

## LEOPOLD II WANTS TO VISIT AMERICA.

Marvelous Old Monarch of Belgium Would Like to See the United States.

### ONE OF WORLD'S RICHEST MEN

Daily Life and Doings of Shrewdest King in the Business Who is Usually Seen Through Yellow Glass.

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, Feb. 4.—As it is known here that King Leopold wishes to visit the United States and see the St. Louis exhibition, and as rumors of his intention have led to a flood of irresponsible statements in a certain class of American newspapers, I asked our Brussels correspondent, who has unusual facilities for getting at the facts, to tell what this famous combination of monarch and shrewd business man is really like; how he lives and works and amuses himself; whether he is really such a miser as he has been so often made out to be in the past, or, for perhaps the first time, a genuine picture, from observation, without fear or favor, of a man who is generally acknowledged by statesmen to be the ablest king in the business—not even excepting his German neighbor. Here is the result of this request:

Brussels, Feb. 2.—Among the many notable strangers who are expected to visit the St. Louis exhibition, the most remarkable undoubtedly is Leopold II, king of the Belgians. From every point of view this monarch commands attention. The unique position occupied by Belgium as a neutral state, whose position is guaranteed by the great powers of Europe, allowing him a free hand in his enterprise. The tall, spare form, the aquiline features (in which the extreme length of the nose betrays the prudence and love of inquiry which are his majesty's great characteristics), the observant eyes, in which penetration glimmers like the flash of a two-edged sword, and the long, thin, aristocratic features, are familiar to the world over. A few facts about the king's daily life, told by one who has spent several years in Belgium, may not be uninteresting, and, since they give the lie to many of the fictions charged to King Leopold's account, should not be unconstructive.

Five o'clock in summer—and but little later in winter—sees the king of the Belgians aged 48, walking in his palace of Laeken, which stands in one of the immediate suburbs of the capital. His majesty's bedroom is comfortable but plainly furnished, and he does not care for fire in his rooms. The writer, who entered the king's study one cold autumn day just after his majesty had left it, was amused to see the royal shirt lying before an empty fireplace for a parliamentary dinner to be given at the Brussels palace that evening.

### HEAPS OF WORK BEFORE BREAKFAST.

His majesty is extremely simple in his tastes and detests ceremonies, or rather ceremonies. His valet de chambre, who sleeps in an adjoining room, has an easy life, for the king's costume consists almost invariably of a general's undress uniform. Immediately he is dressed he takes a walk. This is the king's favorite occupation, and he spends most of his day a-foot. By 7 a. m. his majesty has already run through his first correspondence, his private post, which either comes in the usual way, or by mounted couriers, always on duty, or by cyclists. The letters are often examined during the short turn enjoyed in the park, which the king always takes alone. Returning to the palace, he goes straight to his study, where he sketches out his replies. The king seldom dictates, and always answers his own private correspondence himself.

At 7:30 a break comes from Brussels with various commissions for the Princess Clementine, the suite, etc., and a second voluminous post, which the king also examines before breakfast. Orders for the day are then given, audiences arranged, and a punctually his majesty breakfasts. During the late queen's lifetime, and before she removed to Spa, the royal couple breakfasted together. Princess Clementine prefers hers in her room. No servants assist at breakfast, samovars being at hand for making tea and coffee; rolls and plenty of fruit are on the table, grapes and peaches being preferred. The king has a particularly hearty appetite, and finishes his repast by eating chocolate while looking through the Belgian papers. Meanwhile his instructions have been conveyed to the high officials of his household, and to his secretary, head of his private cabinet at the Brussels palace.

### INDEFATIGABLE PEDESTRIAN.

After breakfast the king always goes for another walk. He is indeed an indefatigable pedestrian, and when at Ostend his walk figure is frequently to be seen striding along the coast miles away from the royal chalet. He is the terror of his aide-de-camp, who are changed once a week, report says, because even in that short time their royal masters' walking powers have quite worn them out. The king apparently does not know what it is to feel tired, for he has a frame of steel and an indomitable spirit. While recently examining on foot the immense territory destined for the magnificent Liege exhibition of 1905, one of the organizers expressed a hope that his majesty was not tiring himself.

"Fatigue," replied the king, "is a word for which monarchs have no use." Once more returned to the palace the king takes what he calls a "boule d'eau," which means drinking the contents of a carafe of water. Yet another courier brings communications from the ministers of state, and after examining these the king generally makes a tour of his magnificent conservatories. These are the largest and finest ornamental glass houses in Europe, and are connected with the palace by a subterranean way. His majesty is extremely fond of flowers.

### WHAT A KING HAS FOR LUNCH.

Luncheon is served at midday, those at table consisting of the king, Princess Clementine, the ladies in waiting, and the aide-de-camp. This meal always comprises a dish of eggs served in various ways, roast beef or lamb chops (rarely mutton cutlets), and a vegetable served separately. The king prefers spinach, chical or asparagus, and owns to a special fondness for artichokes and young carrots. He rarely does not eat much what he eats, and is indeed a most excellent trencherman. A dish of cold meat always forms part of this menu, followed by a sweet dish and splendid fruit from the hothouses of Tervuren and Laeken, where peaches ripen all the year round. Never was more sober king than Leopold II, three glasses of wine—generally Bordeaux—being his extreme limit. Luncheon, served by three servants and a butler, is never allowed to exceed nineteen

minutes, so conversation is restricted. The question of how the afternoon shall be passed is discussed and the dishes for dinner chosen from a menu submitted by the chef.

After luncheon the king either goes to his Brussels palace to give audience, or he takes another long walk around Laeken, where he has enormously improved the property, or else toward Tervuren, where he loves to watch the fine roads he is making unroll themselves like white scrolls through the Forest de Solennes, which disavows the passage of Wellington's army. These links are serving to unite the new and fashionable suburb with the city, and will gradually lead the inhabitants to establish themselves in a fine and picturesque neighborhood.

### CONTINUALLY BUYING REAL ESTATE.

Whatever his faults, and in considering Leopold II. one must remember (to paraphrase Burns) "a king's a man for a that," that no country boasts a monarch so entirely and actively devoted to the development of his kingdom. He is especially interested in the improvement of the three leading cities of Brussels, Antwerp and Ostend, representing as they do wealth, commerce and fashion. Not a street is planned, scarce a house designed, that Leopold II. does not consider its suitability, and where private taste runs wild he quietly purchases the property and improves it according to his own ideas. The result of this incessant watchfulness on the king's part is making of the cities of Belgium, and especially Brussels, remarkable for their fine open spaces, picturesque points of view and quiet artistic buildings. It is to his insistence, too, that Brussels possess one of the most splendid of the "Mont des Arts," where the capital's art treasures will be suitably gathered together and better accommodations for exhibitions be provided.

Only recently his majesty discovered that the houses in a new street which eventually will replace the well-known "Montagne de la Cour," were so high as to obstruct a certain view from the higher part of the city. He bought the houses and the obstructive stories are being removed. He is incessantly buying property merely to improve it, and architecture, in which he is a past master, is with him a veritable passion.

### PLAIN FARE AND PLAIN TRUTHS.

Of late years his majesty has become devoted to the automobile. He loves to drive far and fast, and in some countries to alight at a cottage, or, while eating white wine, to offer to the peasants, who, all unconscious of the guest's rank, comment on national and local events in a manner often more honest than complimentary.

The afternoon walk or drive is usually over by 3 or 4 o'clock, when the king takes tea or a second "boule d'eau." Another post has by this time arrived and business frequently must again be attended to. The dinner hour is 6, unless there is a state banquet, the same apartment being used for breakfast. The king and princess dine alone, the menu almost invariably consisting of soup, a light entree, roast of meat, a vegetable course, game or sweets. Coffee is not served at the royal table. After dinner the princess returns to her apartments, where she lives very quietly, like some of the "gray ladies" in the woods. The king leaves the dinner table for his study, where he patiently wades through the London Times. At 10:15 o'clock, as a rule, Leopold II. puts his beard into a silk bag to preserve the long and fine hair from breaking, and goes to bed.

### UNFOUNDED SCANDALS.

This hard-working, regular, ascetic life has not much in common with that of the "gay gallant," whom the Yellow Press loves to depict, and it is a proof that "the fierce light which beats upon a throne" has been in this case allowed to fall through too highly colored glass. To depict a perfectly truthful effect. That the king is a great admirer of female beauty is certain, but his majesty is no longer a young man, and most of the stories told of his private life are nothing but malicious scandal. Nature brought before the attention of his majesty, he only laughed, saying: "Remembering my age, my people pay me—though perhaps unintentionally—a very pretty compliment."

Again, when a very important personage begged him to contradict this Merode rumor, on the grounds that if not refuted it would eventually be believed, the king smilingly responded in that deliberate manner which gives his every utterance weight. "They told the same story about you, but I did not believe it; but, I am really your friend."

### ROUGH ON MABILLE.

One day when the king was walking on the boulevards he caught sight of a Parisian paper with an illustration showing him affectionately embracing a ballet girl. The aid de camp endeavored to get his royal master safely past the objectionable picture, but the king's keen eye had detected it, and he stopped to examine it through his still foiled eyeglasses, a favorite habit when he wishes to appear extra critical. Now, the king has a double in M. Valere Mabille, of Marimont, whose resemblance is striking, a similarity somewhat heightened by an extreme loyalty, which leads M. Mabille to a corresponding loyalty in dress. When the king has thoroughly taken in all the humors of the picture, which was more than usually daring, he looked up quietly and said, with a wistful glint in his eye: "I cannot think why all the comic papers should be so down on Mabille."

### HE ADMIRES THE UNITED STATES.

That he should love his only son from a child after the measles was a terrible blow to his ambition, and it is said that this and the lack of sympathy between himself and the late queen, is the reason for much of his home unhappiness. He presents an iron front to the terrible blows that fate has dealt him in his home circle, and no one knows how much he has suffered beneath them. His nephew, Prince Albert, only surviving son of the king's brother, the rather deaf Count of Flandre, will be his heir if the count resigns his claims to the throne, which, it is said, the king wishes and the count desires, but which the count does not like to relinquish. The king has carefully supervised the education of Prince Albert, so that he shall be thoroughly able to take the reins of government when necessary. He is extremely attached to Princess Albert, daughter of Duke Charles Theodore of Bavaria, who has won his extra good graces by adding two little sons to the direct line.

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that their decreasing trade with foreign countries was concealed and compensated by an increase in their trade with the colonies. But even in the colonies there was a growth of foreign competition which in proportion greatly exceeded the growth of exportation from the inner country. We are not safe in our own empire, said he. The conclusions to which any impartial man would come are that we must maintain our imperial trade, and that unless we change our policy our foreign trade will disappear. We must be put in a position to meet great foreign nations on better terms. Returns, also issued by the board of trade, showed that employment was falling out on the coast and that the home trade must have decreased in a larger proportion than their foreign trade had increased. Wages in many trades were decreasing. The handicrafts on the coast and the home trade contemplated no immediate catastrophe, while there was still time to find a remedy.

Dark day for Scotland and Great Britain when work is not to be found for its young and stalwart men, artisans and others. Coarbridge, one of the leading centers in Scotland, where iron of all kinds is made, including railroad and other rails, must be humiliated to dust, so to speak, for it is reported that "the rails for the tramway (street car) line between Coarbridge and Andrie were made in and sent from Belgium." There are very many like men in Coarbridge and Andrie, and many of them condemn "the powers that be" in strong language, smelting with brimstone, "for bringing rails from abroad for the tramway line, when they can be made in Coarbridge." Foreign countries which supply this country with delf and the like are very much censured by some of the populace.

America and Americans receive a great deal of abuse for supplying the people with their breadstuffs, footwear, nearly all their machinery, comfort, business, etc. The concealed are the most pronounced "in their condemnations. They say they "can get along without the United States."

All our people at home who sent the Christmas edition of the "News" to friends in this land have done a good work. If any one of our friends in Zion could have seen the joyful faces of their friends here when they opened the big paper, and showed it to callers happening in, it would have made our friends in Zion feel good.

The writer was at a beautiful villa near Glasgow, last week, and the first thing shown by the young and highly polished and esteemed daughter of the house, was the Deseret News, a large sized photo and a large sized book of views, "In and Around Salt Lake City." The young lady said: "It is strange you should come today. We got this beautiful newspaper, photo of cousin and his family and nice book of views this morning." While the photo, Deseret News and views were being

## KING EDWARD IS SICK OF SANDRINGHAM.

His Famous Country House in Such a Confused State of Being Repaired That Its Owner Becomes Disgusted—American Women Flock to a London Bachelor's Radium Parties—New Duchess of Roxburgh Dispenses Charities—Lady Randolph Churchill's Political Activities.

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, Feb. 3.—King Edward is getting pretty sick of Sandringham as a residence. He likes the surroundings but the house is a continual source of annoyance to him. It was built originally on the "jerry" principle, and the builders are never out of it. The king who is a smart business man, has begun to think that if the place were not looked upon as a kind of national inheritance he would abandon it tomorrow. The builder's men are in there now, and his majesty has had to cover the expenses of the repairs by insurance. The present situation in regard to the estate appears to justify Mr. Labouchere's statement when he said that the rule was a piece of jobbery.

While King Edward has been obliged to practise retrenchment in many directions since he came to the throne, he does not share the parsimonious propensities of the late queen. The custom of the managers of theatrical performances "by command" is to send in an account and the sum demanded is expected to be paid without demur. The late queen submitted to the rule for many years, but since she gave the command to the theater she insisted that the terms should be agreed upon before the "command" performance was given. Moreover, she never troubled when a manager moved by generosity, and the sovereign neglected to send in an account. King Edward has now altered all this. He has returned to the original custom of the court, and he insists that all "command" performances must be paid for, either in cash or kind.

Artists and managers know, however, that King Edward is not a rich man, and while they respect the rule he insists upon they are much more modest in their terms than when the late queen treated command performances as absolute commercial transactions. What they lose in one way, of course, they gain by the frequent appearance of the court at the theater now. It would be considered most unbecoming for a manager or an artist to refuse to send in an account under the conditions laid down by King Edward. Kubok when he appeared before his majesty neglected to send in an account and King Edward, feeling that being a young foreigner he did not know the court rules, paid his services

by sending him a valuable diamond ring with an inscription.

In spite of statements to the contrary the Scotch people are taking very kindly to the new Duchess of Roxburgh. Reports had prepared them for the appearance among them of a woman made vulgar through wealth. The simple inhabitants in the neighborhood of Floors castle expected to find her driving up in a diamond mounted motor or some such fantastically constructed equipage, and were astonished to find that she was merely an ordinary woman with apparently simple habits. Like the majority of imported duchesses her first anxiety was for the poor. The new year in Scotland is a time for rejoicing and festivity, and the duchess took to the condition of things as if she were a Scotchwoman born. She, however, saw that beneath the rejoicing and feasting there was a good deal of misery, and she directed that all poor persons in the neighborhood of the castle should have all they wanted in reason to celebrate the season. It is expected that she will dispense charity in Scotland with a lavish hand. Those among whom she has moved in Scotland say that she is anxious to contradict by example, the impressions that are abroad about her that she married merely for a title.

The intense interest that Lady Randolph Churchill takes in politics is manifesting itself in her son's actions. Under her influence her husband rebels against his party, and her son is following an identical course. Society people, who are somewhat envious of the young man's political prominence even so far as to say that his mother prepares his speeches. She satisfies herself, however, by discussing with him the subject upon which he has to speak before he makes any important pronouncement. The position he has taken up over the fiscal policy of Mr. Chamberlain has caused much trouble in the Marlborough family. The duchess, with her immense influence in society, was supposed to have taken young Winston under her wing. As the world knows now, she exercised her influence in another direction by finding a job for her husband, and Winston Churchill and his mother are now proud to fight their political battles under the opposite banner, and the Duchess of Marlborough is grievously disappointed over the turn that things have taken.

At Mr. Gillett's radium parties, now

being held in London, some of the smartest American society women can be seen together. These novel and chic functions are extremely exclusive. Mr. Gillett limiting his parties to one hundred and fifty guests, and no pleading on the part of his dearest friend would urge him to overstep this number. Almost one-half of the guests are well known society women from the United States, and it is commented that it is the American women who are most keenly interested and who ask the most intelligent questions of the professor there to explain the powers and wonders of radium.

Mr. Gillett's parties are always interesting events in London, for they are held at the Bachelor's club, one of the most swaggy clubs in London and of which Mr. Gillett is chairman. One door of this club opens on to Piccadilly, but the ladies' entrance is a little way up Hamilton place. The clubrooms of the members are so sacred that they are never seen by the eyes of feminine visitors, and when ladies, by some very special invitation, are allowed to enter the clubhouse of these bachelors men, they not only enter by this special door, but ascend to rooms above, by a special lift, or the special staircase, and are entertained in special dining and drawing rooms quite distinct from those into which even men guests may penetrate.

Among the many interesting Americans invited to these radium parties are Mrs. Howard Cockerell, the sister of Lady Abinger, daughter of the celebrated Commander Magruder of the United States navy, and the niece of General J. B. Magruder, late commander of the Confederate forces in Texas; Mrs. Lorillard, and Miss Van Wart, who is so well known in American society. It is said of Miss Van Wart that she has refused half the British aristocracy. This society favorite has now taken a house in Curzon street, not far from the mansion newly erected for the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, and which is now fast becoming an American colony.

Although members of the exclusive Bachelor's club do not cease to be bachelors with a big B when they marry, they have to pay a penalty of one dozen bottles of champagne for their fellow members to drink their health with, each backslider feeling that he is in the eyes of the club considered a poor creature. The chairman, of course, is always a Bachelor in every sense, Mr. Gillett being perhaps one of the club's wealthiest members.

LADY MARY.

## SCENES AROUND PORT ARTHUR, SHOWING GUNNERS AT DRILL IN A FORT.



Russian Officers Watching a Parade of 40,000 Men

### ONE OF THE RICHEST MEN IN THE WORLD.

But there is reason to believe that much of the enormous wealth he is amassing is to be devoted to the good of his country. Already he has given enormous donations to his people, among them being part of the magnificent conservatories at Laeken, with their up-keep (coming to the nation at his death), the Chateau de Clermont and the beautiful Chateau des Ardennes.

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steamers from New York to Ostend, his greatest wish being to see Belgium a maritime power commercially, and has frequently said that it was always a pleasure to him to remember that it was America which first recognized the Congo Free State when Mr. Sandford was minister to Brussels.

"The date of April 22, 1884," says the king, "which marked the recognition of the Congo company by the United States, has always been a remembrance to me of great pleasure."

### TALKS LIKE AN AMERICAN.

The king can converse fluently in English, German, French and Flemish, and was hugely delighted when he heard an American say on leaving an audience, "Why, the king speaks like an American." He has indeed the greatest admiration for America, her institutions, her business capacity of her people, which exactly appeals to him. It is curious that he should be so attracted by a republican country, for though he has ever strictly adhered to the constitution, if ever a man was a born autocrat by character it is Leopold II.

Though exceedingly exacting in the work he demands, his instructions are so precise, so clear and so explanatory that it is a pleasure as well as a pride to work for him. He is just, generous when well served, and his personality to those who know him well inspires affection and devotion. He never forgets a face, a service or, indeed, an ill turn.

Despite unkind rumors, the king is extremely devoted to his sister, Princess Charlotte, widow of the ill-fated Emperor Maximilian of Mexico, and though her mental condition makes a visit far from always pleasant, his majesty never fails to call at the Castle of Bouchout twice or thrice a week. The sad stories of his daughters, Princess Louise of Coburg and of Princess Stephanie, are too well known to need mention here. There are troubles in most families, and it should be remembered that the public never knows the whole truth of such reports as have been circulated concerning them.

J. M. WHITEY.

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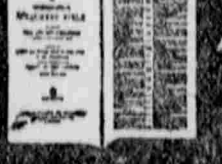
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