

How "The Times" Reports Parliament

MEMBERS of parliament who see their spoken words of the night before reproduced with such fidelity in the columns of The Times the next morning have, as a rule, little idea of the interesting processes which result in what is probably the best report of public proceedings in the world.

In its fulness and its accuracy The Times report stands alone. The extreme Tory and the most devoted Radical will agree that it is untouched by even a trace of partisanship, and for scores of years it has had a place side by side with the official reports as an arbiter in disputes as to words used by speakers or by private members. Questions of politicians who are now but names have quoted extracts from the daily report. Dozens of parliamentarians, peers, and commoners have been helped to prominence—sometimes to fame—by these columns in The Times. A silent little band of scribes, the Times staff, has been engaged in the task of making reputations—or, indignantly, blasting them. And this result is brought about in the production of a continuous human narrative of the nation's moods and emotions, a narrative which displays to the outside observer the liberal thought of our conservatives, the conservatism of our liberals, and, in a word, reflects our national character.

PRIVILEGES IN THE GALLERY.

The Times, as becomes its position in its achievements, occupies a unique position in the gallery of the house of commons. The authorities of the house, with every desire to be courteous and helpful to the press, have, owing to the very limited space, to impose severe restrictions as to the number of those admitted to the gallery. There are only 25 separate seats, or "boxes" as they are called, and the exclusive position of one of these seats is an almost priceless newspaper possession. A narrow, undivided seat runs round the gallery behind the boxes, and this is crowded with the extra journalists, sketch writers, and artists who are waiting for the chance of those who are admitted to the gallery but not the right to a separate seat. It should be said here that there are scores of persons at the present moment seeking vainly the privilege of bare admission to the gallery. The exclusive possession, therefore, of one of these 25 boxes is a great thing for a newspaper.

For the pressmen in general, who number between 150 and 200, several large writing-rooms are provided so that descriptions may be written or short-hand notes transcribed away from the gallery itself. The Times alone has its own room. From the top of the gallery stairs along the passage way which leads to the gallery seats, and you will see opening on your left a small room in which sits a clerk entering up the times of arrival and departure of the messengers who travel with manuscript to and from The Times office. By his side is a telegraph instrument which communicates direct and over which short messages of urgency may be sent without delay. Pass through this ante-room, the use of which is shared by two other corps, to a door on the further side, and you will enter a department which is in the side possession of The Times journalists. Some of them seated on opposite sides of the table, which runs the length of the room, are busily writing; one is turning up a file of The Times on a side desk to verify a reference which has been made by a minister in debate; another is examining a written list of names and times on the notice board to ascertain exactly when he is expected to take his place in the house.

DIVISION OF LABOR.
The Times staff in parliament consists of thirteen reporters, two summary writers, and a chief. The latter supervises all the arrangements, is responsible for the finished daily report, be it three columns or thirty, and by

his judgment as to the length of speeches he plays an important part in the work of presenting the country's picture of parliament which shall be proportionate in all its parts.

When both houses are sitting on the same day The Times corps is divided, six men being in one house, seven in the other. When only one house is sitting all of them are available for that place. At a quarter to three each afternoon The Times staff is gathered in its own room in the house of commons. On the notice board is posted up a list of the names of the reporters and the times at which they will be expected to take their place in the reporting box in the gallery. That list depends on a rota varying automatically week by week. At seven minutes to three when the doors of the gallery are opened to the press the three members of The Times staff take their places in their three special seats. There is the reporter who has to put down the words of the proceedings in shorthand, the summary writer whose duty it is to write a lucid but abbreviated account of the speeches in a running narrative, and the chief who sits with them, watching that that is going on and regulating, whenever he thinks it necessary, the work of the reporter. Up till nine o'clock in the evening each reporter stays exactly fifteen minutes in the box taking shorthand notes of the proceedings. In busy times the reporter will then have at least an hour and a half to transcribe his fifteen minutes' notes before being again called upon to take his place in the gallery. In important periods of debate every word will have to be taken down, and that means that the reporter's quarter of an hour of notes will result in three-quarters of a column of The Times. Leading statesmen like the prime minister and the leader of the opposition are always reported verbatim, whether in or out of his seat in the gallery necessarily strikes a note which gives a tone to the whole of the great daily report. Very much, however, depends on the reporters themselves. They cannot be expected to possess expert knowledge of all the subjects, military, naval, financial, foreign, and technical, that come before the house; but they have what is nearly as good—experience of the house itself, in many cases a very long experience indeed; and this generally enables them to estimate both speeches and subjects at their real value. A member may think his speech a very clever one. The reporter may differ. It is the decision of the reporter which will be easily seen how the judgment of The Times men in the gallery has made and is making parliamentary reputations.

From 5 o'clock in the evening the time occupied by each reporter in the box is lessened because it is necessary at that late hour that the manuscript, or "copy" as it is called, should reach The Times office more quickly and in smaller batches. From 5 to 5:30 the reporters work in 10-minute turns. From 5:30 to 6:15 in turns of seven and one-half minutes, and from 6:15 onwards in turns of five minutes. Small consignments of copy are thus constantly on the way to The Times office, one being dispatched before the one preceding it has reached Printing House square. If the house sits beyond 11 three men are selected to stay on, if necessary, throughout the night in order to keep an abbreviated report in progress for the paper.

It is not difficult, therefore, to see that the report comes to be regarded as something in the nature of an official document, and that The Times not only records history but plays a part in making it.—Frank Dillot in the London Daily Mail.



ALFRED BEST, THE TENOR, TURNS INVENTOR.

An invention which bids fair to become used on all Pullman and tourist cars has just been completed by Alfred Best, by profession a musician, who conceived the idea while traveling to and from Germany in pursuit of his musical studies, and later worked out the details. On a trip from New York to Salt Lake, Mr. Best was accompanied by Mrs. Best and their small child, and it was in trying to make them more comfortable that he hit upon the scheme that promises to make him wealthy.

Mr. Best's idea was to have a boxed screen to keep out the dust combine with a fan to cause a current of air to circulate in the car. Upon arriving home a working model of the invention was made and patent applied for through the patent department of the Deseret News.

The invention was given its first test upon the recent trip of the Tabernacle choir to Seattle. It was in action under various conditions and was successfully operated during the entire trip. It was shown along the route to many railroad officials and employees, and all seemed to be the only feasible plan now which such a contrivance could be operated. Since then some further improvements have been made, and the perfected machine is now on exhibition in the windows of the Wilkes-Horne Drug Co.

The invention is known as "Alfred Best's automatic combination box screen and reversible running fan." It consists of a box which is adjusted to any car window without alterations of any kind, and a double screen covers the openings through which the air passes, as it enters the car. The front screen through which all air must pass before it enters the box, is directly behind the edge of the sunlight and the shadow.

Attached to the front fan is a shaft which is set on an angle and attached to a second fan which sends the air from the box through the inner screen into the car. As this fan is propelled by the front fan, there is of course no expense for power. A third fan which is in itself a propeller is installed upon the roof of the car and its power is added to the force of the first fan. In this way sufficient power is obtained to send a strong current of air into the car. It is estimated that when both fans are running, if there is the slightest breeze caused through the motion of the train, a current equal to that of an ordinary electric fan will be driven through the screens. As this air is all filtered the advantage of the invention is apparent.

To provide for the train running in either direction an attachment has been supplied which automatically reverses the fan so that no matter whether the train is going forward or backward, the motion operates the fans. One fan installed in an ordinary Pullman state room, will keep it entirely free from dust or dirt, and at the same time will keep a current of fresh air circulating.

Mr. Best is now planning to market his invention, and with the proceeds will continue to make studies and otherwise enjoy the fruits of his success. Mr. D. L. Dean and Frederick Best have assisted in the invention and to them belongs a share of the credit.

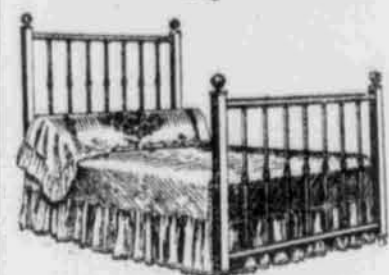
SUN SHOWS HOUSE'S FIRMNESS.

Sends Beam to Same Wash Basin Twelve Years Apart.
"Twelve years ago last Monday," said New-Haven, New-Haven, "I was in my mother's room, about 7:30 in the morning, and I noticed that the sun streamed in across the floor and the ray struck diagonally across the marble wash basin in the corner. The sun very rarely gets into that corner of the room, and when I remembered that this was the longest day of the year, I made a mark on the marble along

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THE STORE Beautiful

ENGLAND'S QUEEN MAKING TROUBLE

(Continued from page eighteen.)

He went everywhere and knew everyone, and to be a friend of the Prince of Wales was no great distinction after all. Alexandra, on the other hand, was very exclusive and her friendship was sought after and prized. When he became king, however, all was changed.

Alexandra has never been able to reconcile herself to the idea that from being her husband's equal, or even his superior, she has become merely one of his subjects, and lately the idea that she must accept herself seems to have been growing on her.

In spite of it all she retains her popularity. Her wonderful sweetness of manner makes up for a lot of inconveniences, but it makes her harder to drive. A more determined woman might be reasoned with or coerced, but what is a poor court official to do when he is trying to urge her majesty to make up her mind, and she lays her hand on his shoulder and says: "Now, you dear man, I know you are taking a great deal of trouble for me, but I cannot decide today." All he can do is to try to pacify the railway officials and others who are storming at him, because he cannot give them the information they require. If the queen were not so sweet-tempered, we might be able to get her to act more reasonably.

BLAMES DOWAGER FOR FUSILLADE.

It is permissible to say that the king is much worried about his wife's growing fussiness, and that he blames her sister, the dowager empress of Russia, for many of her whims. It certainly is noticeable that the queen's demands usually coincide with or follow a visit of her sister to England, or one of their holidays together in Denmark.

It is known that Edward and his sister-in-law cordially dislike each other. Edward blames the dowager empress for unsettling his wife's mind, and he also, it is said, has expressed the opinion that she is responsible for the reactionary policy of his son, the czar, which makes the Russian throne such a shaky seat, and shaky thrones are not popular things with kings, even in cases where their own wife is as firm as Edward's is. The dowager empress on the other hand disapproves of Edward's gallantry and blames him for much of the unhappiness which has been Alexandra's lot in life. At any rate, things have come to such a pass that the king and his sister-in-law hardly feel civil to each other, and Edward makes it a rule now to find an engagement out of his country when the dowager empress visits England so that he will not be compelled to meet her. He usually leaves a day or two before she comes and compels away with

til she has gone.

It is when her sister is with her that Alexandra is in her element, and incidentally that she gives most trouble to her attendants. The two women, delight in running about London like two ordinary persons, visiting the shops, the exhibitions and the hospitals, and they never give any notice of their coming. They like to believe that they are quite unattended and unescorted, but anyone who knows the ropes in London can always pick out half-a-dozen quiet, determined-looking women somewhere in their immediate neighborhood. These men are members of the political branch of Scotland Yard, whose duty it is to guard royalty, but they find it particularly hard to do so in the case of the royal sisters, who think nothing of calling a carriage and dashing off to an exhibition or a picture gallery at a moment's notice. In such cases there is nothing for their guardians to do but to follow in swift motor cars.

On one occasion when the queen and her sister suddenly made up their minds to visit the London hospital, which lies in the heart of an East End district populated largely by ex-subjects of the Czar, the two women, who have no great love for the house of Romanoff, the guardians were caught napping, and the royal carriage was out of sight before they realized that their charges had gone out. The royal servants on the carriage knew well enough what had happened, but they dared not tell the queen for she probably would have declined to stop and would have given strict orders that she should not be followed in future. The only thing left was the telephone. In a few minutes every police station in London was ordered to turn out every available man to search for the royal carriage and report the direction it was going. The carriage was soon located, hit the ladies arrived at the hospital before the detectives who had spent a very uncomfortable hour and were much relieved to find both their charges safe.

MOST POPULAR WOMAN.

These unconventional visits form one of the explanations of the queen's wonderful popularity. She thinks nothing of walking unaccompanied in the hospital and striding from bed to bed chatting with the patients and expressing her sympathy with them. If it is a children's hospital she is in her element, for Alexandra loves children and the little ones seem to have no fear of the gracious lady who is so friendly and sympathetic. Sometimes the doctors and nurses have rather a hard time for as likely as not the queen will produce a big box of candy and offer it to a little patient who is forbidden all such luxuries. It would never do to offend the queen by forbidding her to do a kindly act, but in some of the children's hospitals which she visits she is the cause of a search of the reds after she has left the ward and confounded all forbidden duties.

In spite of her trying shortcomings, which after all only affect those who are in direct contact with her, Alexandra is the most popular woman in England among the plain people.

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The picture now being displayed in our window was taken by Shipler's Commercial Photographers from the top of the Moxum Hotel.

This is a mathematical problem, not a guessing contest, as the time can be judged by the shadows on the building. Owing to the angle that the clocks are viewed from, the exact time as shown on the west dial will determine the winner.

The first person coming into the store and giving over his signature nearest to the exact time this picture was taken, will be given his choice of any \$30.00 Hart Schaffner & Marx suit.

The second person nearest to the exact time, choice of any \$5.00 Knox hat.

The third person nearest to exact time, choice of any pair of Perrins' \$2.50 gloves.

The black paper over the clock will be removed next Saturday at twelve o'clock noon.

All solutions of this problem must be in by six o'clock Friday evening.

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