

GEDDES FAMILY PHROMAEN IN WA-

English dignitaries who received their early impressions in North America.

(By Associated Press in The Observer)
LONDON, July 22.—One of the useful discoveries which the war has given the British nation is the Geddes family. Sir Eric Geddes, as Minister of Ways and Communications, and Sir Auckland Geddes, as President of the Board of Trade, are at the head of the two foremost departments engaged in the great work of reconstruction, while their sister is Commandant of the Women's Royal Air Force with a semi-military organization of several hundred under her control.

The Geddes brothers come from Scotland, which is apt to be a guarantee of success, and before the war they were almost unknown beyond the circles of their own professions. Sir Eric Geddes was a railroad manager, and railroad magnates do not hold so large a place in the public eye in England as they do in America; smaller than a bishop or a Master of Fox Hounds, which last is about the most purple pinnacle of distinction.

Sir Auckland Geddes was Professor of Anatomy at McGill University in Toronto. Both of them acknowledge a debt to the invigorating atmosphere of the North American continent, where Eric first worked as a lumberman and later had his first railroad lessons on the Baltimore and Ohio.

Sir Eric's first billet in the government service was for the organization and management of the hundreds of miles of railroad lines behind the British army in France, which he pulled out of something like chaos where regular staff officers had left it. Then he succeeded Arthur Balfour at the head of the Admiralty, at a time when there were complaints that the navy was in the hands of a rather hidebound board of admirals and needed more plunger, which it got.

Sir Auckland entered public life in the uniform of a private soldier, but he soon graduated to the War Office to be Lord Derby's right hand man in the direction of the Derby recruiting scheme. Step by step he became Minister of National Service, President of the Local Government Board, Minister of Reconstruction and finally President of the Board of Trade which roughly corresponds to the Department of the Interior at Washington.

Just now the two brothers have charge of the two toughest problems of Lloyd George's administration, the reconstruction and nationalization—or otherwise, as the issue may be decided—of the transport and mining systems of the United Kingdom, a large order.

and a dome-like forehead, and look every molecule a professor. Neither of them is an orator, and their parliamentary tactics display none of the subtlety of the politician, and the President Wilson, they sit at their desks at Whitehall clad in business suits instead of the ministerial liveries of frock coats. Sir Eric reads his speeches in the House of Commons and reads them without any flourishes of elocution, and while they are packed full of meat it is evident that, unlike Winston Churchill and Austen Chamberlain, he burns no midnight oil polishing his sentences.

BARBER'S POLE IS SYMBOL OF TRIPLE SERVICE

The barber's pole, although few people probably are aware of it, should be a reminder that the barber once was a rival of the dentist and the surgeon. Back in the middle ages there was a great deal of rivalry between these three professions; in fact up to the time of the French revolution, barbers enjoyed the privilege of drawing teeth and using the lancet.

The familiar red and white spiral ribbons that adorn the barber's sign originally represented the two bandages that commonly were used in surgery, the one used to bind the arm before bleeding, and the other employed afterward. The original decoration at the top of the pole—since degenerated into a plain gilt knob—took the form of the copper basin which once was used by barbers. This basin had a slit in one side into which the patron's neck was fitted, the bowl being used while the lathering process was in progress.

Gradually the triple profession split into three and nowadays the barber has the added competition of the safety razor. Just how important the safety razor industry has become is indicated in a new William Fox production, starring George Walsh. The picture, entitled "Help! Help! Police!" will be shown at Sherry's tomorrow only. Also Fatty Arbuckle and Mutt and Jeff.

Keenan's Zenith Mark.

Two men, identically alike as to face and figure, but as far apart as the poles in character—one "square," honest and upright, the other an arch thief and road agent whose soul is red with stains of murder and violence. Their trails cross in the golden, pine-rimmed melting pot of the west. Here is a brief outline of "The Midnight Stage," in which Frank Keenan, America's foremost character actor does the most remarkable work of his career in the dual characterization.

Love, hate, greed and lawless passion furnish the color and thrills for this engrossing western drama, which is an adaptation of Henry Irving's

historic success, "The Lyons Mail." The screen version is more effective in its appeal, more impressive in its dramatic action because of its fine natural setting and the picturesque series of American developments in which it is laid.

It was thought that Mr. Keenan had reached the highest point in his screen achievements when he gave to an appreciative public his Matrix in "The Bells," pre-released at the Blauvelt Theatre, New York; and warmly commended by the press; but, in this rendition of the old French story, it is said, he has reached a still higher mark.

Also shown, the Pathé Review and a comedy.

Deep Degradation.

"I haven't seen Pilkington for a week." "No, he hasn't been out of the house since his accident." "Was he seriously injured?" "No, but he feels the disgrace deeply." "Disgrace?" "Yes. After living in the heart of the city all his life he went to the country one day last week and was run over by a milk cart!"

Quite Sure.

Patricia came tumbling down a flight of stairs, and her mother, badly frightened, inquired if she was hurt. When Patricia regained her breath she loudly proclaimed her feelings: "I is killed, mother! I know I is killed!"

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If among the innumerable beverages of colonial times a man could find nothing to quench his thirst, he must have been hard to satisfy. The Puritan fathers were much distressed because they were reduced to drinking water when they came to the New World. But Higginson, of Salem, proudly told his contemporaries: "I can find oft-times do drink New England water very well."

Look on the Best Side.

What an absurd thing it is to pass over all the valuable parts of a man and fix our attention on his infirmities!

Your Kodak may need repairing—if you fail to get good pictures, something must be wrong; better stop in at Silverthorn's and let them tell you.

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