

Beauty Show for Mere Men.

Having successfully decided a beauty show for ladies, the management of the Victoria Pier, Folkestone, set themselves to organise a similar competition for men.

Great interest was shown in the event, which had additional interest imparted to it because of the offer of a mysterious widow to marry the gentleman who won—provided he was "unattached."

Among the competitors was Count Fantes of Marienbad, a young Austrian, with fair curly hair and moustache. "I have won athletic prizes," he told a newspaper representative, in broken English, "but this is the first time I have entered a beauty competition. If I win I shall, of course, be very happy, but I do not know what my brother will say when the English papers reach Marienbad. I am a great admirer of your English ladies, and I shall try to be amiable over their decision, whether it be in my favour or not."

Another competitor was Major Lynn, from Shorncliffe, who was escorted to the pier by a laughing crowd of brother officers.

The reporter also had an interview with the mysterious widow. She is tall and handsome, and presented a striking appearance in black evening dress and a large black hat with white wings.

"Why am I doing it?" she asked. "Well, about a week ago I happened jokingly to say to Mr Forsyth that if he could pick me up a nice-looking man with plenty of money at the beauty show I should be



THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

lionaires, and we hope that for the poor it will be a rather better country to live in." (Applause.)

In the meantime, it is highly problematical whether the Lords will throw out the Budget.

A Princess's Robes.

A smuggling adventure affecting a lady in the highest rank of Russian society, occupies much attention in the Russian Press. Recently a young Count in the Diplomatic Service was sent to Paris on an official errand. On his return a large trunk among his luggage aroused the suspicions of the frontier Customs inspector at Wirballen. It was sealed with the stamp of the Russian Embassy in Paris, and the young nobleman declared that it contained official documents for the Foreign Office. However, as its weight was only one-fourth of what it should be had it contained papers, the inspector detained it, pending instructions from the Government. The Count went on to St. Petersburg and returned the following day with a written order from the First Division of the Foreign Office to give up the trunk unopened.

Unfortunately, by the same train a manservant arrived from the household of a well-known Princess, whose husband was absent in attendance on the Tsar, who told several of the Customs officials that his mistress would show her gratitude if the trunk were given up. The chief inspector thereupon ordered it to be opened in the Count's presence. It was found to contain six beautiful dresses and four of the most fashionable Parisian hats. The obliging, but unfortunate, young diplomatist has now to face a fine of £200 for smuggling and false certification and attend an inquiry by the Treasury as to the use made of the Russian Embassy seals in Paris. The First Division of the Foreign Office here is also implicated for having sought to force the Customs Department to deliver up the trunkful of contraband.



A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT.

Lord Lansdowne, Foreign Minister in the last Conservative Government, whose opposition to the Budget is well-known.

glad. Somewhat to my consternation, he took up the matter seriously, and so here I am.

"I am anxious for my family's sake that my name should not be revealed for the present, but you may say that I was born in India, where I have spent most of my life, and my husband was in the Civil Service out there. My only income is a pension of £75. I am musical, and speak French, German, and Hindustani."

The pavilion on the pier was crowded, mostly with ladies, on whose decision



THE LATE BARON GWYDYR.

Until this year, the oldest member of the House of Lords, being born in 1810, and a member of an ancient family, which was raised to the peerage, however, so late as 1798.

the destination of the prizes rested. When the curtain went up it disclosed the competitors ranged in a semi-circle. When the cheers and laughter had died down the manager led on to the stage the "Merry Widow," as she chooses to be called, and briefly explained the nature of her offer. Then the judging commenced.

Each man in turn had to put his face through black velvet curtains in a gilt frame, and smile his sweetest. The curtains were there to give all a chance, for it was found on former occasions that a scarlet uniform won all the votes, quite apart from the face that surmounted it.

When the voting papers had been collected from every woman in the audience, they were scrutinised by a committee of six local ladies, and the result was declared as follows:—

1. Mr Bert Harris, Hampstead.
2. Count Fantes, Austria.
3. Mr George Lilley, Folkestone.

Mr Harris is already engaged, and therefore regrets that he cannot accept the offer of the mysterious "Merry Widow."

"YES, I DO MY OWN HOUSEWORK"

And the BISSELL Sweeper has relieved me of one of my hardest tasks. Sweeping with a corn broom is the supreme drudgery of the home, while with a

Bissell

"CYCO" BALL BEARING sweeper it is simply a pleasure. Sold by all the best trade.

Prices: "CYCO" Bearing 14/- to 25/-
"CYCO" BALL BEARING 15/- to 29/-

Bissell Carpet Sweeper Co., 25 Warren St., New York, U.S.A.

(Largest and Only Exclusive Carpet Sweeper Makers in the World.)



Inspection invited at our New Show Rooms, Customs Street West, next to Auckland Electric Tramways Company's Office. **BAKER & CO., LTD.**

A Little Customer of RENDELLS

Baby Outfit Parcels

No. 1 BABY OUTFIT.—

- 6 Shirts, or 3 Silk and Wool Vests
- 8 Night Gown
- 3 Day Gowns
- 3 Long Flannels
- 2 Flannel Binders
- 2 Swathes
- 1 dozen Turkish Towelling Squares
- Puff, Box, and Powder
- 1 Nice Robe or Shawl

£2 the lot, carriage paid. Money refunded if value is considered unsatisfactory.

We have been sending these Baby Linen Parcels all over N.Z. for the last ten years.

No. 2 BABY OUTFIT.—

- 6 Shirts, or 3 Silk and Wool Vests
- 8 Night Gowns, 3 Prettily trimmed Day Gowns
- 1 Monthly Gown
- 2 Flannel Binders, 2 Swathes
- 1 Silk or Woollen Jacket
- 8 Long Flannels, scalloped
- 1 dozen Turkish Nursery Squares
- 1 Waterproof Cot Square
- 1 Long Skirt
- Puff, Box, and Powder
- 1 Handsome Robe or Shawl

£3 the lot, carriage paid.

Short Clothes

- Cashmere Dresses, in Cream, Sky, Pink, and Red, 3/3 to 6/6, all are extra wide in the skirts
 - Lovely Little Jap. Silk Dresses, own make, hand featherstitched skirts and yokes, 6/6
 - Plainer Styles, lace trimmed 5/11
 - Dainty Afternoon Dresses in White Muslin, trimmed lace and embroidery, 2/11 to 15/6
 - Cream Cashmere Poleses, 8/11 to 42/- Some very choice ones from 12/6 to 13/6
 - Infants' Silk Bonnets, lovely designs, from 2/11 to 6/11
 - Infants' Pinafores, our own make, with wide frill, lace edged, 1/6
 - Special range at 2/11, tucked embroidered and lace insertion, no two alike.
- No extra charge for postage.

Rendells Ltd,

General Drapers, AUCKLAND

Queen Street and Karangahape Road