

NEWS OF FOREIGN CAPITALS

Coming Elections Spell Revolution In German Politics

January Twelfth Will Be The Critical Day—Conservative Parties Fearful While Radical Parties Are Exultant—Discontent Daily Increasing.

Recent Events Have Favored Enemies of Present Government—Small Doubt That National Liberal Party Will Hold Balance of Power.

(By FREDERICK WERNER.)

Berlin, Dec. 2.—The excitement of the "Crown Prince Scandal" having at last completely disappeared all eyes are now focused on the coming general elections to the Reichstag on Jan. 12th, a day which is being looked forward to by the conservative parties with fear and trepidation, while the radical parties are correspondingly exultant.

All great questions, viewed from an election standpoint, make it impossible to deny that recent events have favored the enemies of the present government. Among the conservative parties all is confusion. Discontent is daily increasing among the people and everything seems to prophesy that the elections will prove a veritable "twilight of the Gods" in the hands of power. The agreements in regard to African affairs and the great increase in the cost of living are the most dangerous rocks that threaten to wreck the conservatives.

A short summing up of the events which have led the government to the verge of destruction may interest my American readers. It was this summer that the German government began "conversations" with France, after sending the now famous gunboat "Panther" to Agadir. Undoubtedly this was for the purpose of influencing the elections. It was supposed that France would be easily scared by the voters and would before the elections withdraw with patriotic laurels. England, it was thought, would never think of interfering in Germany's little game, but the unexpected happened and England, without a moment's hesitation, took sides with France.

The German government, having never seriously thought of war, was, therefore, doomed to defeat, when its game of bluff was called. To cover up the defeat negotiations were delayed as much as possible, but nothing was gained. Every new turn in the duel of the diplomats gave the opposition new arms against the government and the final result, made known some weeks ago, practically means that Morocco has become part of French Northwest Africa, giving to France a solid colonial empire, second in extent only to India.

During the negotiations all kinds of calamities happened, panic upset the German exchanges, bitter quarrels arose and conservative colonial politicians used as harsh expressions against the chancellor and minister of foreign affairs as the socialists had ever done in spite of all official denials. It is even certain that the government appealed to the socialists to get them to arrange demonstrations against war in order to cover the retreat of the government.

The land, which France has ceded to Germany in Africa, is worth next to nothing, being known as the "house of the sleeping disease" an unhealthy fever-stricken district consisting mainly of swamps.

No wonder the German people are furious against their present rulers, who have been outwitted on every point in regard to Africa, and who have created increased ill will against Germany in France. The immediate danger of war has vanished, but the hatred against England has been given new nourishment and the people will rack their brains to discover a way of getting revenge for the humiliations suffered during the last six months.

With the greatest energy the opposition has taken every possible advantage of the present situation. Socialists and liberals are mocking a government which has acted so stupidly and created so much unrest for mere negative results, and the conservatives are furious, because they are unable to defend their government.

servative won the former election with 14,327 votes against 8,596 national liberal. This year a liberal was elected with 15,114 votes against 14,045.

Sultan of Zanzibar Will Yield to Son

London, Nov. 2.—The Sultan of Zanzibar proposes to abdicate in favor of his son.

Owing to the state of his health his highness is obliged almost every year to take a cure in France or Germany, and to leave Zanzibar under the regency of his uncle, Seyyid Khalid. In order to avoid any inconvenience to which the protectorate may be put by these repeated and enforced absences, Sultan Albin Hamud desires to be relieved of his responsibilities.

Zanzibar has been a British protectorate since 1890. In 1896 Seyyid Hamud bin Thwain died suddenly, and Seyyid Khalid, a member of the reigning family, who is not the same person as the present regent, seized the palace and proclaimed himself sultan. His pretensions were not recognized and British warships under Admiral Rawson bombarded the palace. The pretender took refuge in the German consulate and was deported to German East Africa. Hamud bin Mahomed bin Said, father of the present sultan, was placed in authority under the protection of the British government.

But for his race, Sultan Al bin Hamud might pass for an Englishman, for he has acquired the speech and the habits of the country in which he received his education. He has come to London once more to negotiate the terms of his resignation. His highness, after finishing his cure on the continent, will probably reside in Egypt, where he will be joined by the members of his family.

POPE PIUS SENDS AUTOGRAPH LETTER TO SWISS NUN

Milan, Dec. 2.—Pope Pius X. has addressed an autograph letter of admiration to an aged Swiss nun, named Frey, who during half a century of cloistered life in the Cistercian Abbey at Viterbo has gained extraordinary reputation as a clairvoyante.

Sister Frey, who is now 79 years of age, is by her own desire celebrating the golden jubilee of a sad injury of her spinal cord, which since 1861, has kept her perpetually in bed. In such a state that she is unable to move her head. The gift of prophecy and second sight wherewith she is credited has long brought a continuous stream of Bishops, Cardinals and noble ladies to visit her in her convent cell, where by the special dispensation of the Pope Mass is allowed to be celebrated.

Not only does she reveal to her visitors matters affecting their personal interests, but she is said to have predicted to Pius X. many things concerning the events of his pontificate. Two of her most amazing feats have been a vivid clairvoyant narrative to the assembled sisters of the assassination of President Carnot, and more recently of King Humbert at Monza, whilst those blood-curdling tragedies were actually taking place.

Combines Talking And Moving Pictures

Copenhagen, Dec. 2.—An invention of the Swedish engineer, Seven Berglund, in connection with talking as well as moving pictures, is exciting great interest here. The principle of the invention is to fix waves of sound on films. The indentations thus formed upon the surface of the film are transmitted to a metal wire, which is exposed to an even current of air, and thereby the sound is reconstructed as originally "photographed." At the display the picture films run alongside the sound films.

The outside of the parish house of St. Peter's Episcopal church has been completed. The interior work is progressing rapidly and will be finished for the Christmas celebrations.

FROM SLUMS OF LONDON TO GRAND OPERA STAGE

London, Dec. 2.—Less than a year ago a poverty-stricken girl of the slums of London, Stella Carol, a child protegee of Mme. Sherwin, made her first appearance as a vocalist at the Queen's Hall the other night and was unanimously acclaimed a great success.

This girl of fourteen, with a soprano voice that captivated the great singer and led Signor Caruso to prophesy a brilliant future for her, went with her sister, last Christmas Eve from her squalid home in the East End into the West End to seek coppers from the rich residents because they wanted to buy a Christmas box for their mother. Guided by good fortune they appeared outside the house of Mme. Sherwin, who, hearing the girl's tones as a servant opened the door to send the little carollers away, had her brought in, heard her sing, and got from her her pitiful story. A handsome sum was raised for the sisters by the delighted guests of Mme. Sherwin, and Stella Carol, so called because she sang carols beneath the stars, was adopted by the great singer. She has proved an apt pupil, and with a voice which has a range up to F in all she has already mastered some of the most difficult songs.

MUST APPLY FOR AUTOGRAPH ON SPECIAL STAMPED FORM.

Berlin, Dec. 2.—Because of the annoyance caused by young lady autograph hunters the actors and artists of Breslau have arrived at a drastic decision. It appears that the young ladies of the city have conceived an insatiable craze for autographs, and those of actors and vaudeville artists in particular. Not content with looking for them, they have often written to the actor whose signature they desired, and asked him to oblige them with a few lines in his own handwriting. The Silesian Association of Actors have now published the following decision:

"All applications for an autograph to an actor, artist or singer must in future be made on a special stamped form, which will be on sale at the offices of the association at the price of a mark. The money thus obtained will be devoted to the charities fund of the association."

Many Adventurous Englishmen Endeavoring To "Beat Their Way" to Turkish Fighting Line In Spite of Tremendous Obstacles in Path

London, Dec. 2.—According to Lieut. Herbert Montagu, a young probationary officer of the Royal Fusiliers, there are many adventurous Englishmen endeavoring to "beat their way" to the Turkish fighting line in spite of the tremendous obstacles in the path.

Lieut. Montagu mentions a number whom he met on the way and passed. Apparently he won the race, and was the first English adventurer to reach the front. He left London on October 2, and his earliest letter back is dated from Fort Bourge, the first Turkish garrisoned outpost in Tripoli. He had a wildly exciting trip to get there.

The only way to the land of the war, he explains, is through Europe and by sea. The route overland from the south, through Africa and across the Tripolitan border, is impossible, because the wild fighting Arabs on the borders slay everyone, not asking whether he be friend or foe.

So the young Englishman ran the gauntlet of the Italians in order to reach the Turks. At Sfax, only twelve hours' journey from his goal and safety he was almost lost.

"I was stopped and searched," he narrates in letters home; "and had I not put my papers in the seat of my trousers before landing, they would have been collared."

MOVING PICTURE MEN MUST HAVE IRON COURAGE

London, Dec. 2.—Bioscope operations are beginning to exact a death-roll which threatens to make courage almost as necessary to the operator as to the aviator.

Scarcely a week passes without an instance of the intrepidity of the moving picture man being chronicled in the newspapers. The manager of a French film parallels an African incident in which three wounded buffaloes turned on the hunter and the bioscope man, gored the latter to death, and broke the jaws of the former.

Operators in the employ of the manager's own firm have stood facing a charge of wild elephants, and taking films at the rate of sixteen a second, one elephant being killed within ten or twelve yards of the camera.

War correspondents and explorers have always taken their lives in their hands, and the man who uses the camera on the battlefield instead of the pen performs a public service. Only the other day a photographer on the staff of a London daily had an exciting time at Tripoli when he was hemmed between the Turkish and Italian lines and had to face a shower of bullets. He managed to escape, however, and was able to exclaim joyously that he had had a "fruity" day.

PRINCESS MARY TO HAVE PRIVATE READING COURSE.

London, Dec. 2.—It is stated that Princess Mary is to have a course of private reading at York cottage, Sandringham, during the next three months.

Her royal highness will be perfecting her acquaintance with French and German, and will also pay some attention to modern European history, literature and the fine arts.

There is no intention that at any time the princess should attend public lectures, and upon the return from India of the royal party the queen will resume her personal supervision of her daughter's studies.

Queen Alexandra will exercise a somewhat closer control of Princess Mary's daily routine than in the case of the Royal Princess, and will be constantly at York cottage, while the princess and her brothers will also be frequent guests of her majesty at Sandringham Hall.

What's become of the street signs? Very few of the streets have signs. A stranger within the gates wouldn't know one street from another.

Officers) who are now sailing under Italian guard for Naples, as company guard were discovered on one of them, and they bagged the lot.

"I have to be confoundedly on my guard. Some Englishmen have got through to Tripoli, I hear, and two are down with cholera. There are four more who sailed from Buba, having arrived there by camel from Gerbas; and I suppose they got through all right."

"There are five here with me in Sfax, all at different hotels. Three of them are taking a boat from here, two are coming with me, but none of them think we shall get through. Persistists!"

His plan was to cross from Sfax in a chartered juggar, run through the Turkish patrol, land on the coast of a good way from Tripoli and then make across the desert to the Turkish post. But his first essay met dismal failure, because his little craft was sighted by a gunboat.

"There was a regular stampede to aboutship," he writes. "That confounded gunboat chased us for heaven knows how long, and fired half a dozen shots, but as we were almost invisible in the gloom the shots went about a quarter of a mile wide. It was funny to see the sailors on our old cockle-shell fairly buzz down at the engine-room to lend a hand at firing, and, pon my word, the old tub moved

FEAR OF IMPENDING RAILROAD STRIKE GRIPS ENGLAND

December Twelfth Will Disclose Result of Ballot Railroad Unions are Holding—Strike at Christmas Would be Calamitous.

Vienna, Dec. 2.—The Emperor Francis Joseph is noted by his many acts of unostentatious charity to men and women in reduced circumstances and one such case has come to light.

Some years ago Herr Moritz Washermann, a wealthy member of the Hungarian parliament, rendered effective service to the country at a time of crisis. His sons, however, succeeded in dissipating the fortune left them, the youngest, Ernest Wahrmann, committing suicide.

Richard, the elder son, was also heavily in debt, but it appears that the emperor out of his own private purse paid all his debts and gave him a substantial sum on condition that he go to the United States and start

PROGRESS OF URBANITY IN GERMANY

Berlin, Dec. 2.—The progress of urbanity—the art of living in a city—which is taking place among modern Germans is illustrated by the movement for modifying, or altogether abolishing, the "German salute." Under the expression is meant the traditional German fashion of taking off the hat on occasions of meeting or separation.

It is a highly elaborate performance, suggesting military precision the close of a vendetta, and the intimation of indifference as to whether the parties will or will not ever meet again. It is executed in three motions, the first being the raising of the hat with stiffly-extended arm, the second the lowering of it with a downward cutting motion to the knee, and the third the similarly executed replacement on the head. The action between adults appears formal enough to draw a smile from foreigners of easier manners, but it becomes laughable when practiced with all gravity between a pair of schoolboys or college students.

In Germany it is etiquette for the gentleman meeting a lady of his acquaintance in the street to take off his hat to her first. In Anglo-Saxon countries the contrary is the practice, and the Englishwoman in Berlin is often not a little surprised by elaborate salutations from men whom she may have only the very haziest recollection.

STRANGE CASE OF ARTISTIC PIRACY.

Paris, Dec. 2.—A strange case of what is alleged to be artistic piracy has just come to light. Nine years ago M. Julien Bucas, a French artist, made the acquaintance of an Austrian named Rudolf Quittner, who manifested an extreme interest in his work, saying that he was a wealthy Vienna manufacturer much interested in painting.

He brought a large number of M. Bucas's picture at a moderate price, and declared that he would make the painter's name known in Germany and Austria. In six years M. Bucas said his Austrian friend, from 150 to 200 paintings. M. Bucas was rather surprised some time ago to hear that Herr Quittner had been awarded a medal for a picture hung in the Paris Salon, and a fortnight ago discovered that an exhibition of Herr Quittner's pictures was being held at an art gallery in Paris.

On visiting the exhibition he was stupefied to recognize a number of his own paintings with his name erased and replaced by that of Herr Quittner. The Austrian had died in the meantime, and as M. Bucas could not obtain satisfaction from the widow, he went to the police. The authorities searched Frau Quittner's house at Neuilly, a suburb of Paris. About forty paintings were discovered, the majority of them still bearing the name of M. Bucas, but in the case of a few the name of Quittner had been painted in.

M. Bucas claims to possess irrefutable evidence that he is the author of the picture in the shape of photographs taken of them in his studio at the time they were painted, and the testimony of friends who saw him at work on the paintings.

BEGGAR'S OLD COAT PADDED WITH \$25,000 IN BANK NOTES

Geneva, Dec. 2.—An old man has been arrested for begging in the street at Moulon, near St. Gall, and on being searched the police found that his old coat was padded with bank notes—between the lining and the cloth—to the value of \$25,000.

The mysterious beggar who was in a filthy condition and half starved refused to give his name, but stated that many years ago he inherited \$20,000, and swearing not to spend a sou of the sum, he started begging. He would not say how he obtained the remaining sum, but said it was all right. The old man has been sent to the hospital at St. Gall.

EMPEROR FRANCIS JOSEPH NOTED FOR PHILANTHROPY.

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ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY HAS NEWS OF IMPORTANT COAL DISCOVERIES IN WILDS OF NEW GUINEA—FIVE MILLION POUNDS AWAITING HEIR.

London, Dec. 2.—With considerable anxiety the whole country is looking forward to the twelfth of December, the eventful day on which the result of the ballot of the members of the four great railroad unions will be made known from their headquarters, Unity House in Euston Road. Are we to have another railroad strike, greater and more formidable than any the country has ever seen? This is the all important question of the moment, for a strike declared now, a few weeks before Christmas, when every business house in the country is working at high pressure, would be a national calamity indeed.

The railroad employees themselves are evidently in dead earnest, the ballot is going on in an orderly fashion all over the country, but there are signs which portend the calamity that the whole nation dread. When the ballot papers were sent out some three weeks ago the Swansea Railroad men's joint committee unanimously recommended that the whole of the ballot papers be returned en bloc and that the members call upon the joint executives, at once to declare a national strike, full recognition of the unions, a minimum wage and a reduction of working hours.

The Sheffield strike committee passed a resolution condemning the action of the joint committee in asking the government to bring the representatives of the companies and the unions together, "seeing that the commission's report has been rejected by the men in mass meetings all over the country." The committee calls upon all railroadmen to vote for direct recognition and a national program.

Though the railroad strike if it does come is not expected to be accompanied by serious disturbances or sabotage the authorities are naturally preparing for it and as it is the intention of the government to employ the military as little as possible the newly-raised volunteer police force in London and the special constables enrolled by the home office are at present receiving a thorough training for their duties.

Of these two forces the volunteer police is undoubtedly the most interesting because it is to be a permanent body, which is being officered and drilled ready to go on duty at a moment's notice. More than 50,000 applications for enrollment have already been received from people in all walks of life. It is to be divided into companies of 120 each under the command of a captain, two lieutenants and ten sergeants.

An adjutant will command each district. The minimum age for entrance is 18, and a certificate of fitness is essentially required.

We are disregarding social status absolutely," said the secretary, "in the allotment of posts. We have one company captained by a foreman with the help of a lord as senior lieutenant."

"The motto of the force is 'law and order,' and to obtain that we shall use all peaceable means of persuasion and discussion, but we are prepared to meet force by force, if necessary."

"If a railroad strike happens within the next fortnight we shall have an efficient body of men ready to cooperate with the railroad companies, and having two great objects in view—the ensuring of the people's food supply, and the protection of all those men who desire to continue working. In any serious public disturbance we should place ourselves under the orders of the police and act as ordinary constables."

Coal in New Guinea. The Royal Geographical Society has received news of an important discovery of coal in the wilds of New Guinea—one of the many romantic made during a daring and unexplored expedition in Central Papua undertaken by Mr. Donald Mackay and Mr. William Little.

According to a detailed narrative of the expedition a start was made from Yule Island, which was reached in the government steamer "Merrie England." The travelers were transported to the mainland in whale boats. Various creeks were crossed and it was in these that coal was found. It appeared to be of excellent quality. On the journey up the Purari river heavy rains were experienced, and it was difficult to make headway, especially in the rapids. Natives were met with, but they were not altogether unfriendly.

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Cuban Chess Champion In Remarkable Feat

Paris, Dec. 2.—Senor Capablanca, the young chess champion accomplished a remarkable feat in simultaneous chess playing at the Automobile Club of France. Against him were pitted 40 of the best players in Paris, and in the hollow square formed by their tables Senor Capablanca moved for four hours from one adversary to another, playing with a rapidity and a skill that were simply admirable.

In this extraordinary tournament Senor Capablanca lost only one game and won 37 out of 40. The winner of the single game lost by the champion was M. Basile S. Samsonoff, a young law student.



ITALIANS SHOOTING DOWN ARABS. Clearing the villages at Tripoli, from a sketch in the Illustrated London News. This picture shows the Italians shooting down the Arabs during the campaign in the oasis a suburb of Tripoli.

Fi... S... M... IMPO... Bills... Ame... Trust... Arbi... Great... Par... Ship... Bill... Reform... Esta... partme... bor... ment a... me Ca... Bills... tion B... Washi... a sessi... in the a... tion atten... session of... Democrat... republica... the sessi... dental of... protracted... Gr... There a... session w... A great i... side apar... played, an... approach... and the m... will cause... labor at... Much o... sion, wh... in order... procity au... again. Th... revision h... and the b... fact once m... De... The de... ty in th...