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# AN ARMY OF FOUR HUNDRED AIRMEN SAVED THE WEMBLEY EXHIBITION FROM HUGE LOSS

(By Norah K. Thompson.)

London.—Four hundred recruits of the Royal Air Force have saved Britain's biggest exhibition from an abject and miserable failure.

When the British Empire Exhibition closed down last year it did so with a loss of something like \$9,000,000. In spite of this, the controllers, in face of much opposition, decided to let the loss run and open again this year. The critics prophesied that Wembley, 1925, would be as much of a failure financially (for no one criticizes the esthetics of the exhibition) as Wembley, 1924, and though the exhibition restarted with many more advantages than had that of the previous year, there was no doubt that the critics knew what they were talking about.

Attracted by Novel Idea.

Last year the idea of a huge empire in miniature was something new, and the idea of taking a trip through Australia, buying presents from a native in Hongkong, watching sheep shearing in New Zealand and black men weaving gaudy native cloths on the Gold Coast, all in one afternoon, was such a thrilling one for empire-proud Britons that thousands and thousands of people flocked to Wembley every day. They came up from Devon and down from Liverpool in special excursion trains, from Wales and overnight from Scotland, and they "did" the exhibition thoroughly.

But all the massive white buildings with their exciting contents had cost a tremendous amount to put up, and miles and miles of roads were not laid for nothing.

Drawback in Distance to Fair.

Had the exhibition been staged right in town there is no doubt that there would have been little difficulty in filling it to capacity every day. But Wembley is miles from the heart of London, and even with express trains running every few minutes during the rush hours, people going out there always reckoned on an hour's journey, so that many thousands who had paid several visits and seen all that the exhibition had to offer last year, did not make the trip again this year, and until a few weeks ago the crowds got thinner and thinner. Then, almost at the last moment, for the exhibition was due to close down at the end of October, those 400 budding airmen came on the scene, and Wembley was saved from another huge loss.

Every night for the last few weeks of the exhibition greater crowds than ever before went out to Wembley to see, not the exhibition, which most of them had seen several times already, but the Grand Military Tattoo, a show held nightly in the great bowl of the stadium which had such an immense success that its promoters extended its visit as first scheduled for two weeks only, to the last day of the exhibition itself.

Military Tattoo Saved Fair.

The Grand Military Tattoo was a combination of spectacular scenes conducted almost entirely by a whistle, with the aid of searchlights, and the star turn was provided by 400 young recruits loaned by the Royal Air Force. All they did was to drill—just ordinary Swedish exercises—and march—but with such precision and under such unusual conditions that thousands of Britishers ranged around the vast stadium so far forgot themselves as to join their voices to their handclapping and yell their applause.

Early in the program the recruits wore white shirts and little blue shorts, and they marched and ran and moved backward and sideward and forward at the command of a hidden man who blew a whistle. The Stadium was in complete darkness by 8 o'clock, when the show commenced, so a couple of searchlights flashed their beams across the drill squad, with uppeany effect. Later in the evening came the most spectacular event of all. As before the Stadium was in complete darkness. From one end came the sound of drums, and then down the long steep staircases, which lead from the upper walls down to the bottom of the bowl, hundreds of red and white lights, without apparent support or motive power, began to "float" into the Stadium, until the whole arena was covered with orderly lines of steady, unwinking, colored lights. The whistle got busy and the lights, apparently moving by themselves, formed fours, stars, flowers and weird futuristic designs, janced, marched and ended by dissolving, one by one, into the inky blackness of the Stadium bowl. The lights were, of course, glass protected torches, and their steadiness was accounted, for by the fact that they were not held by the soldiers, whose clothing this time was of the darkest, but were strapped to a broad belt under the arms of their carriers.

When the 400 picked recruits got back to their stations they were at least drill perfect, if no nearer to becoming active members of Britain's Royal Air Force.

By the end of November Wembley will look like a vacant town, "to be let or sold." Hundreds of thousands of exhibits will have been dispatched, model houses pulled down and the 5,000 workmen who will be busy throughout November packing and dismantling will have gone, and Wembley will settle down once more to its life of suburbanism. But with a difference. Before the British Empire Exhibition came into being the roads around this suburb were little more than country lanes, and few people, apart from its inhabitants, knew there was such a place as Wembley. Today new broad roads lead into it from all directions, and it is no exaggeration to say that there is scarcely one person in the whole of Britain who has not heard of Wembley, or who hasn't a relative or friend who has been out there.

There is little hope of the exhibition grounds being used for any public purpose in the future, though there have been one or two half-hearted suggestions that the great show ground should be used as a site for the University of London (at present scattered in the forms of various colleges all over the city) or for a collection of London public libraries or museums.

Wants Wembley Torn Down.

"London," to quote "The Manchester Guardian," on "The Last Days of Wembley," "and not a remote and dreary suburb is the place for such projects. The only sane thing to do, after the approaching close of Wembley, is to liquidate it in a prompt and businesslike way, selling everything salable, removing all that is removable of the rest and dismissing all fond hankering to perpetuate a thing which, of its very nature, is and should be temporary.

"The very essence of such a show," continues "The Guardian," "is, that once its moment has passed it should not linger; its 'pomp of yesterday' should, in Mr. Kipling's phrase, be 'one with Nineveh and Tyre, quite frankly and unreservedly, and not spoil the grace of its withdrawal by borrowing gestures from Lot's wife."

TELL ME MORE.

I love the honeyed things you say to me;  
They thrill me through and through  
You gently pay your court with high flown fee  
Of compliment and coo.  
You call me "Heaven Blest," and "Amber Eyes"  
You say I'm maddening I'm wicked wise:  
You praise my secret little vanities  
In moon drenched words of tenderness  
That make your softest phrase a faint caress  
Of esoteric subtleties.

You make me think that I am such a jaded  
As might have put ten Helens in the shade  
So easily apostrophes do pour  
From out your laughing, lying lips  
From your unending, magic store  
Alas, I know you've said them all before  
To other loves, perhaps a score  
You are too glib, my dear with honeyed words;  
I know you've said them all before—  
But tell me more, my sweet—oh, Tell me more!

MAIDA VALE.

Seventeen is that blessed interlude when all opinion is divided into two classes—yours and the world's.

# N. Y. WOMAN PREFERS DOGS TO BABIES

New York, Nov. 17—The three months' "marital vacation" of Rudolph Valentino and his wife is on the verge of becoming permanent because the stork has not visited them.

Sailing For Paris.

The screen star had a reservation on the Leviathan, sailing today, and has announced that he will go to Paris to accept a divorce petition filed there Oct. 29 by Mrs. Valentino.

After denials by both sides, the filing of the divorce suit was revealed last night by Mrs. Richard Hudnut Mrs. Valentino's mother, and then confirmed by Valentino.

The cinema sheik, who came from Hollywood to New York last week just before Mrs. Valentino's return from Europe, but didn't meet her at the pier, and apparently has not talked with her or seen her, says he is a home-loving man, and they disagreed because his wife prefers dogs to babies.

As to the next time he marries: "I will choose to have a wife whose tastes are thoroughly domestic and who is inclined to have children."

# CATTLE MAY HAVE BEEN POISONED

Shediac, Nov. 16—Poison placed in the woods to end the lives of foxes is suspected of being the cause of the deaths of several cattle in the Wisenor district of Shediac parish. There is considerable wild land in this section which adjoins the Moncton parish line near the headwaters of Shediac River, and for years cattle raisers have driven their stock there to graze for an entire season.

This fall the cattle owners report quite a number of animals missing, at least three having been probable victims of poisoning. The carcasses were found. Most of the others missing are being searched for almost daily and some are being recovered.

# ARGENTINA EXPECTS BIG WHEAT CROP

Buenos Aires, Nov. 17—Argentina will harvest one of the most bountiful crops in its history for the season of 1925-26, it is indicated by the Ministry of Agriculture's first report of the season on conditions of cereal and linseed yields.

The report forecasts that the wheat crop will exceed that of last year by 1,198,000 tons and that the total crop will be 6,400,000 tons. The new oat crop is estimated at 1,200,000 tons, or 424,000 tons more than last year. The linseed yield is set at 1,900,000 tons or 754,000 tons more than for 1924-25.

Only for the season of 1923-24 was Argentina's wheat crop larger than that expected this year.

# ONTARIO MARKET FOR POTATOES MOVES UPWARD

Toronto, Nov. 17—Recovering from effects of the announcements of the American embargo, the potato market is regaining its stability. Prices, which took a drop of 60 cents a bag, after it became known that exportation to the United States had been stopped, are again on the rise, and, according to Samuel Hisey, Toronto wholesale dealer, may be expected to reach \$3 a bag, in carload lots, today or tomorrow. Mr. Hisey expects that potatoes will be selling for \$4 a bag by January.

The price on Friday was \$2.25 per bag, in carload lots, on the track. On Saturday a shipment was made at \$2.75.

Four year old Lucille, because her mother was busy answered the door bell one day. It proved to be a horse-radish vender.

"Will you ask your mother if she would care for any nice fresh horseradish today little girl?" he asked.

"Now, we don't want no horse-wadish. We ain't got no hosses," was the reply.

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