

# NEWS OF FOREIGN CAPITALS

## Austria Prevented The New Year From Ending Peacefully

(BY FREDERICK WERNER.)  
 Berlin, Dec. 31.—The old year would have passed away quietly anywhere, but for the unsettled political affairs in Austria. No international complications are threatening the always delicate European peace, and the smoldering political fires of the masses are calm, even in France. In Germany it is known that the calm is only the one which precedes a hurricane, but the election is too far off there to cast any alarming shadows upon the holidays. The crisis in Austria, however, together with new rumors of Emperor Francis Joseph's falling health and the grip upon the affairs of his microscopic empire, are source of considerable anxiety, which has disturbed the Christmas joy of our continent. The news of the last few days sends little more than encouraging rumors abroad that France is not unwilling to supply the money needed to carry out the great canal scheme through Galicia, connecting the Danube, Oder and Vistula, which the Austrian Poles demand and the inability to cope with which was the cabinet's principal reason for resigning. If the government is willing to negotiate for a special canal loan in France, and this is sanctioned by the Reichsrath, the cabinet may be reconstructed and continue in power.

Even if this happens, it is said, that the minister of foreign affairs, Count Aehrenthal, will definitely leave the political arena at the end of the Austro-Hungarian delegations in Budapest February next.

The affairs of the Friedjung families has injured the prestige of the foreign minister very considerably. When challenged in the Austrian parliament recently, he emphatically denied that his subordinate in Belgrade, Count Forgach, had anything to do with the man, Friedrich, who confesses to forging the documents supplied by the Austrian foreign office to Prof. Friedjung. It was on these documents that the latter based his charges, published in the "Neue Freie Presse," against the Croatian delegates, who thereupon brought an action for libel against him which, though compromised, was morally successful. Nevertheless, the more far of governmental implication in a miserable affair could not but have a disastrous effect upon the reputation of the minister responsible for the department of state involved.



PRINCESS ROYAL  
 Princess Royal, Sister of King George and wife of the Duke of Fife, who has gone to Egypt with her family to spend the winter.

ity and entering upon Great Britain and the four other powers interested in the duty of maintaining this state of affairs. Unless the Dutch government agrees to this contention, and gives a solemn pledge to allow free passage to forces entering the Scheldt for the defence of Belgium, the latter will probably propose to refer the matter to the arbitration court of the Hague, meanwhile fortifying Zeebrugge to enable Great Britain to land forces there instead of at Antwerp, in case of a German invasion of Belgium during a Franco-German war.

A report is current here that Herr von Dernburg, the ex-colonial secretary who has just returned from the Far East, has accepted, or is about to accept, a seat on the board of directors of the General Electric Company (Allgemeine Electricitats Gesellschaft), the largest electrical firm in the world, with a view of becoming its president, when the present occupant, Herr Emil Rathenau, who is over 70 years of age, retires. It is also stated that Herr von Dernburg's program as controller of this gigantic concern would include the gradual substitution of electricity for steam as the motive power on all the German state railways.

Herr von Dernburg himself and all other persons connected with the projected arrangement maintain a complete reserve, but the story is regarded as authentic in well-informed financial and industrial circles.

It is authoritatively announced that the third volume of Bismarck's memoirs, stored since his death in the vaults of the Bank of England, will not be published during the lifetime of the present Kaiser. They contain, of course, the Iron Chancellor's own version of his fall from power and the events which preceded and followed the historic "dropping of the pilot."

"Greater Berlin" claims a population of 3,690,935 souls. The figures require to be formally confirmed, but they are believed to be approximately correct. There has been an increase of 598,591 inhabitants since the last quinquennial census in December, 1905, or a fraction over 19 per cent. "Greater Berlin" in its compensable anxiety not to lag too far behind London, Paris and New York, has reached out and taken to its capacious bosom no less than 57 lying-in cities, towns and villages lying within a radius of 15 miles of the centre of the capital. Some of them are so remote and deeply imbedded between intervening stretches of forests and farms that the average "Grossberliner" has never heard of them, and could only find them with the aid of a guide and map.

The metropolis itself numbers only 2,040,143 inhabitants, and forgets the rank of the fourth city in the world to Chicago. Berlin's growth since 1905 registers only a trifle of 24,000, but the great contiguous suburbs of Charlottenburg, Wilmersdorf, Schöneberg, Rixdorf, Treptow, Tempelhof and Friedenau have increased enormously, some of them as much as 160 per cent.

The great normal of Berlin's census is that trade and industry are usurping old-time residential space by leaps and bounds, and are driving the house-dwelling class out of the metropolis proper into the forest of "flats" springing up in the environs.

The insistent lesson of the national census, which is expected to reveal the existence of 65,000,000 Germans, is that the Fatherland is becoming more and more industrialized. Populations in the towns and cities have increased heavily at the expense of the agricultural regions. There are fourteen cities with more than 250,000 inhabitants, and six of them have over half a million—Berlin, Hamburg, Nurnich, Leipzig, Dresden and Breslau. Hamburg is the second largest city in the country with a population of 936,000 an increase of 133,217 since 1905.

Housekeeping has a wide mouth—German



COUNTESS SCZECHENYI  
 Countess Szechenyi, formerly Gladys Vanderbilt, whose charitable acts among the poor of her adopted country, have won for her the title of "Lady Bountiful."

Although she entertains with a frequency and in the style befitting her position, the former American girl spends most of her time among the poverty stricken. She believes it the duty of the wealthy people to alleviate the suffering and destitution of children, and for this reason she has become vice-president of the National Society of the Protection of Children.

The general public knows little about the Countess's benevolent activities, only knowing her as a fashionable woman at the opera bedecked with diamonds. The Count and Countess are taking the greatest interest in the construction of their new mansion and go to Budapest frequently to inspect operations.

## British Government Sends Submarines To Chinese Waters

(By PHILLIP EVERETT.)  
 London, Dec. 31.—In order to be prepared for any emergency, which may arise in the Far East, the British admiralty have decided before the new year grows much older to send a number of submarine boats to Chinese waters. The first flotilla of three small boats of a little over 300 tons are in fact to start for the Pacific where there are at present no submarines, but the unknown number of Japanese boats and the United States five submarines in the Philippines at Cavite. Officially Japan is known to possess 12 submarines, the first of which were built in America and put together in Japan, but it is asserted that in reality Japan possesses many more of these battleship destroyers built secretly at home, and Russia, it is also said to have sent some across the continent via the Trans Siberian railroad.

In view of the warlike disposition of a certain part of the Japanese press, which may result in a clash either with China or the United States, the British government is going to increase her naval forces in the Pacific with all the modern vessels that may be spared at home. The first vessels to leave here will probably be the battleships Triumph and Swiftsure which will convey the submarines. The present British naval forces east of Suez consists only of three armored and three protected cruisers.

The torpedo flotilla is composed wholly of obsolete ships. There are seven destroyers in commission there, and three in 1898; all would have been scrapped two or three years ago under the German age limit for destroyers.

To Scotland has fallen the honor of making the carpets that will cover the floor of Westminster Abbey for the coronation next June, and the actual work will be started in a few days. The floor-covering has from the earliest time been a specific feature in the preparations for the state ceremony, and in the Liber Regularly prepared for Richard II, a copy of which is in the safe keeping of the deans of Westminster, there is definite order as to the "Ray cloth or Burrell" to be laid "under the king's feet as he goeth," and again in the "H'tle device" for the crowning of Henry VII there is the injunction that "th' king shall go upon Raye cloth to be layed by the Almoner, from his siege in the hall to the pulpit."

The new carpet will follow very closely upon the lines of that ordered for King Edward's coronation. That it may be recalled, was made at Worcester by Messrs. Edward Webb and Sons, and mohair was employed for the surface. This presented certain technical difficulties in weaving which were most successfully overcome. Then as again now, the color chosen was a sin-

cherish the classical superstitions — by those worn-out antiquists again. Old age is the one standard of respectability and talent.

"The Futurists are going to alte. all that. 'Italy to young men!' is our watchword. Away with the rubbishly old past. Let us look to the future! Our national destiny depends on the propaganda. As inevitably as the sun rises and sets we shall have to struggle for our life against Austria. This contest is absolutely bound to come. If it comes when Venice is still sunk in the lethargy of its old romanticism when Rome is living on its classical traditions, when Florence is nothing but a picture gallery, we are doomed.

"We, the Futurists, make the call of modernity. We want to leap ahead and lead the way even to those who call themselves modern. We are Futurists not only in a political and economic way, but in every branch of art—art is at present slumbering in old superstitions. It is hide-bound in tradition—not only in Italy, but in France.

"I went into a picture gallery the other day where there were 5,000 modern paintings, more than 3,000 of them were paintings of nude women. How absurd. In our cold climates ladies do not go about naked. The modern artist should paint ladies in modern toilettes. He should go even forward and paint the toilette of the future.

"I would have our artists paint the characteristic scenes of the new age of industry; the great factories, with their smoke and flame and murky atmosphere, the docks with their crowded shipping, the towns and streets scenes of modern life. I would have our poets express the modern spirit of restlessness of seething turmoil, of life in crowds.

"The existence of Italy depends upon the success of our creed, because, on the one hand, as I have said, she is decaying with the putrefaction of dead things, and on the other she is being weakened by the most dangerous of all philosophies, the Gospel of Cowardice. Tolstoyism and passive resistance are so debilitating the working men of Italy that I believe that if it is not checked by the awakening spirit of Futurism, the Italian people will be as helpless sheep before a horde of wolves, when Austria marches over the frontier."

## Account of His Tour In East

London, Dec. 31.—A very interesting account of his tour in the East is contributed to the "Mission Field" by Bishop Montgomery. He says:

"I must hasten on to Ping-Ying. This trip of 45 miles was to be undertaken on our huge delight, in wheelbarrows; but in two days, with a Chinese inn for the night. Bishop Scott and I were on first barrow; Lan-chester followed on a second, the luggage on a third. We did it luxuriously and a third with a rope in front of all. Are there springs to the barrow? Certainly not, it would be no fun if there were. Bumps? Of course. On the first day we calculated we had 25,000 of them; the best were caused by drops of six inches or more from one stone to another. I got quite used to them, and found I could sleep stretched out luxuriously on my mattress."

## Great Enthusiasm For Young Queen

Brussels, Dec. 31.—The enthusiasm that greeted King Edward, when, as Prince of Wales, he triumphantly survived his severe attack of typhoid fever, is equally manifest in the case of the young Queen Elizabeth of Belgium. As it is known that the young queen, who is now slowly recovering from her illness, was herself trained as a nurse and takes special interest in the victims of tuberculosis, special postage stamps, known as charity stamps, have been issued for internal circulation, at double the ordinary price, the surplus money to be paid to the National League in Aid of the Sick, a large sum, which will at once constitute a national expression of gratitude at the queen's recovery and a delicate recognition of the kindness which prompts her majesty to take greater pleasure in the relief of human sufferings than in any other form of personal popularity.

## This Mayor Was The Exception

Paris, Dec. 31.—That mayors should be at once examples of order and decorum is what most people expect, but according to a story which has reached Paris from a French town, an exception to such a golden rule is within possibility. The municipal council was engaged in a serious deliberation when a dispute suddenly arose between a member and the mayor, who seizing a chair, brandished it over the councilman's head, and when the chair was snatched from his grasp by his deputy he caught up a wooden urn for voting, and hurled it at the object of his rage with so accurate aim that the poor man measured his length on the floor. Members of the public, who had been admitted to the meeting got a wondrous show gratis, but so great was their indignation at this act of assault and battery that they rushed up to the mayor and would have punished him severely if he had not been successful in beating a retreat.

Quick-Lunch Perilage.  
 "Tea or coffee?" demanded the bustling waitress.  
 He smiled benignly. "Don't tell me; let me guess."  
 Goodness moves in a larger sphere than justice.—Plutarch.

## Rumors Of Republic Being Proclaimed At Monaco Are False

(BY GEORGE DUFRESNE.)  
 Paris, Dec. 31.—The rumors that a republic had been proclaimed at Monaco are without foundation. The situation is unchanged and the people at Monaco are waiting for the promulgation of the constitution which has been promised them by the prince. The constitution is being drawn by a commission of French jurists.

Among the 19,000 inhabitants of the principality only about 1,500 are subjects of Prince Albert. These apparently will furnish about 650 electors. Of the remaining 17,500 about 7,000 are French and more than 9,000 Italians. These figures, of course, do not include visitors.

The value of real estate in Monaco, apart from the domain of the prince is estimated at \$40,000,000, two-thirds of which is possessed by Frenchmen, but if the value of the Casino be taken into account, then French interests in the country may be said to total \$80,000,000.

Apròpos of Monte Carlo, the steady downpour of rain during the last three weeks has driven practically every American visitor away, leaving only English tourists, who are far less popular, because of their economic ways, but an American invasion may be expected with the opening of the opera season, and from the program, which has just been published, the 1911 season will be in no way behind that of its predecessors. It will commence on January 24th, with "Mefistofelo," in which Chaliapine has made such a remarkable success. This will be followed by "Leo Contes d'Hoffmann," "La Tosca," and "Da Vie de Boheme." In the following months the performances of other new and well known operas will be duly announced.

Greatly shocked by the disaster to the Phivosse, a French lady has presented the ministry of marine with \$20,000 as a prize in a competition, for which all French people and French subjects are eligible. The prize is to be awarded to the inventor of such an apparatus as will enable the crews of submarines to extricate themselves, and to reach and maintain themselves on the surface of the water in case of accident. The money will not, of course, be given until the naval council has made the experiments, and reported favorably. The apparatus must be worked by the crew alone, but whether it rescues them together or singly is a question that is not insisted upon by the generous donor. A very large margin of time is allowed over a period of ten years, but if the conditions are not fulfilled at its expiration the prize will be withdrawn.

France's recent Pyrrhic victory in the Tchad country has awakened public opinion on the folly of empire building on economical lines. The Wadai territory is a long way off and the elector at home does not care two sou's about it. It is only when a party gets out in the Bush that the Man in the cafe remembers vaguely that the tricolor does float somewhere about there. Poor Moli, who perished with half a dozen other officers, commissioned and non-commissioned, had asked in vain for reinforcements. Men cost money, even black men, and the colonial enthusiast, who proposes credits for fresh military effectives in the heart of Africa had better be prepared for a snubbing from the budget committee, for he is sure to get it. And so three hundred Senegambian Tirailleurs faced five thousand Wadai tribesmen and repulsed them after they had left nearly half their own number dead and wounded on the field.

The sublime heroism of the black man, harnessed to war, is again shown. It is upon these troops that France in the future will have to largely depend to fill the gaps caused by an unexpanding popula-



MRS. JOHN B. DREXEL.  
 Mrs. John B. Drexel, who will be one of the many wealthy American ladies to spend the Coronation season in London.

tion. Quite recently Lieut. Colonel Magnin, of the Colonial Infantry, has visited the African colonies of France for the purpose of raising troops. All that is needed in parliamentary support to the scheme and the transplanted central Africa will liberate the Algerian Frenchmen and Arab for service in France itself.

Anxiety about the floods, embarrassment with the traffic, and the dread that one of these days Paris may actually be threatened with shortage of provisions, have had the effect of bringing the question of its conversion into a seaport, to borrow the familiar expression, once more to the fore. "Paris port de mer" was the theme of a good deal of animated and rather enthusiastic discussion in the eighties. The idea of bringing Paris into easy communication with the channel had originally fascinated Vauban, and in recent times it was Bouquet de la Grye, a very distinguished engineer, who took the question up in an extremely earnest fashion. In 1882 he explained his plan for the construction of a canal without locks from Croissy to Rouen, and when it was criticized as being too extravagant he set again to work, and four years later another scheme which he had drawn up was submitted to the then minister of public works by Admiral Thomasset, chairman of the "Paris Port de Mer" society. The second plan was based on the almost exclusive utilization of the Seine, the sole exceptions being the construction of little canals at Sartrouville and Oissel, in order to avoid interference with the railroad lines at these points. As the winding course of the Seine was thus to be followed almost entirely, the deepening of the river was necessary. Its average depth between Paris and Rouen is not more than 10 feet, and Bouquet de la Grye proposed that this should be brought to about 20 feet, so as to enable the ships of 3,000 tons, which can get up the Seine as far as Rouen, to make their way to Paris. Such was the two plans drawn up by the enterprising engineer in the eighties, but he was enthusiastic over his "Paris port de Mer" project in the subsequent years, nearly a twelvemonth ago, when he passed away at the advanced age of 82, without seeing the realization of the dream of his life.

The Marin, is now taking the matter up, and it has just published a noteworthy article, in which it is argued that, if the Seine was only deepened as far as Rouen, Paris would not only be secure against inundations, but would even become "the greatest port in western Europe." This may or may not be a rash prediction, so far at least as the development of such an port is concerned. But there really do not seem to be any serious objections to the utilization of the Seine for such a purpose. Perhaps the only trouble might be a reversal of the conditions with which Paris is even now confronted, as the time might come when, instead of there being a considerable excess of water, there would be too little—during the summer season, for example.

The story of how art saved two rats from science is told today. The rodents had been caught for the laboratories of the Pasteur Institute, and were intended for certain experiments in the name of science. But just as they were going to be scalped M. Victor Peter, the animal painter arrived on the scene. He is at present at work on some small bas-reliefs on the fables of La Fontaine, and he wanted a town rat and a field rat as models. The two rats he saw appeared to be excellent specimens, and he requested that they might be handed over to him. His request was granted. The portraits of these two rats will figure in the Salon.

## Spoil Football In Australia Now

Victoria, Australia, Dec. 31.—Football in Australia is in imminent danger of being spoiled. For a long time observant spectators have noticed that some of the largest and most attractive games between some of the best reputed clubs have been corrupted. This season has sufficed to bring the truth of the matter out. The officials receiving reports of cases of bribery in Victoria, full investigation was made, with the result that several of the most important players have been found guilty of accepting bribes.

The officials have dealt severely with all the cases brought before them and it is likely that a stop will be put to the practices. Several of the men have been disqualified either for a term of years or for life.

Cheese Firm—A Chester.  
 Chester, Dec. 31.—A firm at Clutton, Chester, have sent to Bradford 2,500 Cheshire cheese, valued at \$19,000. None of the largest Cheshire cheeses ever made, some weighing in the aggregate 31cwt., were included in this consignment. These cheeses were made at Tattenhall Hall, and won the championship at the Royal Agricultural Show of England.

Firmness is the excess of will power; obstinacy is the excess of won't tutes.  
 Money may not bring happiness, but it will purchase a lot of substitutes.  
 Good faith is seldom a guest; when you have him, hold him fast.—German.