

GENERAL NEWS.

(From our London correspondent.)

The selection of Prince Alexander of Teck to present the Insignia of the Grand Cross of the order of Bath to Prince Henry of the Netherlands conferred on him by King Edward, was a happy one as Princess Alexander of Teck (née Princess Alice of Albany) is a first cousin of the Queen of Holland.

Nearly all the "Duke of Lancaster's" luggage was sent off to Biarritz on Saturday, as the King was expected to remain Monday night only in Paris. The King's incognito is used chiefly for receiving communications and entries in hotel books, but his luggage travels under the name of King Edward on account of the customs houses.

A matinée will be given by the management of the Palace Theatre, in aid of the widows and orphans of the crew of the "Berlin", on Thursday next, which will be patronised by the Prince and Princess of Wales. On this occasion Captain Sperling, the leader of those who saved the last three survivors from the wreck, will appear on the stage, together with Capt. C. Berekhout, who commanded the pilot boat, and Capt. Jansen who was in command of the Hook life boat in its many daring trips to reach the wreck.

In consequence of the Sunday observance law which came into force in Canada on March 1, the Sunday papers in Montreal and Toronto have been stopped and are no longer to be published.

Baron Louis Ambrózy, First Secretary of the Austro-Hungarian Embassy at Washington, left London on Saturday for Liverpool, where he embarked on the Cunard liner "Carmania" for New York.

Another passenger by the "Carmania" was Sir Edward Elgar, who has been staying some time in Italy and has almost recovered from the trouble from which he suffered.

Lord Justice Collins, the new Judge of Appeal, has always been considered one of the cleverest and ablest lawyers in the United Kingdom and possesses a great reputation. He has been President of the Beck Commission, was one of the British members of the Venezuela Arbitration Tribunal in 1897, has been very outspoken when reversing decisions, and recently delivered the West Riding judgment which was subsequently reversed by the House of Lords.

Improvements are being introduced this week into the service of the Brompton and Piccadilly Tube Railway. The Company has appointed a number of lift timekeepers who will travel from one station to another in order to find out whether the lifts are running according to scheduled time. They will also introduce the new system in the service of the Baker-Loo Railway and of the Charing Cross and Hampstead Tube which is to be opened in the summer.

Mr. Wilhelm, in designing the costumes for the forthcoming production of "Tom Jones", has fixed the date by references in the story to the year 1745. It was between 1730 and 1745 that the best-known work of Hogarth was executed, and he has followed the styles in these pictures for the dresses of the day.

Owing to the irregularities in the delivery of the San Francisco mail service, the New Zealand Government has stopped all mails to and from Great Britain by that route for the time being. Meanwhile the Suez route will be used.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's new steamer the "Avon" was successfully launched at Belfast from Messrs. Harland and Wolff's Yard, Lady Pirrie performing the christening ceremony. The "Avon" is expected to take up her position in the South American mail service on June 14.

Mr. Victor Corkran, who is at Madrid in attendance on Princess Henry of Battenberg, has been laid up with an attack of influenza.

In consequence of the illness of Lady Warwick who is down with influenza, the Earl of Warwick and Lady Helmsley left Monte Carlo hurriedly last Friday night to join her.

Mr. MacCormick, the American Ambassador in Paris, was received by the President of the Republic in a farewell audience, when the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour was conferred on him.

It is now definitely settled that the new Palace of Peace at the Hague will be built by M. Cordonnier from a fresh and modified design.

Miss Adelaide Gallimore, the young governess who disappeared from her home in Haydon Park-road, Shepherd's Bush, has been found in the workhouse at Eton. She left home for her work as usual last Thursday and then her memory failed her and only returned when she heard her name mentioned in the workhouse at Eton, but she cannot say how she ever got to that town.

Good practice has been done by the crews for the University Boat Race since their arrival in Putney. The Cantabs, who appear to have a decided advantage, are generally preferred by riverside critics, but Oxford have done an unexpectedly useful full course trial.

The International Pharmacy Reichs-Apotheke

Bismarck Platz 10, next the Main Railway Station.
Telephone 151.

Physician's Prescriptions accurately dispensed by qualified chemists only.
All foreign and native Patent-Medicines, Mineral- and aerated waters.
Soaps, Toilet-articles &c. Special-laboratory for urine analysis.
Free delivery to all parts of the town.

The Spanish royal yacht "Giralda" will go to Carthagena, where an interview has been arranged to take place between the Kings of England and Spain.

It is believed that the expense necessary for the cutting of the proposed Channel Tunnel will not exceed £16,000,000.

German

French

Italian

Spanish

Swedish

taught by first-class native teachers.

Berlitz School

Prager Strasse 44, I.

Telephone 1055.

SKI.

Mr. Perceval Gibbon sends to a contemporary an interesting description of the great ski-ing contests at Trondhjem at the end of last month. From the crown of the Fjeldsaeter, he says, the Pasture Hill, one looks down over the city of Trondhjem to the bleak narrows of the great fjord, and far to westward, at the rim of a white world, the hills of Sweden thrust up their peaks. Everywhere there is snow, characterising the face of the country like a mood. In the town the streets are channels between high banks of it, and the little electric trams skate here and there between drifts. But outside, where the cheerful streets droop to roads over slopes of pine, and weave deviously about the knees of mountains, it lies seven and ten feet deep, masking abrupt contours, blunting the shapes of the trees, and lending to everything the serene, profound suavity of winter at the fringe of the Arctic.

G. WIRSING, American Dentist. Graduate of the Milwaukee Medical College (Dental Department).
Sidenien Strasse 10 b, corner Prager Strasse. Tel.: 9907.

Yet with it all goes no such gloom of life circumscribed and activity diminished as winter brings to Russia. The snow is dazzling under a free sun; a bland air is abroad, and the slopes of the Fjeldsaeter are alive from dawn with the men, women, and children of Trondhjem. The great winter sports of the town are to culminate in that most spectacular of all diversions, ski-jumping; and upwards of 10,000 people have turned out to see the fun. "As I drove up to the place appointed, the sides of the road were thick with them, shuffling cleverly over the deep snow, all on ski. They made a spirited picture when one turned in one's sleigh at the crest of some rise and looked back where they followed. The Norse people never fail to turn the snow to account, and their women have seen its value as a background. Their coloured frocks—scarlet, blue, and green—stood vividly out as they walked, or passed in a magnificent mile-a-minute glissade down some slope. The very babies, things of four and five years, followed their mothers on ski of their own, and very deftly they travelled. Here and there soldiers, posted for the coming of the King, looked down to the road, each with his kit on his back, his rifle slung, his ski on his feet—a mobile unit complete in himself. Everywhere was the vivacity of movement, of frosty briskness and fine spirits, and all about were the splendid men—lean, tall, acute—and the fine, flaxen women of that stock which still toughens the English race.

It was cold enough by the thermometer; but cold is relative to many things. One hardly needed furs under that sun, with so sweet an air in one's nostrils, and the general contagion of movement in one's every limb. The Trondhjem people do not trouble about them, for one soon gets warm on ski. One knows the foreigner here by his fur coat.

The ski-jumping filled up an exhilarating morning. It is a thing to see, an extraordinary sport which, by the looks of it, is as much more dangerous than steeplechasing as steeplechasing is than whist. A long gradient of about forty-five degrees, steep and smooth and snow-padded, had been prepared, and in the middle it was broken to a sort of cliff, some twenty feet high. The competitors were assembled up above, and at the sides and down below were massed the spectators.

The King had come, greeted by the short, yelping Norwegian cheer, and had taken his place. A bugler signalled to the starting-point that all was ready, and down came the first man. He stood, leaning forward a little, on the long, narrow racing ski, and slid down with growing speed, till he swished over the snow like a wind-driven dust-devil. The ledge flashed under him, and his momentum carried him in a great curved leap into space. One instant he was black in the eye of the sun, swinging his arms and balancing in the air. Then he swooped to the ground, thirty yards down the slope, his ski landing with a clean smack, and next moment he was bringing himself to in the field below. It was a breathless thing, that tense spring to a deep fall, and one cannot exaggerate the courage of it and the dexterous precision with which it was done.

At intervals of about thirty seconds the jumpers followed one another. The first had landed on his feet; his successor arrived on his head. He dived face first to the ground at a speed that should have killed him a dozen times over, his long ski dragging through the snow-dust that clouded him as he somersaulted down the slope. Everybody laughed; and the jumper stood up, wiped his eyes clear, and went to get ready for his next attempt. He had taken a toss of an almost epoch-making kind, thirty yards long and thirty feet down, and in half an hour he was starting down hill to take another. Of course, the snow saved him and the many others who landed awry, and there were no accidents worse than a graze and a black eye or so. But there were four doctors in attendance.

The record for this feat of ski-jumping in Norway is 44 metres—well over 135 feet—but on this occasion the snow was not at its best, and the winner managed only a trifle of 33½ metres without losing his feet. But in the early morning, before the sports began, there went out a limping veteran, too old for such activities, who obliged the committee by testing the run. This poor old man found the track fairly good. He jumped exactly 40 metres, and spent most of the forenoon thereafter in telling the Pressmen what he had been able to do before he was palsied with age."

A DREAM.

There is in London at this moment a man who can tell of an experience almost as thrilling as those recounted by the survivors from the wreck of the "Berlin". While on his way as a missionary to Egypt he dreamed that he saw his ship wrecked, that all the crew, as well as himself (the only passenger) were saved, but that he was hurt. Next day he saw the crew practising with the boats, and noticed that the port boat did not act kindly. He thought of his dream, but said nothing. That night they came in sight of Alexandria too late for a pilot to come off to them; so, the weather being bad, they put out to sea to await the morning. The missionary went to his berth and slept, to be awakened by a great crash which threw him to the floor. He knew intuitively that the first part of his dream had come true—that the vessel had struck a rock.

Running up on to the deck, he found that the vessel was aground in a perilous position, careening heavily to starboard. The crew, mainly foreigners, were showing a tendency to stampede, but the passenger helped the captain—a fine fellow, the latter—to calm their fears. "Get a life-belt for yourself," said the captain. The missionary made his way over the tilting deck, caught his foot against something, and fell headlong. The hidden obstacle was a life-belt. The crew were concentrating their efforts on getting out the starboard boat, and with the waves dashing wildly over the vessel there was every chance of their being swept, with the boat, into the water. He persuaded four of them to go with him to the boat which during practice had stuck. All went well now, and the five of them got in and were about to lower away when he said, "Stop! We must wait for the captain." One of the sailors immediately cut a rope at his end, and the boat swung down, pitching them all into the water. Some one on deck, noticing the condition of the boat, cut the other line, and the craft fell into the water, on to the passenger, nearly killing him. After many adventures the captain and all the crew got safely to land. The passenger was the one man hurt. His dream had been verified in every particular.

MYSTERY BY RAIL.

A case in which an alleged swindler, said to be masquerading as a priest, was the central figure, is making a great sensation in Rome. The man's name is given as Ruberty, and he uses the prefix Monsignor. He is said to have practised impositions of the most daring kind, even to getting an audience of the Pope to present a gift from Lourdes. Obtaining money and goods under false pretences on a large scale are alleged against him. A further statement is made in the Italian papers that the police are making inquiries with a view to ascertaining whether he may be implicated in the outrage upon Miss Lowe in the Rome-Paris express in January last.



LOND

(F

The c

in a mu

at Hick

who has

H. E. H

and wor

goers. I

is exce

Nothing

enthusia

Marie S

pleased

fair to

come.

is made

After

proveme

present

which

Studhol

this is o

Altogeth

songs, w

She has

McArdle

his pecu

Henry F

Bergères

vocalist

Mr. C. F

speak w

The n

Theatre

smith ju

The sub

be laid i

will be c

Althou

no mean

fience o

curtailed

appears

Mr. Ch

ing "The

Theatre,

there to

great Na

Miss U

"Edmund

Hicks, w

Hearts"

vinces.

talent an

cisco.

"Miss

Theatre

cesses in

Rubens

Cannes.

A new

secured

run of "

Theatre.

Mr. H

Arthur R

Arthur

grotesque

are alrea

that of I

The ad

pany in

especially

"Hoffman

so deligh

and the

house for

On the

the place

Majesty's

until Mr.

played by

Constance