

London Loves a Royal Wedding

When Princess Marina of Greece Becomes Duchess of Kent, \$75,000 May Cover the Cost of the Festivities of a Celebration in Which a Whole Empire Has an Interest

A DUKE for a bridegroom, a future king for best man, a King and Queen of a great Empire for father and mother-in-law, and the bride a princess—London is setting the stage for the first wedding in the King's household since the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of York in 1923.

Five years ago in London, Prince George, now Duke of Kent, youngest, gayest, and handsomest of the King's four sons, met Princess Marina, daughter of Prince and Princess Nicholas of Greece. Possibly to cement strained relations between the two nations, Prince George visited the late King Alexander, of Yugoslavia, last August, the first member of the British Royal Family to do so since the murder of King Milan of Serbia in 1903.

As the guests of Prince Paul, now Regent of Yugoslavia, and his wife, Prince George and Princess Marina attended the performance of "Don Giovanni" at the Salzburg Festival. Remaining amid the Slovenian Alps, they became engaged.

Most Artistic Son

Prince George is the most artistic of the King's sons. He is an accomplished dancer, singer, pianist. He is fond of dogs and shooting, and owns an air-plane. Handicapped by shyness as a boy, his platform manner now is without restraint. Of late years he has been the inseparable companion of the Prince of Wales.

Marriage has its responsibilities. Soon after the announcement of his engagement the Prince was created Duke of Kent, with a seat in the House of Lords, promoted to Commander in the Royal Navy, and received an increase in his annuity from \$50,000 to \$75,000. There are rumors that he might become Governor-General of Canada, the second member of the Royal Family to hold that office. His great-uncle, the Duke of Connaught, was Governor-General from 1911 to 1916.

Princess Marina, youngest of the three daughters of Prince Nicholas, is a charming, tall, brunette of



Wide World

King George and Queen Mary greet their son, Prince George, and his fiancée, Princess Marina of Greece, on their arrival at Balmoral Castle, accompanied by Prince and Princess Nicholas, parents of the bride-to-be. (Left to right) Princess Nicholas, King George, Princess Marina, Prince George, Queen Mary, and Prince Nicholas

twenty-seven. She shares the Prince's love of music and dancing, and is a crack shot and skater. Like all Greek girls, she is proficient in needlework. She is a fluent linguist, speaking English, French, German, Greek, and Russian, "a typical modern girl who is very fond of outdoor life."

London is preparing for the wedding, which will take place on November 29. The Lord Chamberlain has given instructions to the 1,000 guests, and women groaned at the order to appear in the less-elaborate morning dress. The "agony column" of *The Times* solicits patrons for "Royal Wedding Seats," available at reasonable prices in positions for obtaining the best view.

The wedding has created a marriage boom in England. Many bridal couples



Wide World

King George and Queen Mary with the bridesmaids and other attendants on the occasion of their wedding, July 6, 1893

plan to marry on, or before, the date of the royal wedding, and to spend a part of their honeymoons in London to enjoy the benefits of the royal festivities.

A household function, not a State ceremony, the cost of the wedding must be paid by the King. Parliament allows the Privy Purse about \$2,350,000 annually for expenses of the Royal Family. From this sum the King and Queen receive \$550,000 for personal requirements. Annuities to other members of the family amount to approximately \$530,000. The Prince of Wales has an income from the rents of the Duchy of Cornwall, totaling nearly \$330,000, as his yearly revenue.

The cost of entertaining visiting royalty will be approximately \$33,000. The King and Queen of Norway probably will occupy the "Belgian Suite," reserved only for the ruling heads of nations, once used by President and Mrs. Wilson in December, 1918.

Primate to Marry Pair

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England, will marry the Prince and Princess. He will be assisted by six priests. There will be twenty-eight choristers and Abbey attendants. The aggregate fees will approximate \$13,000. The eight bridesmaids attending Princess Marina will receive jewelry from the Prince. Gifts to the servants amount to about \$5,000; the wedding-cake will cost \$3,000; and the wedding-breakfast will cost nearly \$15 a person for seventy-five to a hundred guests. The young couple will throw approximately \$250 of special silver money to the throng, which will come from all parts of the Empire.

In all, \$75,000 may cover the festivities.

Yet the pageantry of the affair will be the throng of people crowding the streets for a view of the royal procession, the ceremonial robing of the bride, the magnificence of Palace and Abbey, each group, spectator and guest, to see and be seen.

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Topics of the Day

Indian Rope-Trick Is a Dismal Failure The directions for doing the Indian rope-trick are comparatively simple. You simply fling a rope into the air, making it stand upright without evident support. Thereupon a boy climbs the rope and disappears, reappearing at your command. There are variations, but these are the essentials, and, it will be seen, they are simplicity itself.

Unhappily, however, the trick can not be done, despite centuries of assertions to the contrary. Yet every few months someone leaps into head-lines by offering to do the trick, trying to do it, or saying he has seen it done. He never has seen it done, time eventually proves, and neither can he do it. There are standing offers of comfortable sums for the successful accomplishment of the trick, but year after year they go unclaimed.

There is nothing surprizing, therefore, in the news that the latest attempt to perform the trick ended in failure. After years of struggling with it, Robert Heger, an amateur magician, tried it before the public in an auditorium at St. Paul, Minnesota, tho the rope-trick, in its classic form, is supposed to be done outdoors. Heger's rope flew upward all right, but obviously with the help of a wire. The boy, climbing the rope, also vanished according to schedule, but, all too plainly, he disappeared, not into thin air, but merely behind a curtain.

Heger, disconsolate, declares he never will try the trick again. It seems a sensible decision.

Bone-Dry Day Gone, Says Kansas Editor William Allen White, Kansas editor, who used to say that "prohibition is here to stay" before events proved the contrary, now believes that "the bone-dry day has passed." Interestingly enough, he announced the latter opinion only a few days after Kansas, in a referendum on Election Day, had voted to retain the prohibition amendment in its State Constitution.

Tho Mr. White has been a lifelong dry, he looks to the future with some head-shaking while other drys in his State are rejoicing over their recent victory. "An arrogant, bigoted attitude by the victorious drys," he warns, might end in repeal eventually. Hence, he advocates that Kansas permit the sale of 3.2 per cent. beer and the manufacture of beer and wine in the home. He also urges that Kansans be allowed to import from other States "for their own personal use, small quantities, not to exceed a gallon of wine, or a quart of hard liquor, and to have them on hand for family use."

Coming from a dry, these sound like fairly moist proposals. Far more accurately than the Kansas referendum, they suggest the change that has come over the country as a whole with regard to prohibition.

They also may suggest why Mr. White has remained in the front rank of newspaper editors through long years. An editor who can do that not only has to keep up with his community; he has to keep a jump or two ahead of it.

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Steamship Company Shuts Up Shop The little Sound steamer, *New Hampshire*, tied up for the last time one day last week to its New York pier; and thereby hangs a significant if somewhat melancholy tale. For with the end of her voyage from New London came the announcement of the New London Line, the oldest steamship company on the Atlantic Seaboard, that it was closing its business.

This line, which was formerly the Norwich and New York Transportation Company, started its service in 1840, only twenty-five years after the *Fulton* had made her first trip. In the intervening ninety-four years not a single passenger of the tens of thousands tabulated on its books had been lost through fire, shipwreck or any other accident.

But such a record was not proof against the growing competition of motor-trucks which is at the bottom of the company's decision to shut up shop. There is a moral here which enthusiastic advocates of inland waterways might well consider.

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A New Variety of Kentucky Feud Time was that the activities of Federal agents in the mountains of Kentucky were confined to trailing makers of illicit liquor or native feudists who insisted on killing one another according to their code.

Lately, however, Federal investigators have been occupied with a new and surprizing form of illegality in the hillbilly districts of the Blue Grass State. The nation's big mail-order houses, it was alleged at Chicago, have been cheated out of \$200,000 in the last two years by Kentucky mountaineers. Catalogs went into the mountains by the ton. Back came orders, accompanied by checks drawn on non-existent banks. Investigators sent into the hills were met with buckshot and squirrel-gun bullets. Collections were few and casualties many. Warrants were issued for 219 persons, many of whom are women.

Somehow the revelation dims the romantic glow that novelists and playwrights have spread around the grim and fearless men and women who live so hardily in Kentucky's mountains. A shotgun or a rifle has always seemed their natural every-hour weapon. But a fountain pen, used in the business of writing rubber checks, strongly suggests the degenerate city slicker.

A Famous Bird Dies in Indiana Polly, the Weisses' foster-parrot, who passed into celestial crackerland on November 12, had two claims to fame. She was seventy-six years old, and had long been one of James Whitcomb Riley's pets. After the poet's death, Polly pined, and the Weisses, who had been his next-door neighbors in Indianapolis for thirty years, took her over to their house. Life with them had its compensations. She ate at the family table, and solemnly dunked her bread, altho she was more genteel with meat and vegetables. She had a feminine passion for ice cream, and when Mr. Weiss came home from the corner drugstore with a carton, she knew what was inside, and demanded her share vociferously. She was not a talkative bird, altho, parrot-wise, she was given to swearing.

She died after a hearty supper of rye bread and butter, and someone with an unsuitable Poe turn of mind suggested stuffing her for the museum of Riley relics. But Mr. Weiss, with a better feeling for the dignity of her rôle in life, buried her in a birch coffin under the window of the poet's bedroom in the Lockerbie Street House near the grave of Lockerbie, Riley's white poodle.

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Legislators Dislike Cutting Own Throats In January, 1935, Nebraska's State

Senators and Representatives will convene, hold their noses with one hand, and, with the other, tackle the complicated task of legislating most of their jobs out of existence. In the November 6 election, the people of Nebraska voted to scrap their bicameral Legislature of 133 members, and substitute for it a one-house Legislature which will have not less than thirty members nor more than fifty. It will be up to the lawmakers who meet in January to arrange the details.

Naturally, the prospect displeases them. When the American Legislators' Association polled Nebraska's Legislators on the unicameral plan before Election Day, the State Senators voted "No" by about two to one, the State Representatives by four to one. Legislators of other States, and of the Federal Government, who also were polled by the Association, were similarly hostile to the one-house plan. Somehow or other, most legislators seem to think most legislators should keep their jobs and their salaries.

Professors of political science doubt it. Five hundred members of the American Political Science Association, asked their opinion of the one-house plan, approved it by nearly six to one. For the life of them, the legislators can not understand how the professors can be so stupid, not to say cruel and subversive.