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THE TRAVELLING SEASON.

During the present month and the next the travelling season proper is in vogue. Nowadays of course everybody travels a good deal out of the travelling season as well as in it, in distinction from the days of the "grand tour," when even wealthy men often travelled but once in their lives and women not at all. But in spite of the changes which have grown during the last century until they have quite transformed our relations with outside peoples, in spite of the familiarity that is said to breed contempt, our journeyings grow more rather than less sentimental. Places are visited and revisited, books are written, pictures are painted, photographs are circulated until, one would have thought, the very idea of travel must be bound up with all kinds of cheap sensations. As a matter of experience, however, there is no feeling of revulsion. Somehow the really desirable places never appear to grow offensively popular; the show spots of Europe seem to get the tourists they deserve. If one makes exceptions of several of the grand sights which are bound, from the nature of things, to attract to themselves a medley of inconsistent veneration, if one assumes that in several instances the wrong sort of people reluctantly admire the admirable things of the Continent, one is compelled to admit that, after all, enough exists for every temperament and every degree of culture without causing any painful overlapping of interests. There is a sort of half-culture or would-be culture that is jealous of its stock of sensibilities. It is a suburban quality not necessarily confined to the dwellers within suburbs, and when it spreads itself over Europe it is quite as offensive as the blatant cockney Philistinism which comes to see only in order to condemn. Between the two, the tourist who knows a little of European history and tradition, who is in touch with a little of the art of the past and of the present, and who brings to his journey a genuine desire for information, together with a humble spirit, may still steer a quiet and dignified course.

But, when all is said and done, the subjectivity of the traveller, as Macaulay's schoolboy would say, does not end with a humble spirit and a desire for information. We also travel in order to acquire fresh sensations, to get out of our irritating ego, when it revolts against feeding on itself too long. To sail from one shore to another, to see the sun setting on unfamiliar roofs, to hear the sound of unaccustomed voices, to see new men and other ways—these simple experiences, apart from any greater achievement in the art of the tourist, are sufficient to divert the sources of vitality into a healthier course. The truest and strongest sense of travel, which is nothing less than the sense of exploration, can scarcely exist in modern breasts barred against most of the primitive passions of mankind. That fine Hellenic and Carthaginian rapture which impelled men to plough the unknown ocean, as much for the sake of the adventure of the thing as for the "ripe bursting figs and tunnies steeped in brine" in their cargo, is not for the law-abiding citizen with duties and responsibilities at home. Even the unassuming ambition of a walking tour grows rarer, although it is still our good fortune to meet jolly young students and others among the pine woods of Saxon Switzerland or in the glades of the Black Forest, their knapsacks on backs, and joy refulgent from their faces. But, even if the walking tour does not die out, it does not exist for most men. The vast majority of travellers must rest content with the lesser joys of the more orthodox method. They may miss a part of the good influences, but they cannot miss the whole. If, like the country friends of Sir Roger de Coverley, they are magnates ordinarily unaccustomed to meeting with anyone greater than themselves in their natural spheres, the experience of a wider world and other personal forces is salutary; if, on the other hand, they are humble toilers escaping from their drudgery, the new experience is equally stimulating. We cannot all, like the Emperor Hadrian, visit our world dominions in a triumphant progress. Yet most of us, even the humblest, have world possessions, of an incorporeal nature, that we should not wish to barter for many territories. That reflection is one of the most satisfying results one is able to bear back from one's travels. Do we not travel (though this

sounds a little paradoxical) for the sake of getting home again?

The desire to get away from hearth and home and to look at the great world which lies beyond one's horizon is probably common, in a greater or lesser degree, to all the peoples of the world. Here in Germany it is something around which the spirit of the people has for long cast a romantic halo. Who can forget the ardent longing of almost every hero of Grimm's Tales to get away from his village, or fail to realize the genuineness of the simple words in which the longing takes expression? That is more than an accident of construction; it is a piece of national sentiment which is no doubt the legacy of Teutonic nomadism. Something of this romantic glamour exists among other peoples too. Let us hope it will long continue to do so. The world is still young when "fresh fields and pastures new" continue to tempt as of old.

PREVENTION OF COLLIERY DISASTERS.

(From our New York correspondent.)

The United States Government, determined to do all that is practicable to prevent, or to diminish the number of, the catastrophes which occur with such deplorable frequency in mines and cause in the aggregate an appalling loss of life, has applied to the Governments of Great Britain, Belgium, and Germany for expert assistance in discovering the causes of such disasters and in devising means for their prevention. The three countries named have readily complied with the wish of the United States, and have given their official experts the necessary leave of absence to admit of their taking part in the intended enquiry. It is reported from Washington that the following gentlemen are expected to arrive there shortly with that object: Captain Desborough, Inspector of Explosives to the British Home Office; M. Victor Watteyne, the Chief Engineer of the Belgian Mining Administration; and Geheimrat Meissner, of the Prussian Mining Administration.

The enquiry will probably begin towards the end of next month with a visit by the Commission of Enquiry first to the anthracite coal region, and then to Philadelphia. Here the Geological Survey Department of the Federal Government intends to erect laboratories in which enquiries into the causes of explosions in mines may be conducted. Accompanied by the head of the technological bureau of the Geological Survey, the Commission will inspect the anthracite coalfields of Pennsylvania, the region of bituminous coal in Western Pennsylvania, and the coal districts of Illinois, Wyoming, Colorado, Alabama, West Virginia and Oklahoma, in order to inform themselves as to the conditions under which the mines are worked. Hitherto the enquiries into the causes of mine disasters in the United States have been of a very cursory nature, although the proportion of deaths from mining accidents to the number of miners employed has been from twice to four times as great as in other countries. In 1907 3,200 men met their deaths in American coal mines; 1,200 more than in 1906.

THE CITY OF PILLS.

This is the name given by a Paris contemporary to Detroit, whence we learn that ten milliards of pills are exported to Europe annually, a milliard it may be again stated being a thousand millions. Our contemporary informs us that the consumption of pills, "au pays de l'oncle Sam" is enormous, and is attributable to the Americans' insatiable thirst quenched by iced drinks. The consumption of pills in America works out at 60 per inhabitant per annum.

Detroit makes pills of every size, every form, and almost every colour, and each year introduces about 200 new species, the creations being due to the exigencies of commerce rather than to any real popular want. Thousands of persons are engaged in the industry which forms one-third of the commerce of the city. Part of the work is done by machinery and part by hand, women being engaged for the most part. A new machine is now being tested and its inventors claim that it will be capable of turning out 200,000 pills a day, or 10,000 boxes of twenty.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

PRESS COMMENT ON THE CRONBERG MEETING.

London, August 10.
The Daily News, in an editorial under the headline of "The German Panic," says: "Today King Edward starts on a journey that will be watched with the greatest interest and some anxiety, but we look forward with hope and confidence to this autumn's conference in London upon maritime warfare; and if by his present visit to the Kaiser King Edward establishes in any degree a better understanding between ourselves and the German people, that service to the country will surpass all his previous efforts in the cause of peace."

REPORTED MUTINY ON BRITISH WARSHIP.

London, August 11.
The naval correspondent of the Pall Mall Gazette writes to his paper that during the recent journey of the torpedo flotilla from Granton in the Firth of Forth, the crew of one of the destroyers threw the signal code books and gun sights overboard, as a protest against the emergency half rations they had been receiving for the past four weeks. The mutineers were subsequently arrested, and are now in custody pending their trial by court martial.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

ACCUMULATING ELECTION FUNDS.

A national party committee has been nominated as usual by the Republican Convention at Chicago to "work for" Mr. Taft, and a similar committee, with each State of the Union represented, has been appointed at the Democratic Convention to "work for" Mr. Bryan. These committees fill the "war chest," in other words, raise the wherewithal to hire halls, buy election literature and newspapers, pay speakers, purchase fireworks, and so forth, and they appeal for subscriptions, more particularly to those who have received something in the way of office or other gratification from the party, or, what is equally important, who "expect" to receive something. Business interests anxious to secure legislative protection will pay to both parties; business interests anxious to avoid legislation will also render tribute. The treasurers of both parties are active, and it is understood that few questions will be asked of donors of party funds, and no publicity given to their names. It has been said and printed time and again that the fortunes of both parties are really controlled by about one hundred big capitalists, who supply the campaign money, in return for certain pledges of legislative protection or non-interference, but it would be difficult to prove the accusation. Enormous sums are undoubtedly gathered, and the accounts submitted are always vague. The committee directs its speakers and its funds chiefly to the doubtful States, those in which eloquence or expenditure may turn the balance in favour of the Presidential candidate either way. In view of the feeling against Trusts, both sides have, for the present contest, ostentatiously given out that they will take no "Corporation," alias Trust, money!

The New York correspondent of the Telegraph, relative to this subject, writes that the efforts of the national committee are seconded not only by State committees, but by an infinite number of minor organisations over the country, in the rural districts no less than in the cities. Some of these are permanent. Others are created for the election alone; and as they contemplate a short life they make it a merry one. These "campaign clubs," which usually bear the candidates' names, are formed on every imaginable basis, that of locality, of race, of trade or profession, of university affiliation. There are Irish clubs, Italian clubs, German clubs, Scandinavian clubs, Polish clubs, coloured or negro clubs, Orange clubs. There are young men's clubs, lawyers' clubs, dry-goods clubs, insurance men's clubs, shoe and leather clubs. There are clubs of the graduates of the various colleges. Their work consists in canvassing the voters, making up lists of friends, opponents, and doubtfuls, getting up processions and parades, holding meetings, and generally "booming all the time." This is mostly unpaid labour.

(Continued on page 2.)