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BERLIN

The majority of the Berlin Minstrels who have been visiting Dresden returned home late on Wednesday evening. They were all delighted with the trip, and spoke highly of the splendid reception they had in Dresden. Every participant will long remember the good time the troupe enjoyed there.

King Edward has accepted the patronage of a German *Kriegerverein*, that of veterans of his regiment, the *Blücher Husaren* in Stolp, Pomerania. This is the first occasion, that a foreign monarch has assumed such a position. In the communication announcing his willingness to accept the honour offered him, His Majesty expresses his great pleasure at the close connexion existing between himself and the soldiers who served in his regiment.

It is now stated officially that the surplus made by the Royal Academy of Arts in Berlin from the Exhibition of old English masterworks, amounts to about 15,000 marks, which goes towards the Academy fund for the support of widows and children of needy artists.

In this connexion a characteristic little incident may be related, which happened when the Emperor visited the exhibition for the first time. While he was admiring the famous "Blue Boy" by Gainsborough, the Director of the Academy, Professor Kampf, told him that this one picture alone had to be insured for 900,000 marks, at which His Majesty expressed his amazement. He then asked the Professor whether it would not be advisable to station a military guard at the entrance of the building during the night, and the answer, of course, was to the effect that such a precaution would be very appropriate. Adjutant-General v. Plessen was accordingly instructed by the Emperor with the words: "Plessen, the Professor can have as many guards as he wants." This happened at five o'clock in the afternoon. At seven o'clock a sentinel was placed at the entrance of the building, and from that time on during the exhibition the building was guarded by soldiers during the night hours.

Professor Walter Schott, the famous sculptor, is to sail for the United States in about two weeks' time to make the final arrangements for the great exhibition of modern German sculpture in the new wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. He has the support of high authorities in the Empire and the financial world, who are subscribing to a fund guaranteeing the necessary expenses. That these will be rather high may be judged from the fact that only original works are admitted, and that the pieces in marble and bronze which have been entered up to date represent a total value of more than three million marks. The insurance alone will be very high, but the German shipping lines have been most accommodating, so that this item will be as small as possible.

There is still one great hitch, however, and Professor Schott is chiefly going over to America to try to overcome the difficulty. He will have a talk with President Roosevelt and Secretaries Root and Cortelyou, and will try to come to an arrangement whereby the works may be imported and exhibited under bond, so that duty will have to be paid only on such sculptures as are sold in America and taken out of bond. It is, however, very doubtful whether the Administration will be able to make such an arrangement, and Congress may have to pass a bill for the purpose. If we remember rightly, Congress did pass a bill of this kind for the Chicago and St. Louis Exhibitions, which were considered simply as large U.S. warehouses in which the goods exhibited were kept under bond. Under the present political conditions in the United States, where excitement attendant upon the Presidential campaign is already running high, it would require adroit political engineering to pilot such a bill through Congress before the adjournment this year. It will be easily understood that the whole enterprise would have to be given up if full duty is demanded in advance on all the works to be exhibited. This again demonstrates the absurdity of the American protective duty on works of art.

(Continued on page 2.)



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GENERAL NEWS.

ENGLISH NEWS.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

London, February 27. At today's sitting the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Asquith, brought in the Licensing Bill of which notice had been given, and which proves to be a thorough-going measure of reform. The number of licences in the whole of England is within a specified time to be compulsorily reduced on a uniform scale based on a proportion of licences to population, the proportion to be fixed variously according to the character of the district.

Mr. Asquith said that, according to his calculation about 30,000 licences would be withdrawn, for which within a period of fourteen years compensation would be paid out of money provided by the holders of the licences continuing in force. The Bill establishes the principle that the power of granting new licences is to be vested in the local authority, and contains numerous regulations as to the closing of Clubs on Sunday, and other matters connected with the granting of licences.

The Bill was read a first time. The Liberals and the Labour members generally expressed approval of the Bill, whereas the Conservatives, headed by Mr. Balfour, spoke against it. The chief points of difference were the term within which the compulsory reduction of the number of licences should be carried out, and the regulations affecting the Clubs.

THE INDIAN FRONTIER EXPEDITION.

A spirit of optimism appears to prevail at the War office regarding the punitive expedition against the Zakka Khels. It is believed that the tribesmen counted upon the support of neighbouring Afridi clans but that this hope has not been fulfilled, and that their lack of resources, coupled with the swiftness of action displayed by the Imperial troops, has considerably damped the martial spirit of the Zakka Khels. Under these circumstances their early capitulation is predicted.

(Continued on page 2.)

DRESDEN

The Right Reverend Bishop T. E. Wilkinson, D.D., Bishop-Coadjutor of London for the English Chaplaincies in N. and C. Europe, arrived in Dresden early this morning, on a visitation of the All Saints' Chaplaincy, leaving again on Thursday, March 5th. The Bishop will preach at the 11.0 a.m. Service on Sunday, and hold a Confirmation at 6.0 p.m., the same day, when ten Candidates from the English Church and ten from the American will be presented for Confirmation. The sittings in the Church at this service are open to all, save that a few will be set apart for the relatives and immediate friends of the Candidates.

Bishop Wilkinson's labours are very arduous, and his "care of all the Churches" quite apostolic. He superintends over one hundred permanent Chaplaincies in eleven countries in Europe, in addition to more than five hundred "season" Chaplaincies; this entails some 14,000 miles travelling in the year.

Pianoforte Recital of Joseph Slivinski. When the Russian pianist M. Slivinski gave a concert at the Palmengarten a year ago he was *homo novus* in Dresden. No reputation had preceded him, his name was quite unknown. But at that concert M. Slivinski achieved what it is given to only a few of the many new pianists to achieve; that is to say, he attracted attention to himself and made one wish to hear him again. And that success was obtained neither by stupendous bravura—his technique by no means exceeds what is expected from a modern virtuoso—nor by a specially marked manner of musical interpretation or distinct originality, but simply through the natural art and unintentional poësie which characterises his playing. He represents the musical youth *par excellence*, but the decided charm attaching to his execution protects him from the curse to which other model musical youths fall prey, viz. dulness. Perhaps he was not entirely free from this blemish in his concert on Thursday last, when he played Schumann's Sonata in F-sharp minor, op. 11, at least in the final movement, but he richly compensated his hearers for this fault by the tenderness and delicacy with which he endowed the second movement, the Aria. There was an abundance of delicious, charming melody, and a wealth of exquisite shades of touch, beautiful and impressive in the highest degree.

Herr Slivinski also played a novelty, i. e. Variations et fugue sur un thème original, op. 23, by Paderewski. The thème is neither strikingly original nor ingenious, albeit the first three variations are delicately conceived, testifying to a certain inventive faculty; but apparently Paderewski was quickly deserted by his ideas, and the last variation—a canon—is not one whit above those which a fairly gifted disciple of composition in a Conservatorium could turn out by the dozen. The closing fugue is no better, terminating as it does in a considerable expanse of virtuosic embroidery of immense dulness. In spite of the inherent mediocrity of the piece, however, Herr Slivinski played it with much animation and technical ability. The audience, which was more numerous than last year, heartily applauded the concert giver, who later on showed himself in the best light by playing compositions of Chopin, Rachmaninoff and Schubert. M. N.

The IV. Conservatorium test concert took place at Hammer's Hotel on Thursday, under not very favourable acoustic conditions. It was opened by Liszt's Concerto in E-flat, played by Fräulein Berndt, a pupil of Herr Vetter, who performed with fairly good technique but, unfortunately, without even approximately extracting the spiritual essence of this composition. Fräulein Drescher, who has been favourably remembered since the last concert, sang the Pagen Aria from The Huguenots with well developed taste, and Fräulein Hertha Boessneck, of the Sievert class, sang with a somewhat guttural voice songs by Brahms, Schumann and Hugo Wolf. Then followed the playing of a Concerto in F for four horns, by H. Hübler, a composition of not much importance.

(Continued on page 2.)