

GENERAL NEWS.

(Continued from page 2.)

A later telegram, dated yesterday, states that at half-past 9 o'clock on Sunday evening the Minister for Public Works, M. Barthou, visited the scene of the fire, where he received a report from the Prefect of Police as to the measures that had been taken to cope with the blaze. The Commandant of Paris was also present. The important documents and the accumulators have been saved. At 11.30 p.m. the firemen appeared to have mastered the flames. M. Barthou said it was impossible as yet to fix the time at which telephonic communication would be re-established. The fire is supposed to have been due to a short circuit. At 1 o'clock in the morning the fire was nearly extinguished, and the troops and firemen were being gradually withdrawn. The Post Office department will do its best to establish provisional means of communication with the principal cities, at least during the Bourse hours, and first of all with London.

FATAL RIOTING IN AUSTRIA.

Laibach, September 20.

Rioting occurred here last night, and the services of cavalry were requisitioned. The troops were pelted with stones and glasses by the Slovenes, but no one was hurt, and the only material damage done was the breaking of the windows in two German restaurants. The demonstrations were renewed this evening on the Marien Platz, where the troops answered the stone-throwing with a volley, which killed two and wounded four of the demonstrators, two more of whom received sabre wounds.

THE CHOLERA IN RUSSIA.

St. Petersburg, September 20.

In the past week 1,456 cases of cholera and 439 deaths occurred in the capital and its suburbs. Since the beginning of the epidemic there have been 1,653 cases and 492 deaths in that area. In other places the total number of cases last week was 3,390 and the number of deaths 1,377, as compared with 2,465 cases and 1,120 deaths. In the whole of Russia there have been 10,359 cases and 4,633 deaths since the first case was reported.

THE MOROCCAN CRISIS.

Paris, September 19.

The *Agence Havas* states that since the closing of the Chambers 3,000 men of the force landed on Moroccan territory have left Casablanca, and 1,000 are awaiting shipment. By the end of October 3,000 more will have sailed; and there will remain 8,000, who will be brought back to France by degrees as the organization of the new police with native horsemen proceeds.

London, September 21.

The *Times* publishes a report from its correspondent at Teheran that the Shah answered the Anglo-Russian Note on Saturday. The *Times* learns from good authority that the answer is unsatisfactory, and amounts practically to a refusal to renew the Constitution, so long as the province of Aserbeidschan remains unsubdued.

LONDON LETTER.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, September 19.

The report from the Joint Select Committee on Lotteries and Indecent Advertisements has been made public in the form of a Blue-Book. If the recommendations of the committee are carried into effect, and there is every reason to believe that they will be, the measures they suggest will cut at the root of the wholesale gambling organized by a number of newspaper proprietors. The particular craze which stimulated the authorities to appoint a committee of inquiry has practically died of inanition, but it is being revived in other forms. Limericks are no longer popular, mainly on account of a growing mistrust as to the *bona fide* character of the awards. A number of cases in the law courts have tended to prove, what every reasonable person must have realized at the outset, that it is quite impossible to select a single line of surpassing merit from tens of thousands of lines submitted; and that therefore awards must have been made either after purposeless scrutiny or, more fortuitously still, to one of a number of competitors whose lines were slightly better than the average. While the craze was alive and limericks were upon everybody's lips, one never heard the end of stories of glaring injustice; and I have really seen lines that had remained unrewarded which, in the opinion of any ordinarily intelligent man, were far better than any of the winning lines. Indeed, it is not too much to say that awards have been made on the whole according to the cheapest standards of popular taste and mainly with regard to the greatest number of puns in a single line; and, though the competitors and the judges did not vary greatly in their general character in most of the "Limerick" journals, there was an appreciable difference in the character of the awards. Thus the same mixed com-

pany, if one may judge from the published names of the winners and the *proxime accessit* groups, competed in, let us say, *Public Opinion, Answers, and Ideas*. In the published awards it became clear that *Public Opinion, Answers, and Ideas* each regard their public rather differently, the tone of these journals descending in the scale of vulgarity more or less in the above order.

More difficult than legislation against Limerick competitions in the press is the proposed attack on the foreign lottery circulars (and we get not a few from Germany) which are usually sent over in large batches and then posted in this country. It is neither possible nor desirable for the Postmaster-General to open suspected envelopes, nor is it likely that the Home Secretary's warrant enabling him to do so would be exercised in such a cause. Further, it would be difficult to strike the lottery organizers abroad through their agents here, since the negotiations could still be conducted without the latter. But something should certainly be done to prevent journals like *Answers* from offering "Premium Bonds" to its readers on the strength of a guessing competition, which is not quite a lottery in the eyes of the law.

The second subject with which the committee have been dealing, that of indecent advertisements, has for some time been challenging public attention. Politicians and others in this country are well aware of the ironical scepticism common abroad with reference to any paternal interference on the part of Government in regulating private morality. The contrast between the puritanical spirit of English life and the over-worldliness of London and the great provincial cities is pointed out with commendable zest and frequency. Possibly Government cannot do much once the whole temper of a nation has become corroded, but the little it can do to prevent matters from getting worse than they are it should and must do. One would be sorry to call London a more immoral place than it was twenty years ago; yet one has to admit the existence of sights and amusements which did not exist here twenty years ago and which have been introduced here from abroad. If by suppressing some of the more objectionable of these appeals to the prurience of youth the Government were to be accused of grandmotherliness and petty prudishness, it would have the consolation of knowing that it had done its best to tackle a serious problem of national welfare. The law with regard to obscene publications, whether in the way of subject-matter or reproductions of drawings and photographs, is clear enough. Difficulties arise, however, when magistrates are called upon to convict offenders, since it is an invidious task to decide where an indecent suggestion actually appears. Thus, while much flagrant indecency is checked or utterly suppressed, there is a great deal of veiled, elusive but quite unmistakable indecency which scarcely offers a point of attack and might easily be made to turn the tables on the magistrate by attributing prurience not to the object but to the observer. Moreover, such subtle immorality is in reality worse than frank impropriety, and gives a handle to the charge of hypocrisy so often brought against the English. Contrast the mutescopes in many public places, the jokes of the music-hall, and the wares displayed in many shops around Leicester Square and the Strand with the pious agitation raised against the Strand statues some weeks ago, and you begin to understand why Frenchmen and others, accustomed to the haphazard *laissez-faire* principles of other states in these matters, are inclined to smile at our moral professions.

On Wednesday four more suffragettes were released from Holloway, and yesterday the last of the present batch regained her liberty. It is to be hoped that enthusiasts in the cause were not entirely repelled by the somewhat ridiculous spectacle of twelve women dragging four others in a landau, decorated with purple and white heather, from Holloway to Queen's Hall. Yesterday, I hear, the last of the martyrs, a Scotswoman, had an escort attired in native costume. According to Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, who spoke at Wednesday's breakfast in Queen's Hall, the next active "move" is to take place on October 13 (apparently the Women's Social and Political Union discards superstitions). That will be the day following the meeting of Parliament, and will be appropriate as demonstrating that the Union does not intend to lose time. Mr. Asquith is to be asked whether the Government propose to support a Woman Enfranchisement Bill, to be introduced within the session. What will happen if Mr. Asquith refuses to promise support or even to be approached is not disclosed. Perhaps we can guess.

In less than a week the country will know that it has a scheme of old-age pensions. Information on the subject will be obtainable through the Post Office, and consequently the Post Office has been busy preparing a vast mass of printed matter which is to be placarded in every part of the realm. Already premonitory bills have appeared, but next Thursday 50,000 large bills will be sent out informing the public "how to apply for an old-age pension." Printed instructions will be sent to the

local postal authorities, some 74,000 men and women in all, informing them of their duties in respect of old-age pensions generally, and giving them the rules according to which forms of application are to be filled in. The Post Office will have to be lucid in its directions if it is to reach the intelligence of the typical country postmaster or postmistress within a reasonable period. Only those who have experienced the agony of ten minutes' hopeless inquiry upon an unusual point at a small country office can realize how few country Post Office officials devote themselves to their official duties by way of recreation. Often enough, their serious duty in life is the management of a miniature Whiteley's, in which the smell of groceries and turpentine prevail.

DRESDEN

German lessons given by experienced lady teacher. Art history. Visits to the Gallery. Moderate terms. *Fräulein Dietrich, Dürer Strasse 118, II.*

To let, a flat with four rooms, kitchen, pantry, bathroom, very nice closed balcony, and large entrance hall. Comfortably furnished; piano, silver and linen included. French gas stove with baking oven in kitchen. Apply: *Nürnberg Strasse 40, III. left.*

Pension with excellent table offered by North German family, with best opportunity to learn German. Please apply from 1 to 4 p.m. at *Rabener Strasse 13, I. r.*

CAFÉ DE PARIS, See Strasse 7, in Louis XVI. style. Superior artistic concerts in the afternoon and evenings up to 2 a.m.

SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

Classes in English, Arithmetic, Mathematics, German, French and Latin.

A small number of resident pupils taken. German and French resident governesses.

Private instruction if desired.

Miss Virgin, Schnorr Strasse 80 (Villa).

Flowers for Hats, vases, ball dresses; ostrich feathers, heron feathers, stoles, palms, fruits, flower-papers, &c. from *H. HESSE, Scheffel Str. 10-12.*

CIGARS, DEISTING, Prager Str. 42.

Painting on Porcelain | Paul Fritzsche, Lessons also given in own studio. *Uhland Strasse 27.*

Pension Kosmos Schnorr Strasse 14, I. & II. close to Hauptbahnhof. Comfortable home, excellent board 4 marks a day.—English cooking. Also elegantly furnished flats for housekeeping.

WORCESTER HOUSE SCHOOL DRESDEN, 19, Gutzkow Strasse,

preparatory for Schools and Universities.

Instruction in Classics, Mathematics, English, German, French etc. in class or privately.

Boarders received.

H. Virgin, M. A. Oxford. J. H. Hallam, M. A. Cambridge.

Hugo Borack

English spoken. Purveyor to the Court. English spoken.

4, See Strasse 4,

corner of Zahns Gasse.

Morley's and all other kinds of English Merino.

Woolen underwear.

Flannel shirts. Ladies' Jerseys.

Knitted Waists.

English and German knitted Goods.

Fast-colour black Hosiery for Ladies,

Gentlemen and children.

Shawls, Shetland veils, Wool and Silk, Skirts,

Caps, Felt Shoes and Slippers.

Novelties of the season.

Delikatess-Zwieback "Favorit"

also Madeira Cake and Small Cakes for breakfast and five o'clock tea.

Bäckerei Zincke, Annen Strasse 43.

Jungborn Ferdinand Strasse 18 p. Vegetarian House. Best vegetarian diet on the principles of Dr. Lahmann.

WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY

of the Royal Saxon Meteorological Institute.

Easterly wind, bright at first, cloudy later, mostly dry, temperature not much altered.