

## HOW THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD IS CONDUCTED.

## Interesting Facts About the Court of Edward VII.

So fierce is the light which beats on a throne that were it not for the unbending rigidity of State etiquette the internal organization of the Court of Great Britain would have been laid bare to the great public gaze. The seclusion in which Queen Victoria lived since the death of the late lamented Prince Consort so dulled the brilliancy of the Court that the Royal Household attracted little attention, but with the accession of the present King the Court will regain much of its old magnificence.

That Edward VII. contemplates restoring the splendour of the Court is certain, for the Household during the past few weeks has been practically reorganized.

The management of His Majesty's Household is nominally vested in the Lord High Steward. This functionary even during the last reign had little to do. Under Edward VII. he will have less. In fact, were it not for the gorgeous uniform he is expected to don on State occasions the office would be a sinecure. This being so, the salary attaching to the office, £2,000 a year, must be considered ample.

The practical management of the Household is vested in the Master of the Household. The duties of this functionary have already been found so onerous that he will be compelled to reside within the precincts of the Palace. Such an arrangement will render his appointment a much better one than that of Lord Steward, for whereas the latter goes out with his party the former will be made permanent. The salary of the Master of the Household is £1,158 per annum.

To the tradesmen who will enjoy the privilege of supplying His Majesty with goods the Clerk of the Kitchen will be the most important personage they will have to encounter. The firm who basks in the sunshine of this official's favor will be fortunate, for the department over which the Clerk of the Kitchen will preside will not only decide whether the goods sent in are of the requisite weight and quality, but will give out the orders as well. Seeing the temptation to which the holder of this office was exposed, the Prince Consort, when he reorganized the Household, attached to it a salary of £700 a year in addition to the board and lodging. This arrangement has been confirmed by the King for the simple reason that it worked admirably. The fact that the office has never been tainted with even the faintest suspicion of corruption speaks volumes for the wisdom of the policy.

The Clerk of the Kitchen under the present rearrangement will have the assistance of four clerks who will keep the accounts, a messenger, and some female help. There is another reason which will probably induce the Clerk of the Kitchen to shun all tips. He has the reputation of being a profound connoisseur in the culinary art. He is probably the best judge of a good dinner in the land.

Although the Chief of the Kitchen will be (nominally) the master of all he surveys, the Clerk of the Kitchen could if he felt disposed make himself in a variety of ways, notably on the score of waste and extravagance, very disagreeable. Small wonder, then, that rumor says that the dishes set before this individual cause the chef more anxiety than do those partaken of by Royalty itself. The salary of the chef will be the same as before, viz., £700 a year, which, considering his skill and responsibility, is not excessive.

The tribunals afore-mentioned frequently found the kitchen, when the late Queen was alive, on their agenda paper. Here is a sample of "high life below stairs." Some few years since the four young gentlemen apprentices to the four master cooks flatly refused to obey the kitchen rule which relegated them at dinner to the society of the scourers and kitchenmaids whilst the four master cooks, whose equities they consider themselves to be especially as premiums divided by these gentlemen averaged nearly £200 apiece, dined together in haughty seclusion.

The Court, as the parents of these young gentleman occupied good social positions, listened patiently to their grievances, but when the two Yeoman of the Kitchen joined forces with the two assistant cooks, and intimated that they also considered it an intolerable indignity that they should be expected to take their meals with the two roasting cooks, the two stream apparatus men, the four scourers, and the three kitchenmaids, the Board administered a stern reproof, and the second revolt ignominiously collapsed.

There is something so exceedingly peaceful about the concoction of pastry that the manufacture is not likely to prove exciting even when the King's Court becomes extremely festive. The two Yeoman of the Confectionery Department, with salaries of £300 and £250 respectively, will find as little difficulty with their three female assistants and coffee-room women as the pastry-cook will with his two female assistants or the baker with his three lady helps.

From the title of the office it might be inferred that the lot of the Royal Errand-man will not be an enviable one. It is easy to

imagine such an official rushing breathlessly about intent on the speedy execution of some mission. But not in a palace. There the spectacle of an errand-man darting about Royal corridors would be so destructive of the stately repose to which such abodes are accustomed that an errand-man of more than usual activity would be absolutely disqualified for the post.

The office of the Hereditary Grand Almoner, which is vested in the Marquis of Exeter's family, will be a sinecure except during the Coronation, when he will distribute the alms he has collected in a silver salver. The dish will be retained as a fee.

The Bishop of Ely is Lord High Almoner. This appointment is nearly but not quite a sinecure, for all this prelate has to do will be to be present at the distribution of the Royal alms on Maundy Thursday, and twice a year at the office in Scotland Yard.

The salary of His Majesty's Chief Butler, who will look after the beer, wine, and spirits, will be £500 a year. It is necessary that this functionary should have a palate of exquisite delicacy, as in him will be vested the purchase of the wines drunk by Royalty itself. He is also expected to superintend the decanting of the wines which he will accompany to the Royal table with an air of affectionate solicitude. He will also be expected to see that they are partaken of at the proper moment. The present holder of the office is said to be the finest judge of Rhine wines in the world. His Majesty's Chief Butler will also be responsible for the laying of the table. The actual work, however, is performed by two principal table-deckers with £200 a year each.

The health of the King and Queen and Court will be looked after by no fewer than twenty-two physicians, surgeons, dentists, and oculists, most of whom will receive handsome retaining fees varying from £1,000 a year downwards. The King, when Prince of Wales, greatly admired the State band, and not without cause. Unless reinforced it will consist of a master with a salary of £200 a year, a conductor with £100, and twenty-five instrumentalists at £40 each. In the Court of Edward VII. there will also be a sergeant-trumpeter with a salary of £100 a year, and nine household trumpeters costing £40 each. The drum-majors of the Brigade of Guards being household drummers will also be on the pay-list. Altogether the State band will cost £1,916 a year.

One of the most important officials in the Court of Edward VII. will be the Lord Chamberlain, the keeper of His Majesty's Privy Purse. This gentleman will sign all cheques on His Majesty's bankers, and advise the Sovereign as to how his benevolence should be exercised. For these exacting duties he will receive £1,000 a year.

The only people residing in the Royal Palace not under the control of the Lord Steward will be the Queen's functionary known as the Mistress of the Robes, generally a Duchess. The salary of this lady will be £500 a year. The Groom of the Robes will have a salary of £800, with a clerk, a messenger, and a furrier as assistants. The Queen's Court retinue will consist of eight Ladies of the Bedchamber and eight Maids of Honour. None of these ladies will take their orders from the Lord Steward's department, neither will the Pages of the Back Stairs, who will be each paid £250 a year.

The six Pages of the Presence who, for salaries of £200 a year, will condescend to wait on the Lords, Ladies, and Maids of Honour at all meals will also be exempt from the control of the Lord Steward's people. Indeed, the Pages of the Presence will have cause to rate themselves very highly, as each of them will have his page man, to whom he will delegate his duties.

There was a time when the post of Sergeant-at-Arms invoked considerable personal danger. In the good old days of yore, when life was not so secure as it is now, the Sergeant-at-Arms was not only expected to see that no persons with sinister designs on Royalty were allowed to invade the precincts of the Palace, but during the silent watches of the night he stood outside the Royal apartment or tent in complete armour, armed to the teeth with sword, dagger, bow and arrow, and a heavy mace for close quarters should occasion arise. The eight Sergeants-at-Arms have now so little to do that they will probably consider £70 a year apiece a very handsome remuneration.

The Master of the Ceremonies, who is supposed to be a perfect store-house of information on all questions pertaining to etiquette and State ceremony, will, probably in view of his coming responsibilities think that he is underpaid. Considering that it requires years of special training before a Master of the Ceremonies is able to display the traditional grace associated with the ushering of Ambassadors and other distinguished personages into the Royal presence, it must be admitted that £500 a year is not a large salary.

The corps of the Gentlemen at Arms will cost nearly £8,000 a year. Although each of the forty gentlemen who will constitute this corps will receive £100 a year, with an additional three guineas a day when on country service, and although the corps has a great reputation, the members, as a rule, are not



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30 MEN'S BEAVER and MELTON OVERCOATS, a bargain at \$8.00, selling at \$3.95.

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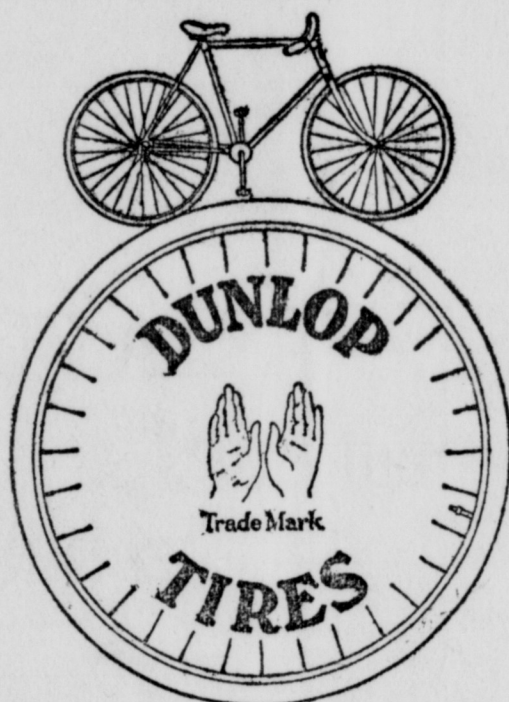
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of aristocratic birth, being mostly half-pay officers. The Captain and Gold Stick will have a salary of £1,000, that of the Lieutenant and Silver Stick will be half that amount. The Captain of the Beefeaters, who must be a peer, will receive £1,000 per annum; the salary of the Yeomen themselves will be £90 a year.

The wages of Royal housemaids will rise from £12 to £18 a year, but they will not be entitled to pensions. Footmen will rise from £60 to £80 per annum. In addition there will be an allowance of £6 15s. 6d. a year for their peruke bag and silk stockings. Footmen will have to pay for their own washing and dine in the servants' hall. They will, however, be permitted to partake of tea and breakfast in their own rooms. In the Royal mews all men will be lodged, but they will have to pay for their food.

Besides all these eminently useful personages the King will have a number of attendants whose offices were more important two or three hundred years ago than they will be now. The Royal Bargemaster (£60 a year) can have but little work to do, but the keeper of the Swans (£30 a year) is on duty at least once a year. Let us all hope that the Coroner of the Verge will not be on active service for many years to come.

The Court of Edward VII. will contain a hundred and one other important officials and expenses, but the limits of this article will not admit of further reference. Suffice it to say that stationary estimates are framed at £1,080; chimney-sweeps, £150; soap, £479; coals and wood, \$974.

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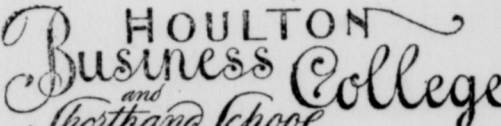
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