

A PAGE OF BRITISH NEWS FOR THE READERS OF THE DAILY BRITISH WHIG

FIVE LIVES LOST WHEN HISTORIC MANSION BURNED

All Were Helping to Save Priceless Treasures from Flames

CEILING FELL

Four Buried, Fifth Crawled to Safety, But Died Later

In an endeavor to save historic treasures from a burning mansion, four people, including two women, lost their lives at Oulton Hall, near Tarporley, Cheshire. A fireman who was injured died later in hospital. The ill-fated four were trapped by the flames in the grand salon, and the ceiling fell and buried them. The Hall, which was over 200 years old, was destroyed. Oulton has been the home of the Grey-Egerton family since the 13th century, and housed many old masters and valuable Chinese lacquer-work.

STUDEN COLLAPSE

"It appears quite safe and firm, with no cracks, and absolutely intact; nor was there any smoke at all in the hall. Then, without the slightest warning, the ceiling fell on us with a crash, and we were immediately filled with smoke and sparks. We made for a window, broke the glass and got outside. It was only when we counted up the numbers that we discovered that three of the party were missing, including two of Mrs. Cooper's maids.

BUILT BY VANBRUGH?

Over 200 years old, the present mansion of brick and stone was said to have been built by Sir John Vanbrugh, and it certainly bore a strong resemblance, if not to Blenheim and Stowe, at least to the lesser houses with which his name is connected. His favorite system of lofty reception rooms was used on the south front, though a more homely style prevailed on the other three sides.

YOUNG MEN OF 60 OBJECT TO LIMIT

The general opinion among London business men seems to be that of Sir Woodman Birbeck, chairman and managing director of Harrods, that men should retire from commerce at 60, because after that age they become tired and lack initiative. Lord Bethell, a director of Barclay's Bank, who is 64, said: "Some men are old at 30, while some are young at 60. You cannot lay down a hard and fast rule as to when a business man should retire. It would not do, of course, to have a board of directors entirely composed of elderly men, but experience is essential on every board."

COSTLY MOSQUITO

Whist asleep in his bunk at a mosquito and died. The Mosquito County Court, held that the Steamship Company in whose employ the man was were liable and awarded his widow £254 damages.

SPLENDID WORK IN RESCUES OFF BRITISH COASTS

Saved 64 Men from Foreign Steamers by Ropes and Lifeboats

TITLED LADY AIDS

Acts as Interpreter and Gives Men Food and Shelter

Recent fogs and gales caused many shipping disasters, and there was fine rescue work on the Devon and Irish coasts. The rescued included the crew of a Spanish steamer (34 men) rescued off Waterford coast by lifeboat, and the crew of an Italian steamer (20 men) saved by lifeboat and rocket apparatus off South Devon. Search was also made in the fog for 24 men who took to the boats when two Swansea steam trawlers were lost off Galway.

CLIFF CLIMB IN DARK

W. Arnold, R.N., with members of the Hope Cove Life-saving Company then climbed the dangerous 400-foot cliffs in the darkness, and at dawn managed to get a line to the wreck. With great difficulty the rest of the crew, 27 officers and men, were rescued, together with the ship's mascot, a Russian bear dog. Lady Clementine Waring acted as interpreter when the Italians reached the shore, and explained the arrangements made for their comfort.

CUPID AND CASH

Judge Says Breach of Promise Often Pure Commercial Dispute

Mr. Justice McCardie, the "bachelor judge," addressed a little sermon on Cupid and commercialism to the jury when summing up in a breach of promise case. These actions, he said, were still sanctioned by the law, and must be treated as such. He said that the principle established in the courts is that a man who enters into a contract to marry a woman is bound to do so, and if he does not, he is liable to pay damages.

IRISH PEER DEAD

Lord Teignmouth Was Fifth Holder of Title

SECURED £70 GOWNS BY FALSE PRETENCE

A woman, with an income of £1,000 a year, was found over at London Sessions for obtaining £70 worth of gowns and dresses by false pretences from a West-end firm. She was Veda Whitcombe, aged 30, of Hammersmith. She had obtained the dresses under the name of another woman—a customer of the firm. "I needed some clothes," she said, "and I knew I would receive at the end of the quarter money greatly in excess of the bill."

IRISH GOVERNOR OPENS ART GALLERY



The Governor-General of the Irish Free State, His Excellency Timothy Michael Healey, formally opened the new Irish art gallery at Mill Hall, Minion Row, Dublin. Large numbers attended the ceremony, and the new and ornate hall promises to become a centre of Irish Art and Culture.

MURDERED GIRL'S LETTERS ARE READ

Ex-Fiance, to Whom They Were Written, is Glad to Die

Amazing love letters written by a typist to a miner were read at Cardiff Assizes when George Thomas, 26, was sentenced to death for the murder of Marie Boddee Thomas. The letters were written in a very simple and ungrammatical style, but they were full of love and devotion. The girl was stabbed from behind as she was entering the chapel where she was a chorister, and Thomas was seen with a bread knife in his hand, with which he inflicted a wound in his own thigh before he was arrested.

HER SHATTERED DREAM

In another letter she asked him why he was not married. "I have told you my reasons," he wrote. "I have told you that I am going to marry you, and I have told you that I am going to marry you. I have told you that I am going to marry you, and I have told you that I am going to marry you. I have told you that I am going to marry you, and I have told you that I am going to marry you."

ONE IN A HUNDRED

A striking feature of these actions was that for one which was brought by a man one hundred were brought by women.

DIVORCE COURT RECORDS

The records of the Divorce Court marked the result of such ill-assorted marriages. The case was that in which Miss Clesie Cohen claimed damages from Nathan Sellar, of High Street, Shadwell. Miss Charlotte Mary Young, said to be the first woman counsel engaged in a breach case, appeared for Miss Cohen, and was congratulated by the judge on the way she had conducted the case. Damages were awarded to Miss Cohen, but judgment was not entered pending legal argument on the question of Mr. Sellar's right to the return of the engagement ring.

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JACKDAW SHOWS RELUCTANT PUPILS THE PROPER SPIRIT

One of the most regular attendants at the council school at Heptonstall, the birthplace of the Northamptonshire poet, is a jackdaw which accompanies a scholar each day. During playtime the jackdaw flies to and fro with his school-boy chum, and when lessons are proceeding the bird sits at the window where he can keep an eye on his pupil. The boy is ready to escort him home.

ART EXPERT AIDS YOUNG PAINTERS

Sir Joseph Duveen Continues to Encourage Purchase of Modern Works

Sir Joseph Duveen, head of the well-known firm of art experts, has followed up his plea for the support of British artists in very tangible form. Arising from his correspondence with the Prime Minister on the subject last month, he writes from New York: "By this means," says Sir Joseph, "I am forming a small committee of men of acknowledged authority, and placing at its disposal £1,000 annually, for purchase of paintings by contemporary British artists, preference being given to work by younger artists of promise."

MURAL PAINTINGS

"Municipal and other public buildings in London and the great provincial cities present many opportunities for wall decoration," he continues, "and a step in the direction I have offered to provide a sum for mural paintings by some of the younger British artists in the refreshment room of the National Gallery, Millbank."

DISFIGURE LONDON

Electric Signs Fail to Impress Public

ESTATE OF £1,239,598

The value of the estate of the late Alfred Shuttleworth, Lincoln, a member of the engineering firm of that name, has been proved at £1,239,598. Among Mr. Shuttleworth's bequests are £4,000 to the Lincoln County Hospital, and £1,000 to the Lincoln General Dispensary.

BUS CONDUCTOR IS HAPPIEST MAN

Other Pleasant Faces But None Radiating Such Joy in London

London is a city of masked faces according to a man who recently set out on a quest for a really happy countenance. He began by taking the first bus with a smiling conductor and that conductor was the one who carried off the honors of the day. The story of the search was told as follows: "When I began in the morning, several buses passed whose conductors looked gloomy, pre-occupied, peevish, or as expressionless as 'Miss Plover Face.' They were ignored."

NO HAPPINESS RADIATED

That was a good beginning. But the rest of the story is very dismal. In one of the largest west-end streets I saw hundreds of pleasant faces before the counter. But there was not one of them which radiated happiness. I went on to a great building soon to be completed to look at bricklayers and those experts whose job it is to whisk with brushes the dust from the faces which decorate the exterior. The bricklayers had consoled themselves and the faces of the gentlemen with brushes were as immobile as the faces they were brushing.

BANS PRIESTHOOD

Lord Justice's Will Aids Scientific Research and Rationalism

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VICAR FINED £4

The Rev. F. G. Finch, of the Rectory, Willesden, for allowing four performances of "Iolanthe" in his church hall without a stage-play license. An inspector of the L.C.C. had the hall held about 250 people. There was only one small exit and no secondary lighting. In the case of fire there would undoubtedly have been panic.

VEREY LIGHTS MAY CAUSE EXPLOSION AGAIN AT ERITH

Five Million Cartridges Still to Be Broken Down

ALL UNSAFE

Only Alternative to Present Method is More Dangerous

Some 5,750,000 Verey light cartridges, similar to those which caused the Erith explosion of two years ago, still remain to be broken down in the factory where the disaster occurred. This has given rise to a question in the House of Commons. Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck asked the Secretary of State for War, if he would state how many millions of Verey light cartridges, some of which caused the explosion at Slades Green (Erith) on February 13, 1918, when 13 girls were killed, still remain to be broken down at the same place, but in a Government factory, also if he was aware that the whole of these cartridges were condemned as unsafe to move, store or handle without risk to life or property.

LENGTHY TASK

Following the disaster the Surplus Stores Liquidation Department took charge of a portion of the factory. For the remaining 6,500,000 cartridges they paid the company £35,000 as compensation. They are now breaking down the other cartridges, and in the last six months have handled about 500,000.

THE ALTERNATIVE

The secretary of the Surplus Stores Liquidation Department said: "These cartridges have, like other dangerous material, to be disposed of in some way. One way is to have them broken down by skilled employees. This is being done under the closest supervision of the present system."

WIRELESS QUARREL

No Agreement Since Wage Reduction in November

DANGER TO SHIPS

There is growing anxiety concerning the British vessels, many carrying passengers, which are at sea without wireless operators. The stoppage began on Nov. 26, the men objecting to a wage reduction of 22.5 per cent.

RAPID ART AT 74

Dame Henrietta Barnett Paints 54 Pictures in Six Weeks

HOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO

Sir Arthur Smith Woodward, discussing the find said that the bone, which is semi-fossilized, "must have been graven with a flint by the people of the Stone Age. The bone is thousands of years old, and, in my opinion, the drawing was made when the bone was fresh."

WORLD'S BIGGEST SALVAGE FEAT

Battle-Cruiser Hindenburg to Be Raised by New Method

PUMPING OUT WATER

Believe Vessel Will Then Rise to Surface Automatically

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SCIENTISTS STILL DISAGREE ON BONE

One Declares it Schoolboy Hoax, the Other a Stone Age Relic

The figure of a horse's head graven on a bone, found by two schoolboys at Sherbrooke, Dorset, has drawn two distinguished scientists into direct conflict. They are Sir Arthur Smith Woodward, who declares the head was drawn many thousands of years ago by an artist of the Stone Age; and Professor J. S. Huxley, who says that it was drawn by a 20th century schoolboy. Both men are past presidents of the Geological Society.

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