

The collar and back are also laid on a

lengthwise fold. The front is arrang-

ed on a lengthwise thread along the

selvedge edge of the voile. To the right

of the front arrange the cuff on a

lengthwise thread of the material. The

plain sleeve is laid on the volle to the

right of the facing, and below the

sleeve the pocket is placed, both of

thread. Provision is made for a short-

er sleeve by a line of small "o" perfo-

PLAIN SLEEVE

0005

New ideas have always fascinated me, says Sir Hiram in a recent autobiographical article. As a boy my inventiveness displayed itself in the designing of mechanical toys, although it was not until some years after I reached my majority that I became what I might term a serious inventor. When I was twenty-five, however, I evolved an automatic gas-machine for lighting up isolated country houses. Then I turned my attention to electricity, and made dynamos and electric lamps.

THE MAXIM GUN.

One day, however, a friend said to me, and I quote his words as near as I can recollect them. "Maxim, if you wish to make your fortune, leave your electrical devices and invent a killing machine for the wars of the

future." I laughed, for my thoughts had

never turned in that direction. short time afterwards, however, I happened to be firing a military rifle and remarked the powerful kick that it gave. Thinking this over, it occurred to me that I might turn it to useful effect, for that kick seemed to me to be a waste of force, besides being a disturbing element in gun-Ultimately I conceived the idea of

utilizing this force for reloading and firing. I came to London, established a little workshop, and made a gun that fired and loaded itself by the energy derived from the recoil. It was a veritable nine-days' wonder. Everyone of note, including the late King Edward, came to see me fire my gun. On one of the trials I fired 333 rounds in thirty-five seconds, and a belt of 2,000 cart-

ridges in slightly over three minutes. A startling effect of this fearful speed was that after the gun had ceased firing at 600 yards as many as forty reports could be counted. This meant that at the instant of stopping the last twenty shots were on their way to the target at varying distances, and the reports of the previous twenty similarly on their way back.

My first automatic gun was made at Hatton Garden, and the accounts of its extraordinary mechanism were The cave is about twenty feet be- at first received as a Yankee "tall" story. When, however, the British which enabled me to form a company and fit up large worshops, they realized that there was something in

My gun was first used in the British army in the Matabele campaign, and I remember the havoc it caused among the Zulus was such that it was seriously discussed in Parliament as to whether the use of the gun was not outside legitimate war-

It is a fact, by the way, of which few people are aware, that the invention of the maxim-gun led to the inventing of smokeless powder. While I was making preliminary trials with the gun I had noticed the vast cloud of smoke produced, and Lord Wolseley said to me at the time that the gun would be of little use unless I could invent a smokeless powder. This I fully realized, and after a number of experiments I produced what I might term, without going into technical details, a compound of nitro-glycerine and guncotton in threads, which gave off practically no smoke, and patented my invention in 1887.

Punjabi Threshing.

In the Punjab grain is still trodden out by the feet of cattle, assisted by the threshing frame. This frame consists of a hurdle covered with brushwood and weighted with bricks or clods of earth. The bullocks are yoked to the threshing frame and fastened to a post in the centre of the are driven round and round the stake about which the wheat is heaped, and in a short time the brittle straw is broken up into short pieces and the grain is freed from the chaff. One pair of bullocks with the threshing frame will tread out the produce of an acre in four days. Winnowing is done by low caste workmen, rarely by the cultivators themselves, who, in some cases, would prefer to see their grain destroyed by rain rather than winnow it themselves.

Aeroplane vs. Aeroplane

Residents of the British visies are greatly alarmed over threatening raids by German airships and employing every means known to meet the overhead invaders.

A British aviator, writing from his post at the front says: "There is enly one way of stopping aeroplane raids, and that is to have faster aeroplanes than the enemy." Trying to bring down an aeroplane with any existing gun "is about as useful as bombarding a mosquito 100 yards up in the air with a bean shooter."

At Dunkirk the appearance of a hostile airman is invariably greeted with a tremendous expenditure of ammunition from ships, forts and groups of riflemen. On one recent occasion 10 German monoplanes were under fire for nearly an hour without a single effective shot.

Could Keep Him.

At the last Salvation Army Congress some excellent stories were told. One of the best, a favorite of Gen. Booth's, related to a certain drunkard who fell into the hands of the

Salvation Army. "He had been drunk so long," said the General, "that he was able to give us very little information about himself. Eventually, however, we disovered that he was married and that his deserted wife lived in a town in the Midlands. We immediately tele graphed to her: 'We have found your

"In a very short time we got the reply: 'You can keep him!'"

... A New Bullet.

A Petrograd dispatch says the Germans are using a new kind of bullet, which if it hits nothing bursts and gives out a momentary flame like an electric light.

Never tell a middle aged women that she reminds you of an old To err is human-and the divine

part is to keep from being found

Sir Hiram Maxim Tells a Wonderful

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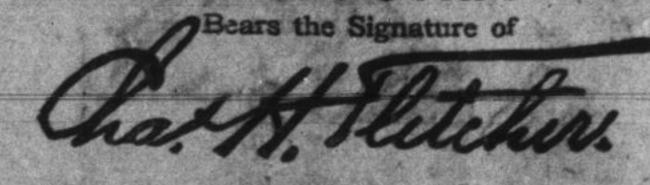
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