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## NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

### THE DRUCE CASE.

Although it is not possible to forecast definitely the course which proceedings in the Druce claim will take after last Monday's dramatic discovery, a number of interviews with those concerned in the case have been obtained, which indicate the present attitude of those concerned.

Mr. E. Kimber, solicitor to Mr. George Hollamby Druce, the claimant, holds the view that the finding of a body rather fortifies than weakens the case of his client. The other side (he said) had to prove whose body it was, and the fact that there was a plate on the coffin was not evidence. Supposing a man were determined to engineer a mock funeral he would resort to more dodges than one, even to finding "a bogus corpse" as well as "a bogus name-plate."

In the course of an interview with a representative of the *Daily Express* Mr. George Hollamby Druce said:—

"It would be foolish to deny that I am bitterly disappointed by the opening of the Druce grave at Highgate Cemetery. At the same time I have far from abandoned hope, and, as my counsel stated in the Consistory Court last Friday, I do not believe that the investigation will affect the final issue of the pending civil action."

"I am prepared to go so far as to admit that a man known as T. C. Druce did die and was buried in Highgate Cemetery. But this by no means ends my case, and by no means am I disposed to admit that the body exhumed was the body of my grandfather, whom I still firmly believe to have been the fifth Duke of Portland."

Mr. Caldwell, the Irish-American witness who told the story of a mock funeral, with lead in place of a corpse, and who awaits extradition from America, has not yet been told of the finding of a body in the coffin, as his daughter fears that it would render fatal his present serious indisposition.

The news of the discovery of a body was communicated by one of the Press representatives allowed in the cemetery by the display of a red handkerchief, with which he ostensibly wiped his nose. This act was witnessed by a man in a lofty position with field-glasses, and in turn communicated to another with a telescope outside a telephone call office.

The greatest interest now centres in the next hearing of the charge of perjury by Mr. G. H. Druce against Mr. Herbert Druce, his uncle, for declaring in an affidavit that he saw his father dead in his coffin. It will be remembered that Mr. Plowden at the last hearing of the proceedings asked the counsel for the prosecution if he would abide by the result of the opening of the coffin. The next sitting takes place on Monday at 11 o'clock at Clerkenwell.

### ROUND THE WORLD FOR £20,000.

In the face of a biting north-easterly blast, a man started Wednesday morning from Trafalgar-square, London, on a tour round the world. The adventurer undertook the task for a wager of \$100,000 (£20,000), details of which he gave in the course of an interview with a Press representative.

"This wager," he said, "was laid by a friend of mine, a well-known American millionaire, as the outcome of an argument that took place at a club in Pall-mall. He declared that no Englishman would walk around the world masked and pushing a perambulator. After hearing the conditions I at once made up my mind to accept the wager myself. Upon telling him the decision I had come to, he at once made arrangements with another well-known American gentleman to accompany me. He is only doing it for sport."

The man was the object of much curiosity, and was followed along Fleet-street, Cannon-street, over London-Bridge and down the Old-Kent-road by a large crowd. One of the conditions of the wager is that he is not to reveal his identity throughout



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the whole journey. Therefore he has concealed his visage in a black iron mask, and he is not unlike one's conception of the masked knights of the days of chivalry.

"But how are you going to subsist?" asked the reporter.

"I am starting penniless," he replied, "I shall sell photographs and pamphlets while on the journey. I am allowed to expend any sum not exceeding £1 for photographs and pamphlets for sale at start. That is how I shall subsist." The "Iron Mask," as he prefers to be called, has filled his perambulator with photographs and pamphlets, which he sells on the way. A very difficult task is before the black knight. In order to win the wager he has to touch every county in England, to visit Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, and to call at twenty countries. He is to buy a postage stamp at every town passed through on his journey.

Among other conditions of this most remarkable wager are:—

To find a wife on the road.

To forward an account of the miles walked and towns visited, and a signed document from the Mayor or some responsible person in each town.

To be allowed to go "as you please."

"Any lady who wishes to correspond with me," he declared as he sauntered along behind the perambulator, "can do so by sending particulars to ——" He mentioned the name of a friend, whose address was lost owing to the chattering of his teeth.

"Good-bye," he called out merrily, as he disappeared into the grey mist, "see you in ten years."

### STRIKE OF LONDON MOTORMEN.

About 1,000 conductors and drivers of the Motor Omnibus Company in London have struck work on receiving notice that their wages would be reduced because the Company is incurring loss owing to the competition of the new tube lines. The employees of the electric tramway companies who were on strike have all returned to work except the London Road Car Company's men.

### NEWS FROM AMERICA.

#### ADMIRAL VERSUS DOCTOR.

The serio-comic controversy on the subject of the appointment of a medical officer to the command of the hospital ship, "Relief," attached to the battleship squadron, shows no sign of abatement, and it has become evident that none of the disputants will be satisfied until the matter has been dealt with by Congress. An informal canvass

made of the members of the Congressional Naval Committees, says the *Globe*, leaves no doubt that most of them, on the evidence at present available, are of opinion that Rear-Admiral Brownson is quite justified in resigning when the President, ignoring that officer's recommendations and protests, appointed Surgeon Stokes to the command of the "Relief."

Correspondence has passed between the President and Admiral Brownson and Surgeon-General Rixey, and between those officers and the Navy Department, and Congress will forthwith call for its publication, or, at any rate, for its production before the Naval Committee in each House. Senator Hale, Chairman of the Senate's Naval Committee, has announced his intention of supporting Admiral Brownson, who, he says, as chief of the Bureau of Navigation, ought to be the man best qualified to decide who should command a hospital ship, or, indeed, any other vessel of Uncle Sam's Navy, whether in time of war or of peace. It is important to remember that Surgeon-General Rixey is a close personal friend of Mr. Roosevelt.

Indeed, the two men are together at this particular moment, on a shooting expedition in Virginia. It is suggested that the moment is scarcely opportune for this demonstration by the President of his friendship for an officer in whose favour he has just given a decision in an important question, calculated to cause friction in the Navy.

Not a few newspapers bluntly charge the President with gross and habitual favoritism in connection with both Army and Navy, and the case is recalled of Major-General Leonard Wood, a medical officer and personal friend of Mr. Roosevelt, who was promoted to the highest rank in the Army over the heads of hundreds of senior and capable combatant officers. It must, however, be recorded that, by general consent, it is admitted that time has more than justified the President's high estimate of the character and ability of General Wood, who is at present in command in the Philippines.

### THE THAW TRIAL.

Under an order issued by Justice Dowling, all women will be excluded from the Court-room during the second trial of Harry K. Thaw for the murder of Stanford White, except members of the Thaw family. The reason of the order, says *Reuter's* New York correspondent, is that the seating capacity of the room has been greatly reduced since the first trial, and will now only accommodate about 150 spectators.

### RACIAL RIOTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The *Central News* reports from Vancouver that a sanguinary battle has taken place between Japanese shop-keepers and white sailors, the superior numbers of the former resulting in the defeat of the sailors, who fled, leaving behind three wounded, one of whom was fatally injured.

### THE SEABOARD AIR LINE.

According to a telegram from Richmond (Va.) an official receiver has been appointed for the affairs of the Seaboard Air Line by the Federal Court.

### ARREST OF A REFUGEE MURDERER.

A telegram from Rome of Thursday's date reports the arrest by the New York police of an Italian charged with a horribly cruel and cold-blooded crime. It is alleged that at Fondi, in the Roman province, out of revenge for having been rejected by his sweetheart, he set fire to the cottage in which she was living with four relatives, and that while the house was burning he stood with a loaded gun in front of the only door, and threatened to shoot any one who attempted to escape. All the five inmates were in consequence burned to death.

### NEWS FROM FRANCE.

A Paris telegram states that Prince Helié de Talleyrand, Duc de Sagan, had a heated dispute with Deputy Count Boni de Castellane in the Rue Chaillot, the argument eventually leading to blows. They were promptly haled before a commissary of police, when it was ascertained that Count Boni had first assailed his opponent with violent abuse. A rumour regarding the Count's motive is afloat to the effect that the Countess de Castellane, née Anna Gould, who divorced her husband some time ago, contemplates re-marriage, the prospective bridegroom being the Duc de Sagan.

### CHURCH AND STATE.

Interviewed by a representative of the *Echo de Paris* with regard to the decision of the Treasury