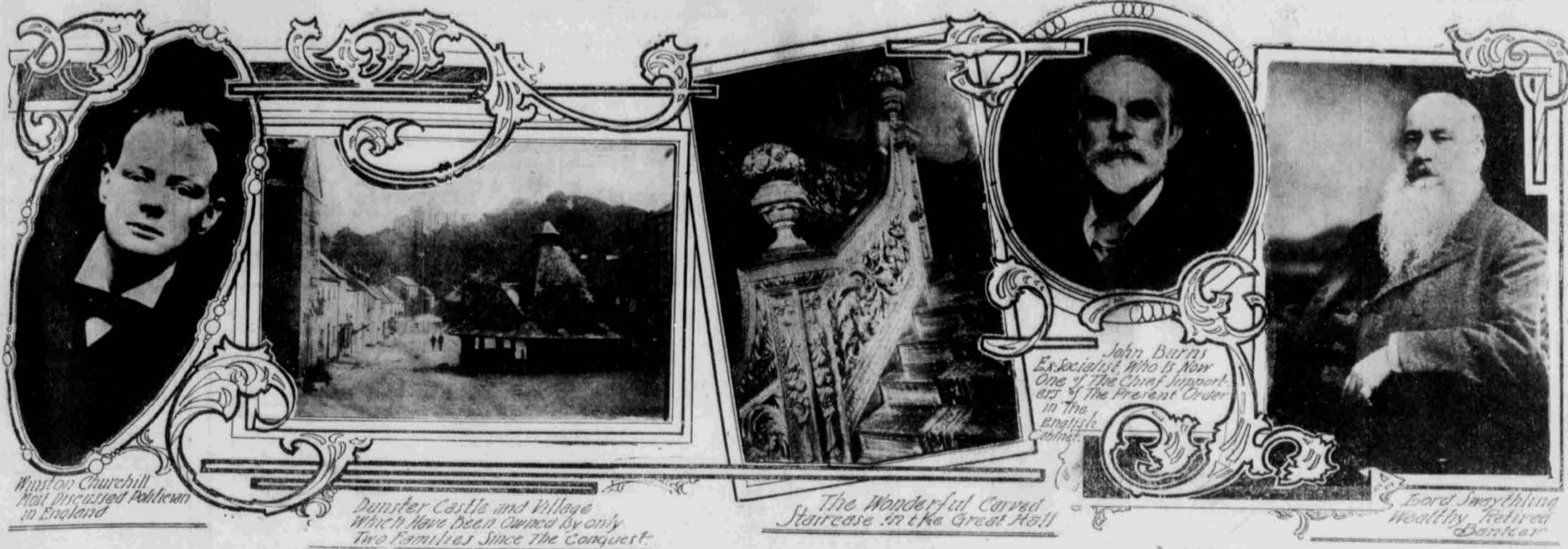


The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.



Feudal Stronghold in England Has a History All to Itself

(Special Correspondence)
LONDON, Oct. 14.—Dunster in the county of Somerset is one of the picturesque historical sites which make a strong appeal to the imagination of the visitor from over the seas and unlike a good many other feudal castles in England it never has been in the market. It has been made the subject of an interesting history compiled and written in Sir Henry Maxwell Lyte's "Deepest Public Records," whose title page says a "List of Dunster." The village with its old church, its narrow market-place, its half-timbered houses, and its hedges of hawthorn and myrtle, nestles under the wooded Tor, or wooded knoll, that slopes abruptly to the southeast, crowned for centuries with the remains of the ancient fortification.

The castle, which marks the top of the hill, spans of Exmoor, rise around it on three sides. The fourth opens to the sea, from which it is a mile distant, a clear trout-stream flows around the base of the Tor passing under the pack-bridge, turning the wheels of the castle mill, and so on to the sea. The castle has been besieged and taken, and now stands in ruins, with its towers and walls of the original fortification.

From the summit the eye ranges over the Bristol channel and the distant Welsh mountains and the distant sea. The underwood deep, paths lead into glens from the smooth lawns alongside the river, winding glen to the sun-heated moorland, where the broken ridge of an ancient Roman engineering is still visible against the sky. Dunster is the most romantic of all the old castles, and it catches a glimpse of it when he passes along in his motor car from Taunton to Puckle and Lymington, but he would suspect its beauty more if he should turn off the main road and walk in the quiet little country road opposite the market place, an famous for many centuries past, medieval in character, and possessing the old fashioned windows and a gabled plaster overmantel.

UNIQUE HISTORY.
Not only is the position of Dunster unique, but its history claims attention, for it has belonged to only two families since the Norman conquest, save only for a short interval during the wars of the Roses, when the owner was attainted and his lands forfeited. The Mohuns held for 300 years after which it passed by sale to the Luttrells whose family had owned a neighboring manor, Quantoxhead, adjoining. The Mohuns had resigned at Dunster. Thenceforward the Luttrells held both properties.

Dunster was granted by William the Conqueror to one of his followers, William de Mohun, who had left his home of the same name in Normandy to throw in his lot with his leader, and was rewarded with the honorable and responsible task of keeping order as overlord to a vast extent of the west of England. Not less than 60 manors were assigned to him, and 40 knights held their lands under him. William de Mohun, the Mohun, kept a small military service. William de Mohun, the second, proceeded to fortify the Tor, and, espousing the cause of the Empress Matilda, defended it against Stephen, who blockaded the castle and finally forced him to surrender it, and also to give up the title of Earl of Somerset, with which he had been invested by Matilda.

CHURCH BENEFACTORS.

The Mohuns were large benefactors to the church, founding the abbey of Newham and the priory of Bruton. The last Mohun was one of the original founders of the Order of the Garter, originally buried at Bruton, but leaving no male heir, his widow divided herself of any responsibility regarding Dunster by selling the reversion to Lady Elizabeth Luttrell, and then betaking herself to court, to spend the revenues which were to be paid to her during her life. Lady Mohun divided her time between the court and the castle. It was at the latter place that she caused a splendid monument to be prepared for herself in the undercroft of the cathedral. Her effigy may be seen there now, with a sideless dress and jeweled girdle. One of her daughters who had married the Duke of York had a sumptuous monument in Westminster Abbey.

On coming into possession of Dunster the Luttrells were, like their predecessors, soon called upon to help the king of England in their foreign and domestic wars. Sir Hugh Luttrell, in 1315, was made seneschal of Normandy and lieutenant of Hauteville, and engaged in the fight for Henry V for the space of one year, for which he was to receive £4,000. He chartered a ship at

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