

# This is the World's Greatest Spender Enjoying Her Millions

Mrs. Smith-Wilkinson, England's "Queen of Sheba," Having Amazed London by Insuring a Ball Gown for \$5,000,000 for a Single Evening, Now Feels She Is All Primed to Flabbergast America.



The \$5,000,000 insured ensemble of Mrs. Edward Henry Smith-Wilkinson. "Kings on Her Fingers"—rubies, diamonds, pearls—75,000 of them! Posing in the Prince of Wales box, which she hired and decorated for Victory ball.

ALONG comes Mrs. Edward Henry Smith-Wilkinson, the world's greatest spender, and insures—owners of evening gowns please take notice—one of the costumes she has in her wardrobe for the tidy sum of \$5,000,000! She wore this creation at the recent victory ball at London. Those who inhabit the United States of America had better get their bladders out, for she's soon to arrive here and intends to display a more elaborate one to the eyes of those who are fortunate enough to edge within field-glass distance of this woman whose lavish expenditure of money excels anything history, profane and ecclesiastical, ever recorded. This amazing costume was of gold thread, embroidered in pearls and diamonds. Her headdress was a cap of diamonds made in lattice-work fashion. Pearls as big as hickory nuts and diamonds as large as English walnuts—75,000 of 'em—studied the crown she wore.

It gives one pause to think of it. One can understand, on close observation, why Mlle. Bourgeois Mestignott, famous Parisian dancer, was wholly justified in insuring her shapely legs for \$50,000. It is obvious why Ignace Paderewski, before he quit the piano bench for the premier's chair, put even a greater value on his sensitive fingers. By the same token one comprehends the good business sense of Mischa Elman when he fortified his future against an accident to the hands and arms that guide his magic bow across the strings.

But \$5,000,000 insurance for an evening gown worn once only and then thrown on the ash heap!

Money weighs heavily on Mrs. Smith-Wilkinson. She has a trifling \$40,000,000 annual income which her first husband found through prohibition rest cure hotels in England. Just to show how anxious she is to spend it she entertained her native town of Nottingham, England, a few weeks ago, by wearing 100 gowns, 176 hats, 125 coats and 39 pairs of shoes during a seven-day week, incidentally spending \$1,900,000 of that \$40,000,000 on "odds and ends." Yes, Mrs. Smith-Wilkinson has proved the Queen of Sheba to be a piker and

Crosses a mere tin-horn sport. So now she is coming to the United States of America bent sure enough on making Diamond Jim Brady turn over in his grave, not to speak of matching stones for stone with real pearls and diamonds, the synthetic display of our famous actresses, such as Thea Bara, even in the scintillating spectacle, "The Queen of Sheba," where she wore little aught else than dazzling "joo-els."

But Mrs. Smith-Wilkinson asks her critics to have a thought for her history which, briefly told, is this:

She was married originally to a man named Dunk, who started business by establishing a hotel which offered an austere contract to all other British "pubs" in that it had no tap room and served no spirituous, vinous or malt liquors. No hale or hearty Englishmen could be found to patronize such a place as this, however, so the resourceful Mr. Dunk tried another tack. He advertised his hotel as a rest sanatorium. Patronage picked up immediately. He established another and another, until finally he had a string of 40 or more extending throughout England.

When Mr. Dunk died he left his widow something like \$10,000,000 and a good deal of financial wisdom. She acquired another husband later on, but kept adding to her money. Then the war came and she turned her capital over so rapidly that a special corps of bankers was needed to keep her accounts straight. In the course of time her second husband died and Mr. Smith-Wilkinson married her.

One day she took stock and found that her yearly income was something like \$40,000,000 and that she was 53 years old. She thereupon decided that if she was going to prevent her wealth from rolling up into meaningless abundance she would have to make an extraordinary effort to get rid of it. A Paris trip and a \$15,000,000 spending orgy was the result of this decision.

Since her Paris experience Mrs. Smith-Wilkinson has become imbued with a motive other than the mere desire to have a good time. She feels that she would like to die poor. This means that she must bestir herself more than she at first planned to do. And as America has always been advertised as a locality which promotes profligate expenditures, she determined to come to the States and



This ermine cloak cost just \$100,000. She says it is well worth it.

set a new high mark for future spenders.

Thus far Mrs. Smith-Wilkinson has acted astonishingly like a typical woman. Instead of endowing some money-absorbing enterprise like a circus, a newspaper or a symphony orchestra, she has put her millions in dress and ornamentation. With the exception of the prices she pays for each article and the number she buys—she acts much like a farmer's wife on a holiday.

Her wardrobe at the last counting consisted of 175 gowns, 240 coats, 300 hats, 36 pairs of shoes, 180 blouses, 123 skirts, 77 silk and wool sweaters, 48 knitted suits, 26 golf suits, 29 riding suits, 41 bathing suits, 15 hunting jackets, 13 pairs of tweed



At left—in her latest aviation costume, and the butterfly gown of silver and jet that astounded Parisians.



Zebra gown with diamond buttons that almost drove the bookies from the Autoll races.

buying so many hats and coats and gowns. It keeps money in circulation. Isn't that better than to hoard it?"

## FUR TRAILS PAY DIVIDENDS

(Continued From Page 2)

usually picked and the chair is fastened to the under side as far above the trap as possible. The first struggles of a trapped marten release the trap from the nails and the animal swings clear from the tree. As the trap swings in the air the marten very soon becomes unconscious in the cold and quickly freezes to death. The bait, a piece of meat about three inches square, is fastened on the tree about ten inches above the trap. The traps must be visited as often as possible to prevent freezing and being snowed under. We always used a drag on our marten lines. This consisted of a piece of raw meat liberally sprinkled with a scent of our own manufacture. This was fastened by a long cord to our belts and trailed along in the snow. Snow shoes, of course, are imperative in the marten country. The snow often reaches a depth of 18 or 22 feet and more and the traveling after a soft, fresh fall of snow, even with wind, is heart-breaking.

Probably one of the most important parts of the art of trapping is taking proper care of the furs after the animals are caught. A trapper who is careless in this respect is bound to lose considerable money. The prices received by a trapper for his furs depend entirely on their condition when received by the raw fur buyer. If it is unprime, flat, greasy, burned, hair curled or improperly finished, the price is very low. An unprime fur is generally caught too early or too late, and is usually either flat or hair curled. Some animals have layers of fat beneath the skin, and if this fat is not carefully removed after skinning causes the hide to rot. This is called grease burn. It is advisable to ship these sort of skins to the market as soon as possible.

The two methods most generally used comprise the "open" and the "cased" methods. In the "open" method a straight cut is made from the base of the tail to the point of the lower lip. From this a cut is made along the inside of each leg to the toes and the hide removed like a coat. This method applies to the bear, timber wolf, cougar, raccoon and beaver. The "cased" method requires a cut to be made from the toes of one hind leg down along the inside of the leg to the base of the tail and ending at that of the opposite leg. The skin is then taken off over the head like a shirt and turned inside out in the process. This applies to the fisher, marten, coyote, fox, mink and otter.

After the skins are stretched on a wooden frame or board all flesh or fat adhering to the hide is carefully removed with a knife.

After the hide is nearly dry and before it becomes hard it is removed from the stretching board and turned fur side out. After a gentle shaking the fur is put up and made to look alive the skin is replaced on the board fur side out and thoroughly dried.



"Ropes of pearls around her neck and a jewel casket overflowing. Sumptuous furs carelessly draped!"

No estimate of her jewels has been made public. It is known, however, that she spent as much as \$2,000,000 for pearls in one afternoon while shopping in Paris. In spite of these lavish prices Mrs. Smith-Wilkinson doesn't possess any celebrated collection of pearls or any world-famous gems of any kind. Neither has she

trousers, 350 pairs of gloves, 160 brassieres, 423 chemises, 400 pairs of silk knickers, 340 silk undershirts, 700 pairs of stockings, 260 pairs of garters, 150 nightgowns, 123 negligees, 46 bathrobes, 125 petticoats, 24 pairs of boudoir slippers, 30 boudoir caps, 44 breakfast coats, 36 scarfs, 15 Spanish shawls, 29 fans, 60 parajumps and seven flying costumes.

amassed any treasures of art, though she has hinted that she will get around to art one day, when she has nothing else to do, and buy out a whole gallery.

Mrs. Smith-Wilkinson resents in situations that she is squandering her money in a foolish manner. She says: "I am helping trade and giving employment to lots of women by