

NUDIST CONFERENCE:

When you owe the Chancellor of the Exchequer several millions pounds in death duties, you have to do something about it - Chancellors are funny that way. You can throw your Stately Home open to the public at so much a head - but even that won't bring in enough to solve the problem of that enterprising young peer the Duke of Bedford. He's thought up many additional ideas to placate the stony-hearted Chancellor, and they haven't been doing too badly; but the latest is a real eyebrow-raiser. Unfortunately it isn't very easy to get a look at.

There's nothing rouses the curiosity of a Pathe cameraman so quickly as a gate where you need a pass to go in; so by following his nose and talking fast our man gets his camera inside. And very soon finds he's improperly dressed for the occasion. But not to worry - everyone's equipped with this suit of clothes from birth. Yes, it's the Sixth World Nudist Congress, for which as local nature-lovers are quick to find out - the Duke of Bedford has set aside fifty of his 3,000 Woburn Abbey acres. Even if it is the sort of weather where a natural fur coat is a great help, the sun-worshippers aren't deterred. When there's no sun to worship, their conscience permits a compromise with a sun-lamp. "Back to nature" is an elastic philosophy.

Hundreds of the hardiest are out of doors 24 hours a day - though there are hotel beds for the not-so-tough. Oh well, there may be people who object to this latest idea of the Duke's for earning money - but they do not presumably include the Chancellor of the Exchequer.