

His married life lasted but two years and he and the world are indebted to a single sister, who so devotedly looked after him that he was relieved of all domestic anxieties and care. It is stated that Sir John was of such a sensitive nature with respect to his work that he could never open "Punch," which was sent to him with his printed cartoon, this having to be done by his sister and passed on to him. As a man his character has been described as a combination of strength and reticence, and Mr. Balfour described him at the dinner given to him on the occasion of his knighthood by Mr. Gladstone in 1893 as "not only a great artist but a great gentleman." The world is poorer by his death.

Correspondence

The Family Protection Act, 1908

To the Editor.

Sir,—I think this one of the best Acts passed by the Liberal Government, though I believe the credit of the Act belongs to a Dunedin gentleman.

I think more use should be made of this Act; it injures no one, and if affliction or adverse circumstances come to the head of the house their home is secure.

I write to point out a few words that are wrong. You say "the settler cannot in any way alienate the land except by will." If this were so it would be hardship where one wished to remove to another district. By consent of Court the home can be sold and proceeds reinvested.—I am, etc.,

JOHN HAY.

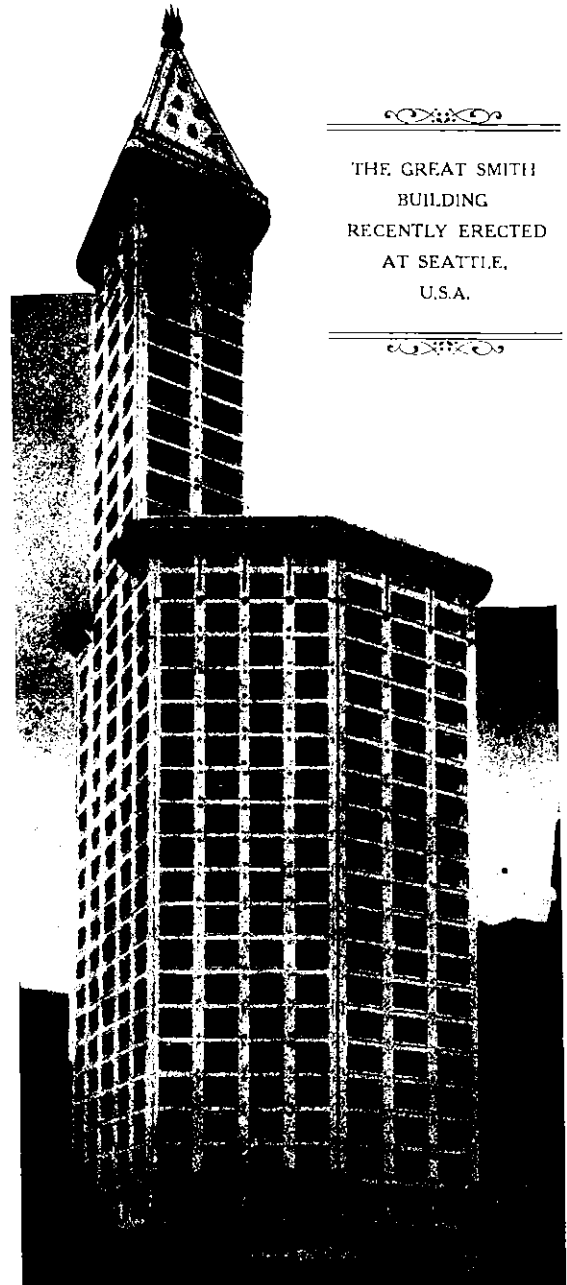
Blenheim.

[Our correspondent is doubtless right in his contention, though section 17 subsection (c) of the Act bears out our statement. We missed section 31 of the Act referred to, which incorporates mutatis mutandis the provisions of "The Settled Land Act, 1908," to which no doubt our correspondent refers. Whether section 13 subsection (1) of the latter Act would, however, apply to such a case as he mentions we are not prepared to say. This article was cut down to comply with the printer's demand as to space, but we intend in future issues to devote some portion of our paper to the discussion of this and similar legislation materially affecting the well-being of the people.—Ed.]

A Sky-Scraper

The illustration shown on this page of the L. C. Smith building is remarkable in more ways than one. It has the reputation of being the tallest building west of the Mississippi, and has just been completed at Seattle, Washington. Its tower, which rises to a height of 450ft. above street level, is so conspicuous that it is already being used as a beacon by mariners in making their way to Puget Sound, and it is planned to have it illuminated at all hours of the night to make it available for this use night and day. The building covers a lot that is 108ft. by 120ft. The main structure is 21 stories high, and to this the tower adds 12 stories. In addition to this there are two stories below street level. The

height to the lantern at the top of the tower is equivalent to 42 stories. The foundation rests on 1276 concrete piles driven to a depth of 50ft. below



THE GREAT SMITH
BUILDING
RECENTLY ERECTED
AT SEATTLE,
U.S.A.

the surface. In building the foundation 4000 barrels of cement and more than 1000 tons of steel were used. On the foundation piles a total weight of 76,560 gross tons will be carried, the steel for the superstructure alone weighing 4732 gross tons.

The first two stories of the building are faced with white Washington granite, while white terracotta is used for all the stories above these. This makes the building conspicuous not alone for its size but for its colour as well. During the construction not one man was killed or seriously injured. The total cost of the building was about £300,000.