

THE ROYAL HOME-COMING.

Poetical Welcome of the Laureate to the Duke and Duchess.

The return home of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York was celebrated by the Poet Laureate, Sir Alfred Austin, in the following verses, which are said to be better than anything he has written lately:

Welcome, right welcome, home to these blest isles,
Where, unforgotten, loved Victoria sleeps;
But now with happy pride your father smiles,
Your mother weeps!

You went and came as swallows homeward draw,
Now it hath winged its way to winter's green,
But never swallow or wondering sea bird saw
What have you seen?

For you have circled earth with pinions fleet,
The seasons through; and everywhere a throng
Of glowing hearts your coming trooped to greet
With flowers and song.

Over the unchanging sea eight changeful moons
Have moved from shield to sickle, seed to sheaves;
And twice a hundred dawns, a hundred noons,
A hundred eves.

Wanted to their slumber in the starlit night,
And ever from land or lake, from wave or crag,
From fixed or floating fort you had in sight
The British flag.

And wider, further onward round the world,
Scouring the field or furrowing the sea,
You found that emblem, which, where'er unfurled,
Floats o'er the free.

So that on man and man's laborious hand
Nor manacle nor hindrance shall be laid,
But mind with mind, and strand with generous strand
Contend and trade.

And though the share of treasonable strife
Falls on your homes and theirs, you, wandering, saw,
Young commonwealths, you found, surging with life,
Yet ruled by law.

Whose blood infused in ours in war's embrace
To vindicate one sceptre, sword and tongue,
As ours perchance may help to keep them wise,
Hath made us young.

Fountain of youth, England in mellowed years
Hath found and drained, so that she never need know
What Nature feels when Autumn stacks and scies
Or Yule gusts blow.

You sailed from us to them, from them to us,
Love at the prow and Wisdom at the helm,
August Ambassadors, who strengthen thus
Her rule and realm!

Round you to-day a people stand arrayed
That fain with peace two welded worlds
Would dower;
Therefore, rejoicing mightier hath been made
Imperial power!

—Alfred Austin.

BIG LIQUOR BILLS.

Some Surprises in Recent Statistics of the British Board of Trade.

The British Board of Trade recently issued some interesting statistical matter with reference to the production and consumption of alcoholic liquors in the United Kingdom, France, Germany and the United States. The figures are likely to surprise people who are unfamiliar with the subject.

The following tables are compiled from returns received from the United States in 1899; with one exception they cover the returns of 1900 in the other countries named, and the first of them has to do with the governmental revenues from alcoholic beverages:

	Net rev.	Proport. to
	from tax	tot. nat'l
	on drink.	revenue.
United Kingdom	\$47,870,000	36 per cent
France	22,034,000	19 per cent
Germany	13,717,000	18 per cent
United States	39,968,000	29 per cent

It will be seen that the British Government collects a greater revenue, by about \$12,000,000, from alcoholic liquors than France and Germany combined, and about \$8,000,000 more than the United States. The consumption of wine in the four countries is as follows:

	Total consum.,	Per ad. consum.,
	gallons.	gallons.
United Kingdom	15,816,900	9.39
France	983,158,000	25.40
Germany	81,834,000	1.45
United States	25,346,000	0.33

This serves to prove that France is maintaining her old reputation as the greatest wine-consuming country in the world, while it fails to show that Americans are making as much headway as supposed in changing from the so-called heavy to the so-called light drinks.

One of the most surprising of the tables, however, is that covering the consumption of beer, the United Kingdom leading the United States and falling not so very far behind Germany.

	Total consum.,	Per ad. consum.,
	gallons.	gallons.
United Kingdom (1900)	1,298,756,000	31.7
France (1900)	1,238,194,000	6.2
Germany (1899)	1,527,878,000	27.5
United States (1899)	934,210,000	23.3

The per capita consumption of beer in the United Kingdom is greater by about 4 per cent. than in Germany, while it exceeds that of France by

about 25 per cent. and that of the United States by about 18 per cent. Belgium and Bavaria, it seems, are the only countries in the world that exceed the United Kingdom in the per capita consumption of beer, that of the former being 47 gallons, of the latter 54 gallons per head.

The table relating to spirits has another surprise to offer:

	Total consum.,	Per ad. consum.,
	gallons.	gallons.
United Kingdom (1900)	45,890,000	1.12
France (1900)	78,452,000	2.02
Germany (1900)	107,100,000	1.94
United States (1899)	81,000,000	1.00

Contrary to the popular idea, Germany takes the lead as the consumer of strong drinks, although the per capita consumption is slightly greater in France. The United States is below, or rises above, the United Kingdom, as the case may be, in this table, and, notwithstanding the reputation of Americans as whiskey drinkers, they consume a less quantity of ardent spirits per capita than any of the others.

The King's State Carriage.

King Edward's state carriage is worthy of a detailed description. It was made for George III. nearly a century and a half ago, from the design of Sir William Chambers, the distinguished architect. It weighs no less than four tons. The panels were painted by Cipriani, the door-panel being embellished with the Royal Arms, in true heraldic colors. On each side panel appears the collar of the Order of the Garter, with the figure of St. George and the Dragon.

A little upright gilt ornament, in the design of which the rose, thistle and shamrock are introduced, runs round the roof, on which are represented the crown and sceptre. The hammer cloth is in scarlet with heavy gold fringe and tassels. A centre panel of dark blue velvet bears the Royal Arms in gilt relief. The carriage is over 12 feet high, 8 feet 4 inches broad, and the rear wheels over 6 feet in diameter. It contains a large amount of glass and £7,000 was expended in its construction.

To Prevent Collisions at Sea.

Capt. Brinkworth of Gloucester, England, has designed a card which is to be used in connection with fog signals. His idea is to have a schedule of signals which will indicate the way a vessel is moving. He has compiled a list of these signals corresponding to the various points of the compass, to which the card answers as a key, so that when a vessel blows a certain signal a glance at the card will give her direction, and the commander of a vessel hearing it can act accordingly. The system now in use of simply blowing long blasts is very unsatisfactory and confusing, since it gives no indication of the course of the approaching vessel.

Big Crops of Wool.

Russia produces 240 million pounds of wool a year, the record for Europe; England comes next, with 160 millions; then France, with 126 millions. Australia produces 420 millions, and the United States 320 millions.

Lord Kitchener's Conference.

A despatch from Brussels says that Lord Kitchener has permitted Mrs. Delarey, wife of the Boer general, to return to Pretoria, and stay in her daughter's house. In a letter addressed to a Dutch friend, Mrs. Delarey speaks highly of Lord Kitchener's politeness to her.

Birth Announcement in Holland.

In some parts of Holland a birth is announced by fastening a silk pin-cushion on the door knob. If the pin-cushion is red the baby is a boy and if white a girl.

Burdock Blood Bitters.

CURES SCROFULA.

Mrs. James Carr, Umfraville, Hastings Co., Ont., says:

"My little boy, two and a half years old, was in a terrible condition and suffered a great deal from scrofulous sores. My husband bought a bottle of Burdock Blood Bitters for him and gave it to him, and by the time he had finished the second bottle there was not a sore to be seen. On account of this wonderful cure I can honestly recommend B.B.B. to all who suffer from any disease arising from bad blood."

CURES BOILS.

Mr. Oliver J. Murray, Charlottetown, P.E.I., writes as follows:

"About six months ago I was troubled with painful boils, for which I could get nothing to cure me. As a last resort I tried Burdock Blood Bitters. One bottle completely rid me of boils, and my health was never better than at present."

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