

London Employers House Shopgirls Where They Work

Girls Get Less Wages, and Live Under Restrictions American Girls Would Not Stand.

LONDON, England, July 8.—(Special Correspondence.)—No one coming to London for the first time will fail to be surprised at the difference between the conditions of the working classes of this city and America. I now refer to the shop men and women, who instead of living as they please in their own homes are homed by the establishments for which they work. It seems almost incredible that they prefer to shoulder this expense instead of paying the help such wages as will allow them to live where and how they please.

The salaries paid, however, are almost as "large" as in New York, but in addition to what they receive they are housed and fed. Nor are they assigned to certain sections of the city, but in the shops, whether Peter Robinson's or Whittely's, several floors are turned into dormitories and there are dining-rooms where the help is served four meals, the afternoon tea being as full-fledged an institution as the dinner at 7:30. Of course car fares are obviated and it is estimated that the distances would be too great for girls to get to the shop on time, but this is a mistake, as there is no distance which cannot be covered more quickly than in New York, and we only realize how inefficient is the New York transportation after noting the marvelous rapidity with which ground is covered here and the low prices at which it is accomplished.

The girls are put under restrictions no girl being allowed out after 10, without special permit for the theater or something of that sort, but it is no such hardship as it would be in a city where everything is "wide open," because London, if you please, is closed tight by 11 o'clock. Transportation ceases and all restaurants are closed. Coming from New York, one simply gasps at the rural innocence of things, but perhaps they are better off, who know?

Some of the larger houses provide libraries, music and enjoyments for their charges, and all provide for everything required in the way of cleanliness and discipline. I cannot picture the independent American saleswoman satisfied to tie up to restrictions, because if we value anything, it is the sense of independence after the hours of business are over, and while there is much in favor of a system by which all girls willing to work may find a place to stay, the "home" atmosphere is to them something entirely unknown. For this reason there are comparatively few married women or men employed, because

it is preferable to the employer to have his help under the roof of his establishment.

I have long since ceased to think that American women are eccentric, and am wondering what our people would say to the demonstrations of the Suffragettes in London. As everywhere else, there are very many more women than men and the "woman" question is one which is being agitated with more ardor here now than it ever has been in America. Processions of 20,000 to 30,000 women may be seen marching through the parks and on the highways of London. These women are drawn from representative homes and not by any means from the slums of the city. On the contrary, it is advertised beforehand that they will wear gowns from the greatest modistes of the world, and the line includes university women in their caps and gowns, writers, artists, factory girls, nurses, teachers, clerks, actresses, women gardeners and students.

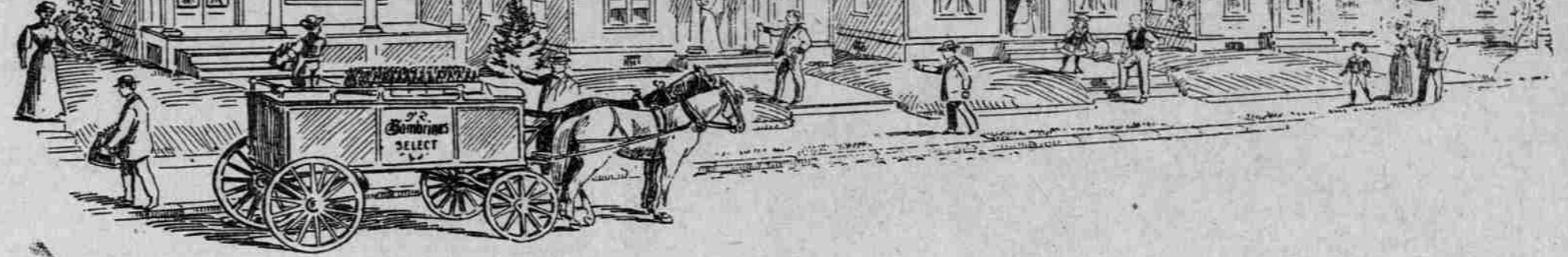
An attempt to describe the last procession may not be amiss. It is estimated that there were over a quarter of a million people who participated in the "great shout" demonstration in Hyde Park and the bugle which sounded at 5 brought forth a shout which almost shook London to the foundation. This followed the motion put by Mrs. Drummond, "That this meeting calls upon the Government to give the vote to women without delay."

It is estimated that at least 5000 women marched in each of the seven processions, making a total of 35,000, but at least as many workmen and women followed on behind the organized divisions. Special trains came in from 70 towns and the railroad stations were alive with "captains" and "stewards," dressed in white like the women, receiving the incomers.

It is stated that never before has such a large number of banners been carried as there were last Sunday, when 712 banners of purple, white and green and 40 bands made things gay, as well as impressive. Among the notables represented were Mr. and Mrs. George Bernard Shaw, who marched in the Trafalgar-square division. On a coach in the Easton section were Mrs. Pankhurst, Beatrice Harraden, Mrs. Mona Caird and Miss Elizabeth Robins. Mrs. Israel Zangwill headed a literary party which drove by coach in the Victoria Embankment division, which included not only the chief leaders of the Women's Social and Political Union, but the foreign contingent of Swedes, Norwegians and Finns.

It must not be believed, however, that it is easy sailing, because three women

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WILL ROGERS, ASSISTED BY BUCK M'KEE, AND THE MUSTANG "TEDDY," AT THE GRAND.

who tried to address a meeting of 4000 people in Oldham Market ground during the week prior to the procession were mobbed and pelted and had to be rescued by the police.

This is the second such demonstration since I am in London, and it is stated that the women will not stop until their demand has been acted upon by the powers that be.

Another demonstration and one in which the writer participated, occurred at Queen's Hall Saturday afternoon. This was at the recital by Mischa Elman, the young violinist, whose achievements make everything fairly pale in the presence of his powers. Young Elman is but 19 years of age and has for three years already had all Europe at his feet. We had heard extravagant things about him and I plead that the very extravagance of the statements filled me with distrust and almost lack of interest, but as he is to make his first American tour this season I had some curiosity to hear him beforehand, to estimate for myself what his success might be in that country where foreign hallmarks do not always mean what is expected of them.

The young Russian has a tone that is fairly overpowering and thrilling, a technique which is so stupendous that one forgets its existence, the interpretation, not only of a mature man, but of a great mind, of a man who has lived and learned, and a magnetism which is entirely unique. No matter what he does or does not, he is far beyond anything that America has enjoyed in years, and he can only be mentioned by the side of the late Joachim Sarasate, Ysaye, Kreisler, and in many details these last can not be compared to Elman, because with all he has a swing and a joyousness of youth which are altogether indescribable. He should draw quite as sensational houses as did Kubelik, and the difference will be that this is flesh, blood and tremendous mind as against an exquisite feminine polish. Elman has accomplished wonders in London. He has played more times in this city during the season than any other artist has ever done before him. His last recital of June 29 was the 17th appearance since the last of October, and more than this, his name never fails to attract an audience which numbers in the thousands.

There is no doubt that next season musical and dramatic matters in America will be interesting, and among the most attractive plays to be seen, those of W. Somerset Maugham will be in the lead. This must have been Charles Frohman's idea when he engaged to give four of them in the same season, no doubt all to open in New York.

A resume of the plays will wait until they come to New York, but the man himself is not without interest and when we remember that the story of "The Admirable Crichton" is his, he cannot be regarded as an entirely unknown quantity, even in America.

It has been said that Mr. Maugham writes a play with each hand and foot at the same time, which statement he absolutely refutes. "A play does not begin from the time you pick up your pen, but from the time you begin to think about it. Now, The Admirable

Crichton," for instance, was written in three weeks, but it took about nine months to think it out. There is no telling where or how a play comes to me. Perhaps at a concert or up the river, or on the street where a group of persons may suggest something.

"Do you make notes or do you work on inspiration?"

"I do not make notes; I find that they hamper me when I try to drag in a set speech from a notebook. I did it formerly, but not now, as it increased the difficulty of being perfectly natural."

"As for inspiration," continued Mr. Maugham, "I cannot say as to that, because I think that writing plays is a knack that some people have and others have not. It is like playing golf—one man will land his ball after a short period of practice and another never will as long as he lives. I love to write plays for the occupation it gives me, and not because I excel at playwriting or believe in the intellectual drama, the so-called drama of second-hand ideas."

"As long as there is a stage, it requires a drama, and that means that you and audience must be interested. That, indeed, is all the worry I care to take upon myself and do not feel the call to philosophize that some others may feel."

"Does it not make you feel very important to have four plays running at the same time?"

"Well, I remember the length of time it took to get a hearing for any of them and that tempers any feeling that I have an overwhelming genius. The first play, "Lady Frederick," which is said to be a success by those in authority, was refused by every manager of standing in England and America, and even Mr. Stuart, who produced it only to fill in an interval. "The Explorer" was written in 1905 and did not seem to make any more impression than the first, but I was not easily discouraged because I experienced so much pleasure while working on them. Playwriting is to me the most delightful occupation there is. To watch your words and ideas carried out by real grown-up people makes you feel grown up and when the rehearsal comes you learn so much about play writing that you never knew, that there are always new interests arising."

Mr. Maugham is not yet 34, but his first successful novel was written when he was only 23. He is a quiet, intellectual looking man with a vein of unobtrusive irony. He is an ardent traveler and has collected many quaint things from all parts of the world, which lend themselves to make attractive his apartment near Berkeley Square, where he lives when in the city, but being a rover by nature, he is not there very much of the time.

He speaks five languages and has read the literature of all countries. This cosmopolitanism is not without cause as he was born in Paris, but was educated in King Edward's School Canterbury. At 15 he became a student at Heidelberg and when he returned to England it was with the firm determination of becoming a writer, of which talent America shall judge for itself.

EMILIE FRANCES BAUER.

Esperantists to Meet.

LONDON, July 18.—(Special.)—The Fourth International Esperanto Congress will be held at Dresden from August 16 to 22. The congress will be presided over by Dr. Zamenhof, the

author of the language, and it is expected that 2000 delegates from all parts of Europe and from America will be present. Church services in Esperanto for Protestants and Catholics will be held in the "Kreuzkirche" and "Katholische Hofkirche," respectively.

During the congress Goethe's "Iphigenia in Tauris" will be played in Esperanto by Herr Emanuel Reicher, his daughter, Fraulein Hedwig Reicher, and other Berlin actors. In the little town of Welscher Hirsch, close to Dresden, an Esperanto village

will be established for the convenience of the holiday-makers from all countries. The international committee of the Red Cross societies has decided to send a delegate to the congress, in order to be informed as to the utility of Esperanto in time of war.

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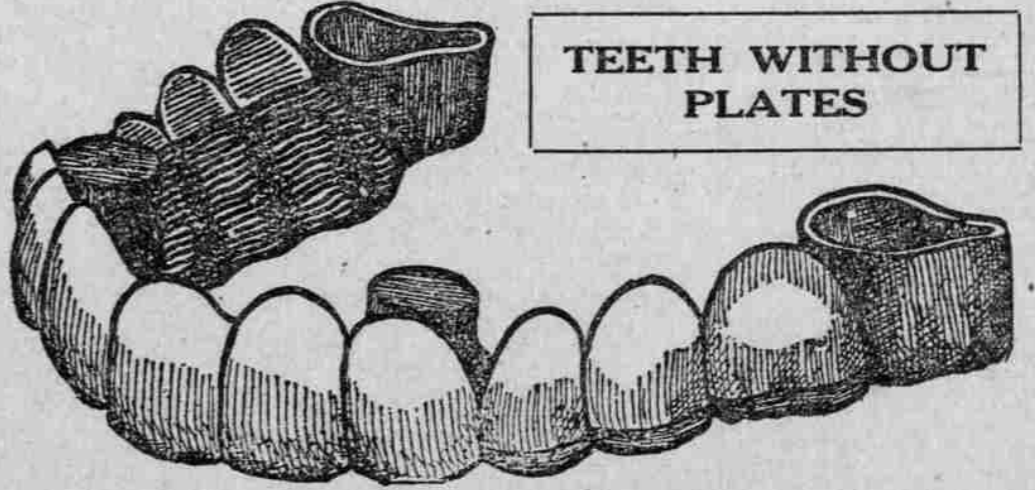
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