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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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KING OF DENMARK TO VISIT ENGLAND.

The King of Denmark who was recently appointed honorary Colonel of the East Kent Regiment, is expected in May to visit Dover, where he will return the visit of the deputation of officers of the Regiment. His Majesty will inspect the first and third battalions of the Regiment, the first volunteer battalion and the officers' school.

THE LORD MAYOR AND BERLIN.

The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs of London will visit Berlin in May or June at the invitation of the Oberbürgermeister. The invitation has been sent as a return for the hospitality extended to the German Mayors in London last year.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE U. S. AND CUBA.

Mr. Andrew D. White, America's most experienced diplomatist, and a statesman universally respected, has just returned to Washington from a visit to Cuba, and has lent the weight of his name against the annexation movement. He is perfectly satisfied that if Cuba were a State within the Union, it would be dominated body and soul by corrupt political bosses and other professional politicians, and that scandals would ensue which would disgust the whole country, and put back the clock of progress in the island for a generation at least.

Public opinion in all reputable quarters is in accord with Mr. White, and so, there is the best reason to believe, is Mr. Taft, Secretary for War, who is at present in Cuba on a special mission, undertaken at the request of President Roosevelt. Mr. Taft has received numerous deputations, and has heard all sides. He has, it is believed, satisfied himself, and will so report to Washington, that the annexation movement is an artificial one, organised and maintained for the most part by interested Americans and a few Cuban property owners, and that all the real leaders of the Cuban people are resolutely resolved to maintain their independence, and prepared to lay down their lives in its defence.

But, on the other hand, there is good reason to believe that even these patriots would offer no serious opposition to an American Protectorate, either real or nominal, provided always that the legislative independence of the island and its Government by the people for the people were guaranteed and secured. It is probable that Mr. Taft has given the Liberal leaders ample assurances in regard to the good faith and intentions of the Washington Government, and that they have admitted that it would not be advisable for the whole of the United States forces to withdraw for a considerable time to come.

ALLEGED PLOT AGAINST THE PRESIDENT.

An Italian tramp has informed the secret police in Newark, New Jersey, that an anarchist band at Hazleton, Pennsylvania, have banded together to murder President Roosevelt. Little credence is given this story.

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

A temporary armistice has been concluded between Nicaragua and San Salvador. News has reached Washington, that orders have been given to withdraw all Nicaraguan troops from Honduras.

AN ERUPTION IN CHILL.

The New York *Sun* announces from Lima that the Puyehue volcano in Chili is in a state of violent eruption. New craters have formed and enormous damage has been done to the countryside in the vicinity. Showers of hot ashes are falling continually, and constant shocks are felt, caused apparently by explosions beneath the upper crust of the craters. Many streams containing drinking water have dried up.

The town of Bariloche in the Rio Negro province is covered by such dense clouds of smoke that total darkness prevails in the streets. Roads and houses are covered with sand, ashes and other volcanic ejections.

FIRE AND EARTHQUAKES IN THE PHILIPPINES.

A fire, which was still raging on Friday evening has destroyed the town of Ilo-Ilo; 20,000 people are homeless.

From various parts of the Philippines violent earthquake shocks are reported; many buildings have been destroyed.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

THE MONTAGNINI PAPERS.

In the matter of the Montagnini papers the sub-committee has commenced its labours. A member of the committee has stated that examination of certain of the documents shows that the Nuntiatore carried on a regular system of espionage especially with reference to certain officers.

NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

SEDITION IN THE ARMY.

The newspapers announce that the recent domiciliary visits made in St. Petersburg have led to the discovery that a widely extended organisation for agitation exists among the soldiers in the capital. This organisation is entitled the "Military League" and possesses several printing presses, by means of which leaflets &c. were printed. As a result of the domiciliary visits 30 persons, among them several women, were arrested. At the present moment search is being made in the provinces and chief towns of Russia for branch establishments of this "Military League."

THE DUMA.

Various interpellations were discussed at Friday's sitting, among them one concerning maltreatment of prisoners in the Akatui gaol. In the debate on this interpellation, the Socialist Deputies declared that they would vote for it, to show that the Duma was with the people against the Government. The speakers of the Right, especially Count Bobrinski, declared that they too would vote for it, but on account of the illegality of the acts committed by the prison officials, not on the revolutionary grounds put forward by the Socialists. Count Bobrinski protested against the glorification of political murderers and reminded the House that in the French Chamber Minister Pichon had not allowed the assassination of the Grand Duke Sergius to be spoken of as an execution, but described the deed as a detestable murder. The interpellation was passed unanimously.

The debate on a proposal that the Duma should express its reprobation of political crimes was adjourned to the next sitting.

Various incidents occurred during the subsequent debate on the invalidity of the elections in the Government of Tambov.

M. Roditsheff violently attacked the Government, accusing them of falsifying the returns. After an animated debate, the Duma decided to declare the elections valid. The majority of the Deputies concerned belong to the Left.

President Golovin then read a protest from the budget committee against the action of the Ministerial Council which refused to lay before the committee various documents. In their protest the committee referred to the utterances of the Prime Minister with reference to the wish of the Government to cooperate with the elected of the nation. The sitting then closed.

THE SITUATION IN MOROCCO.

With reference to the report that an agreement had been come to between the Maghzen and a German firm for the construction of a collecting channel for the drains in Tangier, it appears that Mohammed el Torres was acting in persuasion of a letter from the Sanitary Council in which he was requested to come to an understanding in the

matter with the German House that has the concessions for Tangier harbour. The matter belongs to the competence of the Sanitary Council which consists of the heads of the diplomatic missions. There is no reason to doubt that the matter will be settled in the same harmonious spirit that others have been.

Raisuli has left Ekmes and has gone eastward with many adherents. The natives are confident that he intends to join the Pretender in order to attack the Mahalla which is encamped near the Muluja river. Others indeed believe he will attack Udjda.

Delbrel and the son of the Governor of Alhucimas, who were captured by the Pretender's people, have been set at liberty.

PAST BUDGETS IN ENGLAND.

The gods have been good to Mr. Asquith. His first two Budgets have seen him in possession of handsome surpluses. With the first he could do little but give effect to the plans which Mr. Austen Chamberlain had devised, and so found himself in a position similar to that of Disraeli, who once had to accept a Liberal Budget because he had not time to prepare one of his own. The Budget over which the Gladstone Government fell in 1885 was decided upon only on the day of its presentation to the House, a fact which shows that the Chancellor does not always have time for framing elaborate speeches. Lord Rosebery wrote the epitaph of that Government:—

"Here lies a Cabinet; I'll tell thee why,
It spelt its funeral bier without an 'I'."

The pun was justified by the fact that the Government, having survived its South African, its Egyptian, and Irish policies, came down over a question concerning "the trade."

The late Lord Ritchie, when Chancellor of the Exchequer, had the happy experience of facing his fellows with a surplus of ten millions, twice as much as that with which Gladstone began his career at the Exchequer. It was the deficit of 1841 which established Peel's reputation as a humorist. "Great as is my commiseration, I cannot help you," he said. "I view with unaffected sympathy the position of the right hon. gentleman, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It has been remarked that a good man struggling with adversity is a sight worthy the gods. And certainly the right honourable gentleman, both with respect to the goodness of the man and the extent of his adversity, presents at the present moment that spectacle. Can there be a more lamentable picture than that of a Chancellor of the Exchequer seated on an empty chest, by the pool of bottomless deficiency, fishing for a Budget? I won't bite: the right hon. gentleman shall return home with his pannier as empty as his chest." Sir William Harcourt was in as parlous a case when he first took the Budget in hand, but there was no Peel in the House to make classic fun of his misfortune.

If, as was said, it would have been a treat to hear the late Lord Coleridge read even a page of Bradshaw, so it was a delight to hear Gladstone deliver his Budget speech. Beauty of voice not less than the charm and interest with which he invested his story appealed to the House. Lord Goschen, with his husky voice, could claim no such advantage, and, great as were his financial achievements, he was far less attractive in his Budget speech than some of his predecessors. Peel's voice helped him, but not to the extent to which that of his son helped. Disraeli said that with his voice the Premier's son ought to be able to do anything; Gladstone said it was one of the two perfect things he had known. Failing quality of voice, members welcome a joke to enliven a Budget speech. Not all which are made come to the ear of the House. When Gladstone introduced his Budget repealing the paper duties, there was a counter-proposal to repeal the tea duties. Lord Derby wrote to Palmerston, "Is it to be tea and turn out?" "No; paper and stationary," was the ready answer which the other scribbled back.

STRANGE MALADY AMONG BEES.

A singular disease has been spreading among bees in the Isle of Wight, and it is feared that they will soon be extinct. The disease assumes the form of a kind of paralysis, and up to the present all efforts to combat the malady have been useless. Specimens of diseased bees have been despatched to the Board of Agriculture. A well-known breeder believes the bees would be extinct in the island within another year unless a remedy was quickly found.



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MR. ASQUITH'S BUDGET.

When in the troublous times of the Napoleonic war Mr. Pitt decided that it was necessary to have recourse to a new source of revenue and imposed the income tax, he never intended it as anything but a temporary expedient for raising money, and indeed after Napoleon's final downfall, and the consequent end of the war, the tax was allowed to lapse. But it was more than probable even then that so convenient a method of raising money, and one too which more or less agrees with the well-known canons of taxation, viz. equality, certainty, convenience and economy of collection would be revived by some Chancellor of the Exchequer in need of money. It was Sir Robert Peel who reimposed the income tax in 1842, and though Mr. Gladstone found it theoretically indefensible in times of peace, he never had the courage or found himself able to dispense with it, and while it is still renewed annually there seems little likelihood of its being altogether abolished, so integral a part of the fiscal system has it become. The tax is levied on incomes derived from five separate sources, viz. from landed property, from profits arising from the occupation of land, from interest on money in public funds, from profits arising from trade or professional employment, and those derived from State or municipal employment. There have always existed abatements of various amounts on incomes between £150 and £700, while no tax is levied on incomes falling below the former sum. It is contended by the opponents of the income tax that the wage-earning class, the large majority of whom are exempt, do not contribute, at least by direct taxation, to the expenses of the State; but to Mr. Asquith and his supporters this is, in the nature of things, a minor consideration. The working classes have the votes; and it must be admitted that in various continental nations a tax on wages has been found to be an intolerable hardship, and has perforce been remitted. Mr. Asquith's proposal in his budget as foreshadowed by him on Thursday evening will afford considerable relief to the well-to-do middle classes who have naturally grumbled not a little at having to pay in times of peace an income tax of 1% in the pound, and though perhaps they had hoped for a still greater reduction than 3d, they will probably be inclined to be grateful enough for small mercies. Successive Governments have promised at successive general elections to deal with the question of old age pensions, and it has often been made a reproach against Mr. Chamberlain that he, who was practically the first leading Statesman in England to champion the idea, dropped it or at least made no attempt to deal with it when in office. Mr. Asquith is bolder, and though he finds himself unable at present to do more than promise, such a promise when made in office, and that too, when there is every probability that the maker of the promise will still be at the Treasury next year, has much more likelihood of fulfilment than when made during the vote-catching expansiveness of mind prevailing at a General Election. One thing Mr. Asquith did not allude to at any length, and that was his extraordinary good fortune in the past 12 months in the matter of death duties. Never in a like period have so many vast fortunes changed hands, a very considerable sum thereby accruing to the State. In estimating that he will next year again have a surplus of three millions, is Mr. Asquith relying on the death of a few more millionaires? If he is, he seems to be counting his chickens some time before they are hatched, and the rude health of the millionaire class may easily postpone the fruition of his old age pensions scheme to the Greek Kalends.

An English Lady wishes to exchange English conversation for German. Address: **Hettner Strasse 1, II.**

COWPER'S CENTENARY.

On the 25th of this month the little town of Olney will carry its head high for the celebration of the centenary of two of its great names—Cowper, and Newton, the hymn writer. The story of Cowper's association with Olney needs no telling, but Newton's name is less familiar, though some of his hymns are known throughout the world. After a midshipman's experience on a warship, he took service in a slaving ship, and finally settled down to Holy Orders, dying in 1807 as vicar of St. Mary Woolnoth's. Eighty-six years later his remains were transferred to his native town of Olney. The erroneous notion that Newton's influence over Cowper was deleterious has long ago been exploded. The friendship of Cowper and Newton is one of the four or five most beautiful friendships in the history of the world. It remained sweet to the end—the very last preserved letter of Cowper's being one to Newton. The beauty of Newton's character is well attested by the unpublished letters in the museum at Olney. It is perhaps worth while to add that the Cowper Society, founded in 1900, meets every 25th April at some town associated with Cowper, if only to show how much room for hero-worship there is, after all, in the English nature.

CURRENT TOPICS IN AMERICA.

(By letter dated April 6th, from our New York correspondent.)

THE WAR IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

One of the most important tasks which President Roosevelt and Mr. Secretary Root have set themselves is the establishment of closer relations, political as well as commercial, between the United States and the American sister-Republics. Mr. Root's journey to South America has already borne good fruits in this direction. He has done much to set aside at least a portion of the mistrust of the United States prevailing in many Republics and the suspicions that the former only aim at playing the rôle of usurper and carrying on the so-called "big stick" policy. Hitherto the United States have been counted as the only Republic which guarded the Munroe doctrine as the apple of their eye. Since Mr. Root's tour we have, as a matter of fact, seen a more intimate cooperation, above all between Mexico and the United States, both of which countries have recently been work-

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ing hand in hand with the object of introducing a condition of order in Central America. The eternal unrest in Central America, the readiness with which certain Republics disregard their financial obligations to European and other creditors, and the readiness with which they declare war against each other, are not exactly conducive to the introduction of a close understanding between all the Republics. The present war between Honduras and Nicaragua, the original cause of which is said to have been a dispute as to the possession of a mule, was, even if we regard certain other motives, begun in a spirit of bravado and with a desire to pass the time. It has once again been followed by harm to great economic interests, in particular the interests of the United States and various European Powers, and like all wars of this kind, if indeed considering the small number of soldiers in the "armies" the term "war" can be applied to it, it always contains in itself the danger of a conflict with foreign countries, owing to the recklessness with which the interests of foreigners

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settled there are disregarded. The present war will, however, help to bring it about that the attempt to call into being a coalition of the Republics, which will exercise sufficient pressure on the smaller Republics and induce them to always fulfil their obligations to foreign countries and to settle their differences without their having recourse to the sword, will be taken up again with all decision. On the occasion of last year's disturbances in Central America an arbitration treaty was signed on board the U. S. cruiser "Marblehead" between Guatemala, Costa Rica and San Salvador. Nicaragua declined to sign it. But, as a matter of fact, none of the Republics which signed it feel themselves particularly bound by it. A new treaty, the observance of which the larger Republics could insist on with greater firmness, would do much good, both with regard to the maintenance of internal order and to the relations of the small Republics to foreign creditors. The U. S. would welcome the existence of such a coalition with the greatest satisfaction. They would no longer have to play alone the burdensome and ungrateful part of public police, and to worry about the obtaining of the money which the Republics owe to foreign countries, but decline to pay.

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A BLOW TO MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

The adherents of the municipal ownership idea in the United States have suffered a severe defeat. The idea that American towns, like many European

towns, should own the tramways, gasworks, and other public institutions and carry them on at their own risk, has, during the last few years, played a very important rôle in municipal elections. One of its most zealous champions was William Hearst, described by his opponents as a demagogue and dangerous anarchist, the publisher of a number of yellow journals. His defeat at the polling booths—he himself, it is true, still maintains today that he received more votes than his antagonist the re-elected Mayor McClean, but that through the machinations of his political opponents votes cast for him were not counted—prevented the municipal ownership idea being placed on a wider basis in New York and its practical value under American conditions being tested.

It has, however, during the last two years been subjected to such a test in the strongly Democratic city Chicago. There a zealous adherent of the municipalisation idea, a Mr. Dunne, was elected Mayor. So grievous was the condition of the tramway service that the citizens determined to make trial of municipal ownership. They declared themselves for immediate municipalisation of the tramways, but when it came to carrying out the scheme it became apparent that between theory and practice there was a vast difference which under American conditions could not for a time be set aside. Ever new difficulties faced municipalisation. The tramway Directors then themselves made a proposal to the city for the improvement of the trams. They contented themselves with a licence which could be revoked at any time, and conceded other far-reaching privileges to the city. None the less Mr. Dunne did not allow that he was mistaken in his championship of municipal ownership, and it was at the recent election still "his issue". At the polling booths, however, the citizens adopted the proposal of the tramway Directors and elected the Republican candidate for the Mayoralty, a Mr. Fred Busse. The people of Chicago thus accepted a positive proposal for the regulation of the tramway question, instead of an idea which is indeed described by many as Utopian. The opponents of the municipal ownership idea claim as a valid objection that the municipal management of public institutions under the frequent change of municipal authorities occasioned by the American system of election and nomination would of necessity suffer in the first degree. It is further to be feared that the service, since the spur of competition would be lacking, would be even worse than it is at present, when private individuals have the management in their hands, and that, further, political abuses would be developed in the typical political American conditions.

The cry for municipal reform rises ever loudest in those towns in which the traffic and other arrangements are in the hands of a great Corporation which has no rivals and which pays only so much attention as it deems fit to the traffic requirements of the public. But even if such towns were seriously to consider the introduction of municipal ownership, they would be prevented for years from taking over the trams, &c., by the so-called debt limit which prevents a public debt rising to more than a certain height. Municipal ownership would probably have found no adherents here had not the tyrannous rule of the great corporations allowed the idea to crop up that it might be a means of obtaining freedom from the great traffic corporations. The arguments which are valid against municipal ownership refer also to Government ownership, the idea of acquisition by the State. The opponents of both are far more prone to see the solution of the great traffic and other problems in the idea that municipal and State authorities and even the Federal Government should reserve to themselves the greatest imaginable control when issuing licences. In the matter of municipal control Chicago has certainly made a remarkable commencement.

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THE JAMESTOWN EXHIBITION.

The programme for the opening day of the Jamestown Exhibition has just been published. The festivities begin at sunrise on the 26th of April with a salute of 300 guns. The President will arrive at the Exhibition on board the "Mayflower". All the warships of American and foreign nations in Hampton Roads will greet him with their customary salutes. Arrived at the Exhibition the President will be conducted to the saluting point on Lee's Parade, where he will deliver an inaugural address. At its conclusion he will press a golden button and thereby all the machinery in the Exhibition will be set in motion and thousands of flags unfolded; the warships of all nations will give the National salute. In the evening the President will hold a reception. The great Naval Review will take place on the 13th or 15th of May.

RANDOM NOTES.

A rather curious step has just been taken by the Canadian Government, curious that is, since one would like to know the reason that prompted their action. The rates on second rate mail matter from America have been suddenly increased and on and after May 8th it will hardly pay to import American journals, yellow or otherwise, into the Dominion. It is possible, or even probable that the columns upon column of turgid indecency giving nauseous details of the Thaw trial, that have been overflowing the American Press may have induced the Canadian Government to take this somewhat drastic step. At the same moment that the rates on American mail matter are raised, Mr. Buxton announced in Parliament that the Canadian postal rates on imported mail matter from England, which were absurdly high, have been sensibly diminished. Will one well-known English journal be tempted to pat itself on the back and remark "Thank Heaven, we are not as other yellow journals are!"

The death of a man who, if not born great, most certainly had greatness thrust upon him, occurred a day or two ago. Mr. James Gillett was the hero of one of the most widely quoted and certainly one of the most widely parodied poems in the English language. Probably Bret Harte when he wrote his famous lines on the "Heathen Chinese" who, with his bland and child-like smile, played it upon the author and truthful James in a way they both despised, little thought that they would be a more lasting memorial of his fame than the somewhat sugary sweetness of the "Luck of Roaring Camp" and other mining yarns. Mr. James Gillett was the hero of this veracious poem, having been at one time Bret Harte's mining partner. Of the numerous parodies of these lines we cannot forbear quoting the closing stanzas of a wonderfully clever take-off, entitled the "Heathen Passeur" which refers to the ingenuity of an ignorant undergraduate up for an examination.

"On the cuffs of his shirt
He had managed to get
What we hoped had been dirt
But which proved, I regret,
To be notes on the Rise of the drama,
A question invariably set.
In the crown of his cap
Were the Furies and Fates,
And a delicate map
Of the Dorian states,
And we found in his palms, which were hollow
What are frequent in palms—that is dates."

It is always a foolhardy thing to do to even approach in ignorance the utmost fringe of a purely technical question; we may even run the risk of having at once scornfully applied to us the time-worn adage concerning the readiness with which fools are apt to intrude in enclosures conscientiously avoided by angels, but we would like to ask in all seriousness: what is the difference between a tenor and a baritone? We have, we admit, heard one solution of the question which appealed vastly to us: we were informed that a baritone was a voice, a tenor an abnormality. But this definition we perforce looked upon with suspicion, as it was supplied by a baritone. The dictionary, a standard one at that, is very little help in the matter. A tenor is defined as a man who sings tenor, which, besides being the worst form of *petitio principii*, is obviously untrue, for how many misguided people do we not all know who sing tenor, to our great discomfort, but whom we should be loath to define as tenors? What led us to this troubled uncertainty was a notice in a paper that a young lady had made her debut in London as a female baritone. We have heard in our time male sopranos, whose voices, though hardly attaining any sweetness in tone, were high and shrill enough to acquit their possessors of any charge of masculinity. In fact, not so many months ago, there appeared at a variety theatre in Dresden a male singer who, attired as a *danseuse*, was quite indistinguishable from a member of the opposite sex until an unmistakable bass C revealed the fraud. To hark back to our first thought, the question occurs, when is a tenor not a tenor? and the answer is not so very difficult, for thirty three years ago a baritone named De Reschi made his appearance at Drury Lane in Grand Opera and made a considerable success. Twelve years later a new star appeared on the operatic horizon in the shape of Jean de Reszke, who soon, so to speak, became a household word among tenors, but not one among a thousand probably knew that De Reschi and De Reszke were one and the same and that the baritone of the 70's had become the star tenor of the eighties. Another tenor, who at least, contrary to the general rule, in his native country achieved undying fame, Sims Reeves, began his musical career as a baritone. There does not seem any precedent for voices going down, only up, consequently while we may possibly hear of the lady baritone above mentioned becoming a high soprano we need not fear our great representation of *Brunhilde* being forced in time to essay the rôle of *Sarasvato*.

CHURCH SERVICES.

ALL SAINTS' (ENGLISH) CHURCH,
Wiener Strasse.

Sunday, April 21st. *III. Sunday after Easter.* 8.0 a.m. and 12.0 m.d. Holy Communion. 11.0 a.m. Matins and Sermon. 6.0 p.m. Evensong and Litany.

Wednesday, April 24th. 11.0 a.m. Matins and Litany.
Thursday, April 25th. *S. Mark's Day.* 8.0 a.m. Holy Communion. 11.0 a.m. Matins.

Friday, April 26th. 11.0 a.m. Matins and Litany.
Chaplain: The Rev. C. A. Moore, M. A., B. C. L.
Hon. assistant Chaplain: The Rev. M. S. Farmer, M. A.

THE AMERICAN CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,
Reichsplatz 5, at the head of Reichs Strasse.

Sunday, April 21st. *III. Sunday after Easter.* Holy Communion 8.0 a.m. Morning Service and Sermon 11.0 a.m. Afternoon Service and address 5.30 p.m.

Friday, April 26th. Litany 10.0 a.m.
The Rev. J. F. Butterworth, M. A., Rector.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

Bernhard Strasse 2, at corner of Bismarck Strasse and Winkelmann Strasse.—Services every Sunday at 11.0 a.m. Communion on the first Sunday of the month.—The Rev. J. Davis Bowden, Minister, Bernhard Strasse 2, I.

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One of the Colonial Premiers is stated to have been overcome with astonishment at the prolific supply of quill pens, supplied for the use of those taking part in the Colonial Conference by a prodigal home Government. It is said that he was so overjoyed at this survival of this antiquated weapon of penmanship that he is taking a sample home to his family as a souvenir. He need not be so careful: he might follow the dictum of Lord Melville who thrust a handful of quills, sealing wax &c. into the hands of a youthful visitor to the Home office, with the remark "That's right, begin early, get all you can at the Government's expense". The provision of an abundance of quill pens at Conferences, company meetings &c. in England is an extravagance that dies hard. Presumably somebody takes the unused pens as a perquisite and makes money out of them, for unused they will be in nine cases out of ten, since it has become the rule rather than the exception to carry a fountain pen which, if one has learnt to use it kindly, is an unmingled joy.

If the letter written to the *Paris Journal* by Captain Humbert, a Member of the French Chamber of Deputies, represents the true facts of the case, promotion in the French Colonial Army must have been so rapid that a positively Gilbertian situation has been created. The artillery of the Colonial corps consists of eight four-gun batteries to which would be allotted no less than eight generals, eighteen colonels, twenty-six lieutenant colonels, eighty-five commandants with captains and subalterns, to taste, as they say in the cookery books. The corps certainly cannot echo the English complaint of lack of officers when there are nearly enough lieutenant colonels to serve the guns. The Colonial infantry are stated to be nearly as well supplied with officers. The battalion at Rochefort numbers 700 men, but on paper it represents a brigade and has a general, two colonels, four lieutenant colonels, 18 majors, 68 captains and 136 lieutenants. With a total of 226 officers to 700 men at least there would be no probability of the sergeants having to take command in action, however severe it might prove.

Legislation in Belgium seems a trifle uncertain, judging by an incident that has occurred within the last few days. The Chamber of Deputies by an overwhelming majority recently passed a measure which decreed that a miner's day should consist of eight hours only. On the day after the motion was passed, the Cabinet resigned. Before a new one had been appointed King Leopold issued a proclamation annulling the Bill, and his proclamation was countersigned by the very Ministers who formed the Cabinet when the Chamber passed the Bill. The future of legislation in the matter will be watched with interest. The Chamber will, in all probability, re-introduce the Bill, which will certainly be passed. Will the new Cabinet resign in order to enable the King to veto a Bill which excites his displeasure to such an extent, or will he endeavour to obtain a majority against it in a new Chamber?

An architect's life in New York does not seem an altogether desirable lot. The most famous of New York's architects gets shot in a roof garden and another of them is insulted by his client's wife. In the latter case, however, it appears that the designer of palaces has got considerably the best of it. Mr. Howard Gould, the well known multi-millionaire, married his wife from the stage, and she, possessed of much "temperament" or temper, has been involved in consequence in litigation more constantly than a dozen less gifted mortals. But when her husband employed a Mr. Abner Haydel to build him a new Aladdin's palace, the architect's design failed to please the fancy of this capricious lady, and she told the designer so in terms more forcible than polite. The aggrieved artist, naturally enough, requested to be told what alterations were required in his design, but the lady apparently objected to it, lock and stock and barrel, for her only reply was to bid her lackeys kick the d—architect down the d—marble stairs. The outraged architect determined to soothe his ruffled feelings, and incidentally to fill his pockets by bringing the matter before the courts, and their decision just confirmed by the Court of Appeal was that Mr. Gould should pay him 25,000 dollars. Seldom has a woman's tongue been more expensive.

ROMANCE AND SEQUEL.

A sad epilogue to romance of what looks like honest affection has just been brought to light at Fiumicino, a small place at the mouth of the Tiber, where some fishermen have fished up the bodies of a young man and a young woman tightly fastened together, and with stones tied to the feet to ensure rapid sinking. They were recognised as those of Gustav Pfeifer and Flora Kuhn, an engaged pair, whose parents had so persistently refused to consent to their marriage that they had at last fled. On their resources coming to an end they had hired a boat, from which moment they had been lost. The finding of their dead bodies throws light on the sequel.

LOCAL.

His Royal Highness Prince Johann Georg has given a handsome Prize—a silver breakfast basket containing a blue crystal dish—for the Third International Horticultural Exhibition in Dresden, which will be opened by King Friedrich August at 11 a. m. on the 4th of May. The *Dresdner Liedertafel* choir of male voices will sing at the opening ceremony. The public will be admitted at half-past eleven o'clock. The Saxon State Railway Department will keep a service of special trains running at reduced rates for passengers during the time of the Exhibition. On Ascension Day a special train will be run by the Prussian State Railway Department, between Berlin and Dresden. It is to be hoped that the energetic efforts of the Exhibition Committee will be rewarded by a full use of the special trains. The public have little idea of the trouble and anxiety that such an exhibition entails on the horticulturists who take part in the shows. The unfavourable weather and the continual changes of temperature necessitate the constant moving of the plants intended for exhibition. From the hothouses they must be carried into a cooler temperature to check too rapid development, and back to the hothouses when the outside temperature falls.

The preparations in the buildings are being pushed forward. The carpenters' work is completed and the landscape gardeners are busy, while painters and decorators find employment here and there. It is already clear that the Executive Committee of the Exhibition have arranged for the presentation of a charming *mélange* of Nature and Art to the visitors.

Season tickets will be ready for issue very shortly.

Madame Acté, the famous French soprano, has been making a considerable stay in Dresden, where she has been studying the title rôle in Richard Strauss' opera "Salome", in which she appeared at Leipzig on Friday evening. Madame Acté is shortly to give Dresdeners the pleasure of hearing her in this part as she returns to Dresden in May. She will again take up her residence at the Pension von Briesen, one of the leading establishments of the kind in this city. Its manifest advantages seem to be much appreciated by distinguished musicians who desire quiet and a comfortable home, for Kapellmeister C. Müller of Bayreuth has been staying there for some time. Situated in one of the healthiest and most desirable parts of Dresden, this pension can be thoroughly recommended to English and American visitors.

The hall of the "Trianon" was completely filled on Friday evening upon the occasion of Herr Wilhelm Backhaus' piano recital given under the auspices of the "Volks-Sing-Akademie". Herr Backhaus is a native of Leipzig where he was formerly a pupil of the Conservatorium and then looked upon as a "prodigy". He studied later with Alexander Siloti and d'Albert and now resides in London, where he is a very successful pianist. His programme on Friday evening was made up of familiar works from Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Mendelssohn, Grieg and Liszt.

The Beethoven sonata op. 53, known as the "Waldstein Sonata" was played with excellent tone colouring and technical finish, but was lacking in warmth and depth. The *Rondo* was the best played movement and was not taken at too rapid a tempo, which is unfortunately often the case.

From the Chopin group the well known and difficult G-flat Etude on the black keys, which Hans von Bülow disdainfully calls a "Damen-Salon Etude", was played with grace and technical clearness, and the Valse in A-flat, as well as the popular A-flat Ballade "the school girl's delight", was superbly given. The Ballade was so enthusiastically applauded that Backhaus played Rubinstein's "Valse Caprice" as an encore. Mendelssohn's beautiful "Rondo Capriccioso" was exquisitely played. The lightness in touch and the rhythm in the second part were distinguishing features. Herr Backhaus played the Liszt arrangement of Mendelssohn's wedding march superbly, and aroused such enthusiasm that he was obliged to play no less than three encores: Mendelssohn's "Spinning song", the same composer's "Spring song" and Rubinstein's Romance in E-flat.—H. M. F.

The guards in the city today are furnished by the 12th Infantry regiment No. 177, whose band will play in the Neustadt about 12.30 p. m. Tomorrow the guards will be furnished by the Schützen regiment No. 108, and the band will play in the Schloss Platz about 12.40.

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CRIMINAL APPEAL.

While it cannot be said that the Beck, Lewis and Edalji cases in England have originated the desire, expressed on all sides, for the institution of a court of criminal appeal, they have undoubtedly brought the agitation for a reform of this nature to a head. A civil action in England is not lost for good even if the jury at its first trial may have given a hostile verdict; the action may, of course, be carried to the Court of Appeal and thence to the House of Lords. But a man whom twelve of his fellow countrymen convict of crime has no appeal from the sentence passed upon him by the judge, save one to the sovereign's clemency, which is, in practice, extended only on the advice of a responsible Minister of the Cabinet. This, in itself, has long been felt to be a far from desirable system; the Home Secretary is only human and may be quite incompetent to sift evidence. Many were of opinion at the time of the notorious Maybrick case that the decision of the then Home Secretary, who commuted the death sentence passed on Mrs. Maybrick for the murder of her husband by the administration of arsenic, into one of imprisonment for 20 years, was hopelessly illogical. Either the woman did administer poison and by the law of the land should have been executed or she did not so administer it and should have been released. But apart from such unwise alterations of sentences such as this, there has lately been growing up in England a system of retrial by newspaper which has already had the most unsatisfactory results. The man Beck, whose case was thus ventilated, was undoubtedly the victim of a miscarriage of justice, the man Edalji, whose case is, in a manner of speaking, still *sub judice* was probably so also, while it may be considered very unlikely that Lewis, the latest protégé of the *Daily Mail*, if we except the murderer Rayner whose sentence the Home Secretary for some inscrutable reason commuted, would ever have been let out of goal until his sentence had expired, had his case been submitted for revision to a Court of Appeal.

To meet this unsatisfactory state of things the Attorney General has now brought in a Bill which differs in its essentials from that which was introduced last session by the Lord Chancellor, and which met with so much opposition from legal and lay minds. The main objection urged against the Lord Chancellor's Bill was that it gave the right of appeal in all questions of law or fact, and thus obviously the door would have been opened to endless, frivolous legal proceedings, since any prisoner who could furnish the necessary funds was certain to appeal against his sentence, however sound the law and however incontrovertible the facts upon which the verdict was based. The Attorney General proposes that a new court, presided over by the Lord Chancellor, should be constituted, consisting of seven judges of the Court of Kings Bench. To this tribunal the right to appeal in matters of law will be unqualified, but in matters of fact the Court itself will be required to consent to the appeal. The Court will have ample powers to get at the facts and will be able, if necessary, to call fresh evidence. The Attorney General was confident that this, being in no sense a party measure, would be unopposed and should, therefore, be speedily passed. His contention that the Bill will throw no obstacle in the way of a poor man obtaining a revision of his case seems justified since any appellant will, apparently, have merely to appeal to a rule committee who will examine the case and lay it by means of counsel before the Appeal Court. Fears have been expressed that juries may take a less serious view of their great responsibilities when they are aware that their verdict is subject to revision or reversal by a higher tribunal. Time alone will show, should the Bill become Law, if that be the case, but it is eminently desirable once and for all to put a stop to the pernicious practice of allowing the life of a man, be he innocent or guilty, to depend upon newspaper agitation.

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