

CROWNING OF A GIRL AS QUEEN.

It is surely woman's era when three queens rule as many nations of Europe, says an Amsterdam letter. This will be the case when the next great event of the year will have passed into history by the installation as Queen of the Netherlands of Wilhelmina, daughter of the late King William III, and his second wife, Princess Emma. The ceremony of crowning the girl Queen of the Netherlands will take place in the New church, Amsterdam on Sept. 6.

To grow up with the eyes of a nation watching for the girl to develop and rejoicing as she changes from a pretty child into an unusually attractive woman is a lot that anyone might envy. Such has been the life of Wilhelmina. Her budding beauty has been raved over and written about as few other young women's looks have been; her mental qualities have been praised in the way to turn the head of a less vain young person, and, in a word, she has been the idol of the nation and the pride of every Dutchman since she first won their hearts as a cute little child of 7 riding a pretty little Shetland pony. Now that the time has come when she is to leave childhood behind and become the woman and the queen the picture she presents is one that the nation respects as well as loves. For Wilhelmina is a dignified miss, who knows how to deport herself when the public eye is upon her and great functionaries of state are paying her homage.

She will have need of all her self-possession on Sept. 6, however, for the ordeal will be a trying one. Wilhelmina is supposed to come of age on that date. As a usual thing boys and girls of the Netherlands do not come of age until they are 23, but in this case Wilhelmina being a queen, is allowed to come of age on her eighteenth birthday. On Aug. 31, therefore, the queen regent will cease to rule and Wilhelmina will become Queen of the Netherlands, although her coronation will not take place until Sept. 6.

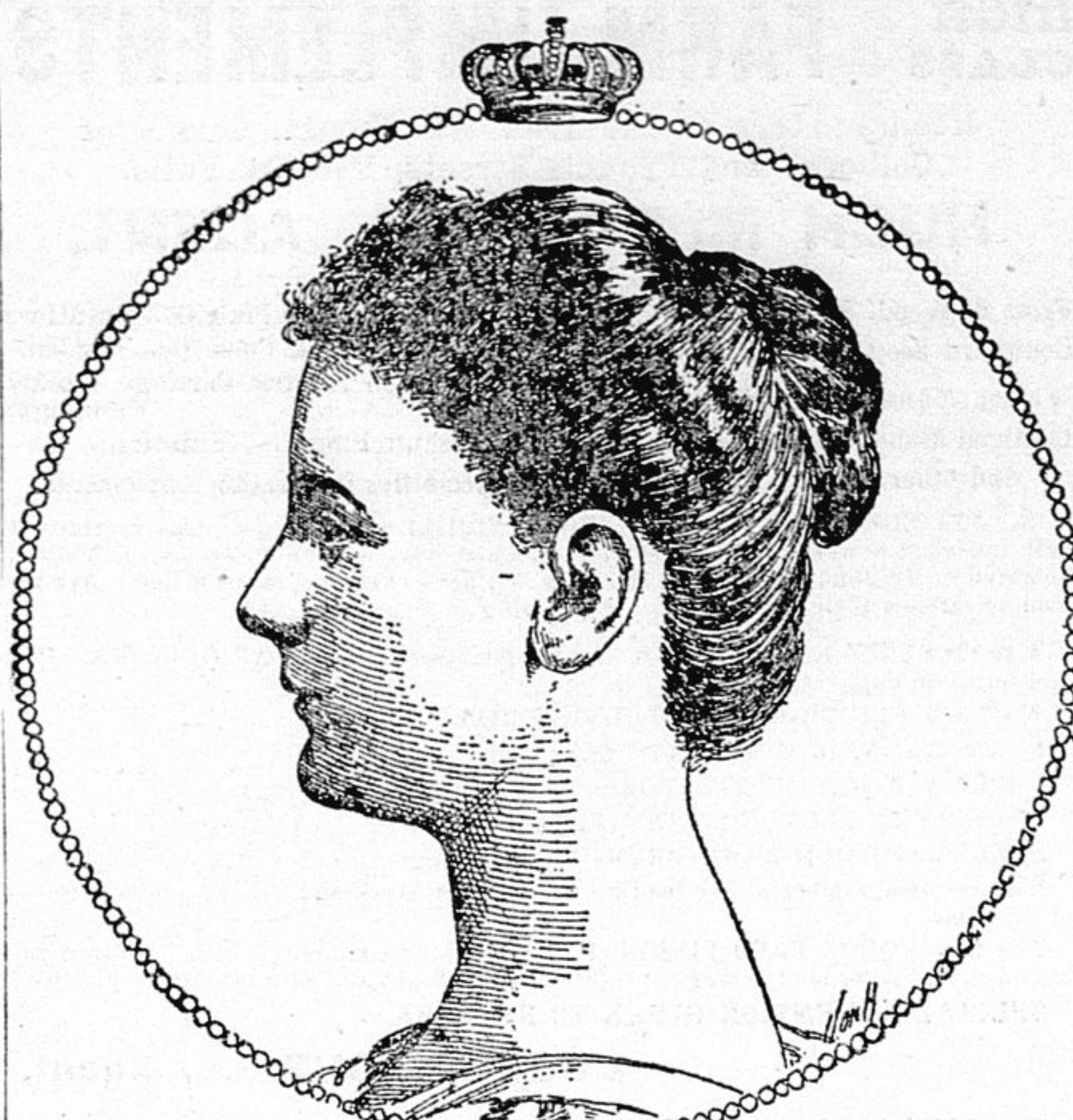
The programme is already arranged. The queen and the queen regent are to leave the Hague, where the birthday of the former will have been suitably celebrated a few days previously, on Sept. 5, early in the afternoon. Arriving at the Weesperpoort station at Amsterdam they will be met by the leading citizens and representatives of the government, and accompanied by an escort of hussars will be driven to the palace by a route sufficiently circuitous to enable a vast concourse of spectators to witness the procession. In every street to be traversed the decorations will be of the most ornate description, and loyal greetings will meet her majesty's eye at every turn, while a portion of the route, it is expected, will be lined by representatives of "labor corporations" carrying their respective banners.

Between the hours of 7 and 8 on the following morning, Sept. 6, curious music will fall upon the ears of citizens, for from the steeples of the different churches trumpeters are to play excerpts from sacred works—surely a novel departure in reveilles.

At 11 o'clock on the same day, according to present arrangements, the coronation services will take place in the Nieuwe Kerk, but the details of the ceremonial have yet to be discussed and brought to completion. In the afternoon the queen will again drive through the town, and will visit, among other districts, the Jordan, this being the Jewish quarter. With the fall of night the city is to be illuminated, a brilliant display being anticipated, while it is also expected that the queen herself will be driven through the streets, in order that she may see the bright and radiant devices prepared in her honor.

The following morning, like the day previous, will be ushered in with similar strains, while at 10 a.m. Queen Wilhelmina is to be serenaded by the Netherlands Choral Society. The afternoon will witness the great popular festival, near that wondrous museum which contains Rembrandt's masterpiece. From the square the queen, accompanied by her mother, will witness an allegorical and historical procession, which is being organized on an elaborate scale, to illustrate in picturesque fashion the principal episodes and stirring events, from the period of the eighty years' war down to the nineteenth century, that have marked the history of a nation which, despite its many and strange vicissitudes, has attained such solid glory.

After this interesting pageant has passed before the eyes of the people, the men, women and children of Amsterdam are promised an opportunity of making merry over a "water carnival," in connection with which the craft in the harbor and canals will be gayly and tastefully illuminated. From a pavilion to be erected on the West Indian pier the queen will view this festival, and on the next day Sept. 8, she will, it is believed, pay a visit in company with her mother to that section of the Ryx Museum which is devoted to objects of interest connected with the house of Orange. Another exhibition will probably be visited during the afternoon, while their majesties have also arranged to attend a "matinee musicale," to be given by the Dutch Musicians' Association in the concert hall. At night there will be a gala performance in the town theater, which will be beautifully decorated for the



QUEEN WILHELMINA, OF HOLLAND.

occasion. On the following morning, Sept. 9, the departure of the queen and the queen-mother will be made from the Central station, and there will be an end to revelries and rejoicings that bid fair to be memorable in the annals of the country of Mynheer Van Dunck. It remains to be seen to what extent Englishmen and other foreigners will make an incursion into Holland on the occasion of the approaching festivities, but certain it is that no one who embraces this opportunity of becoming acquainted with that interesting country will leave it with the words employed by Voltaire to express his cynical indifference to its undoubted charms.

How they are ever going to accommodate the people who will flock to this town on the occasion of the coronation is a mystery. The statement is now put forward in various quarters that ever since the beginning of the year the space at the disposal of every hotel of repute has been bespoken for the period of the coming festivities. This circumstance, remarkable enough in itself, suggests the probability of a very knotty problem having to be solved, while it also brings to mind incidentally the anomaly of a city of half a million inhabitants, and a "moving population" too large to be satisfactorily estimated being possessed of not more than half a dozen hotels of the first class. Those that do not belong to this order are excellent enough, to be sure, but the lack of suitable accommodation in Amsterdam has brought about in connection with the impending ceremonies a curious state of things, in that it has precluded the issuing of invitations by the government to the heads and representatives of other countries. Now, it is a fact that need scarcely be insisted upon that you cannot very well invite, say, a crowned head to the capital of your kingdom upon an occasion of the utmost state and then allow that illustrious personage to run any risk in respect of the conditions of comfort under which the visit is likely to be paid. The plain truth of the matter, as an influential resident here has explained to me, is this—that, although, as might not un-naturally be supposed, there are enough suitable buildings in Amsterdam to house a certain number of royal and other distinguished guests, and the members of their suites, the number is insufficient to enable all those to be invited whose rank or position entitles them to such a compliment, and inasmuch as to make exceptions would be to offer a serious affront to those who remained unbidden, it has been wisely decided by the high officials in whose hands the arrangements for the ceremony are placed to extend no invitations of the kind indicated.

On the other hand it is hardly necessary to point out that persons of an exalted station, representatives of states, chiefs or governments, and others of high degree, who desire to show their good will toward the youthful sovereign by attending the coronation service will be made heartily welcome and accorded an official reception fully in consonance with their positions and the honor that is due to them.

"What is the use of getting anxious?" said a citizen to me with an apparent unconcern typical of his race when I referred to the inconvenience that might arise from the universal desire to honor Queen Wilhelmina. "What is the use?" he repeated with a shrug of his shoulders, and added, "All I know is that I shall be there and mean to see it all." At the same time, as will be observed, there are many residents in the "Dyke of the Amstel" who manifestly have a less touching truthfulness in their own powers of over-riding obstacles than the long looked for day arrives. So it happens that a brisk trade is being carried on by townsfolk who have the good fortune to occupy buildings at convenient sites in the disposal of rooms from which to view the state procession, which is to form an important feature in the approaching festivities. In the principal arteries I find that two-window rooms have been bespoken for sums varying from 500 to 1,000 guilders (roughly speaking, from \$200 to \$400), while in the case of a sartorial establishment in the Dam, overlooking the front of the royal palace, accommodation has brought as much as \$1,000 for the chief day of the celebration.

It is worthy of note, by the way,

that in certain streets grand stands are to be erected by the local authorities for the benefit of "the people," and for these seats a fixed and nominal sum will, it is understood, be charged.

The Nieuwe Kerk, in which the coronation ceremonies will take place, is uncompromising in its plainness, but possesses, apart from a simple dignity that at once impresses the visitor, not a few memorials beautiful in themselves and also interesting as illustrative of deeds of glorious valor in the history of the country. There is still to be seen the laurel wreath, long since faded, which the German emperor himself on the occasion of his last visit placed on the monument of Admiral de Ruyter, while another notable memorial is that erected to perpetuate the heroism of Lieutenant Van Speyk, who, as the inscription in Dutch recalls, blew up his ship before Antwerp to save the honor of his country's flag. The anticipation of the solemn service on Sept. 6, the date of the "installation," some important internal alterations are now being carried out, notably the removal of the wooden seats immediately fronting the brass screen which divides the "court of marriages" from the body of the church. A site will then be provided for the dais upon which the queen will sit, surrounded by the members of the government and the high officials of her court, during the service. Upon this occasion will be unveiled on the south side of the edifice the stained glass commemorative window depicting the queen's illustrious ancestors of the house of Orange, which is to be placed in the church by public subscription as a mark of the city's loyalty and affection.

On the side facing the exquisitely carved, chalice-shaped pulpit are the pews which will be occupied respectively by the queen regent, with her maids of honor, the members of the queen's court, and the mayor, with the civic officials accompanying him. Escorted by the highest dignitaries of state and preceded by the officials to whom falls the honor of carrying the crown, the scepter, the cross-surmounted golden ball and the other glittering symbols of authority, her majesty entering by the doors reached from the Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal, will walk up the center of the nave, and then take her place on the dais. Here, after a sermon has been preached probably by the oldest of the four ministers attached to the kerk, Queen Wilhelmina will take the oath in the words prescribed by custom, swearing to "defend and preserve with all her power the independence and territory of the kingdom, to protect the general and individual liberties of her subjects and to employ all the means placed within her power by the constitution to maintain and promote the welfare of her people." This and other formalities over, the first knight-at-arms, will duly proclaim Wilhelmina Helena Pauline Maria to be Queen of the Netherlands, and a flourish of trumpets, a roll of military drums and the clanging of church bells will announce to the inhabitants of the city that the great and eventful ceremony has reached its close.

NAVAL MANEUVERING.

The Father—That young man who used to call on you and stay so late is in the navy now. I understand?

The Daughter—Yes, papa; and think of it! His boat has been disabled! The last time I saw him he was being towed in.

Well, don't let me see him around here at all hours of the night or you will see him toed out.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE.

She—I really think it was bad taste in you to drink so much wine at the dinner last evening.

He—O, I suppose so. But really I didn't realize the bad taste till I awoke this morning. It was something horrible.

DIABOLICAL SELF-REPRESSION.

Greymair—My wife didn't say a word when I got home so late the other morning.

Butterhaws—That was kind. As I was saying, she didn't say a word when I got home. She waited until I got sleepy.

WORLD OF NEWSPAPERS.

HOW NEWS SELLING HAS GROWN IN THE LAST CENTURY.

When the First Sheet Was Issued—Paper With a Circulation of a Million—One With Three Copies Daily.

There are very few people out of the millions of newspaper readers who have any idea of the number of newspapers that are published daily throughout the world, and fewer still have any knowledge of the large variety of languages employed in their production. A census of the world's newspapers has been found to be almost an impossibility, on account of the extraordinary rate at which they come and go. The ups and downs in the history of journalism are interesting and instructive, but exceedingly mystifying to any one who strives after even approximate figures. To-day they are, and to-morrow their place on the news-stand knows them no more. As an illustration of this, the fact may be stated that, on an average, two new papers come out every week in London, and that almost an equal number disappear from the scene. According to the most recent and carefully collected statistics, there are now no fewer than 5,410 regularly published daily newspapers, of which 2,110, or nearly two-fifths of the whole number, are issued in the United States.

The number and variety of languages employed in the entire list of the world's newspapers are astonishing. Not all the daily papers are confined to one language. Some are printed in two and some in three different languages each issue. In all there are

EIGHTY-ONE LANGUAGES

employed. They are as follows: Arabic, Armenian, Albanian, Assamese, Basque, Bengali, Bohemian, Bulgarian, Burmese, Cnanesse, Cherokee Creek, Croatian, Chinese, Czechish, Danish Dutch or Hollandish, English, Estnish, French, Flemish, Frisian, Fiji, Finnish, Grusian Georgian, German, Gaelic, Gujarati, Guarani, ancient and modern Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Hindustani, Hawaiian, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, Javanese, Kaffir or Xosa, Kalmuk, Korean, Latin, Lapp, Lettish or Livonian, Magyar, Malay, Malagasi, Maori, Maltese, Marathi, Norwegian, Persian, Portuguese, Provencal, Polish, Rouman, Romanese, Russian, Ruthenian, Sardinian, Slavonic, Servian, Siamese, Swedish, Spanish, Slovak, Sinhales, Slovenian, Sioux, Syriac, Tartar, Tamil, Telugu, Turkish, Tschwaschian, Urdu, Volapuk and Welsh.

The total number of newspapers of all kinds that are published throughout the world is now estimated at 42,800, the annual aggregate circulation of which is calculated to be twelve thousand million copies—12,000,000,000. These 42,800 papers are distributed about as follows: United States, 19,700; Great Britain, 6,050; Germany, 5,450; France, 4,000; Italy, 1,400; Austria-Hungary, 1,200; Russia, 815; Canada, 870; Japan, 770; Greece, 580; Spain, 850; Belgium, 300; Holland, 300; Switzerland, 450; Portugal, 50; Egypt, 36; China, 40; Persia, 8; Australasia, 350.

The question as to which country furnished the first newspaper publication has never been satisfactorily settled. Germany, France, Belgium and England each claim the honor. The difficulty of arriving at a proper solution of the question seems to turn upon what is to be considered a newspaper, and a general agreement upon that question has not as yet been effected. There are in the British Museum copies of many early English papers, the oldest being what was known as

THE WEEKLY NEWS

published in London in 1622. This paper continued until January 9, 1640, when it was succeeded by the Mercury. The earliest of the papers published in Germany, according to the most veracious account, was Die Frankfurter Oberpostamt Zeitung, 1615. The following year a paper published at irregular intervals appeared at Antwerp. In 1643 the first Swedish paper was started in Stockholm. During the latter part of the seventeenth century and the beginning of the eighteenth centuries a number of newspapers made their appearance in England and in various parts of the continent. These papers seldom consisted of more than two small pages or leaflets of text, and in this limited space was comprised all the foreign intelligence covering a period of several days, while a considerable portion of the second page was devoted to advertisements. The first Russian newspaper, Moskovski Vyedomosti, was published under the personal supervision of Peter the Great, January 2, 1763, and in the imperial library at St. Petersburg there are now treasured up some proof sheets with corrections made by Peter the Great himself.

On the North American continent the publication of newspapers began with the Boston News Letter, April 24, 1764. A sheet known as Public Occurrences, Foreign and Domestic, was issued in Boston in 1690, but it cannot be said that it was really a newspaper. In 1719 the Boston Gazette was started as a rival of the News Letter. Then the New England Courant appeared, 1721, and in 1732 the Rhode Island Gazette. On October 16, 1725, the first newspaper in New York city, the Gazette, was started, and in 1730 the Weekly Journal came out. Of the New York papers at

the present time, the oldest is the Commercial Advertiser, which was started in 1797. The Evening Post comes next, dating from 1801. The

FIRST CANADIAN PAPER

was the Halifax Gazette, in 1763. At the beginning of the present century there were ninety-one newspapers published in the United States, as against 17,760 at the beginning of 1897.

In 1894 the Morning Advertiser of London celebrated its centenary, and this brought to light the fact that there were at that time in the United Kingdom no fewer than 79 newspapers and periodicals which had passed the century.

France is extremely well supplied with newspapers. There are 78 dailies published in Paris, which is more than in any other city in the world, and almost as many as London, New York and Philadelphia put together. La Gazette de France is one of the oldest French papers, having been founded under Louis XIII. in 1632. Two other newspapers, La Moniteur Universel and La Journal des Debats are centenarians, dating from 1789. Le Petit Journal, the well-known five centime journal, enjoys the honor and distinction of having the largest circulation of any newspaper in the world. This circulation averages about one million copies per day, and on days when news of special interest is expected the issue runs up from 1,100,000 to 1,200,000. The paper with the smallest circulation is the Imperial Review, published for the sole benefit of the Emperor of Austria. It is made up from translations of all the principal items in the prominent European papers, and three copies only are made each day.

WELSH COAL STRIKE.

As Stubborn as the Fight of the English Engineers.

A London correspondent writes: The strike of the Welsh colliers is beginning to match that of the engineers in stubborn persistence. It is nearly sixteen weeks now since the miners quit work, and thus far every effort to bring masters and men even into real negotiation has failed. The owners and managers of the collieries have taken their cue from the successful masters in the engineering strike. They set in all respects as one body, which is determined above all else to permit no interference from a third party in the control of its business. They refuse, for example, to deal with the miners, through an umpire mutually chosen, and they are scarcely more tolerant of an arbitrator or conciliator designated by the Government. Under a recent act the president of the Board of Trade has the power to attempt the settlement of strikes by such means, and under pressure from the Welsh members of Parliament, he named a "conciliator" for the pending troubles. His choice was a man highly esteemed for fairness and breadth of view, and familiar with conditions in the Welsh coal fields. The miners were willing to accept his mediation, the masters regarded it as an infringement of their right to conduct their own affairs, treated the "conciliator" with bare courtesy, and so left him impotent. They purpose apparently to deal only with their whilom workmen, and, if possible, with them as the employees of separate collieries. The men in their turn, divided in opinion, and distrusting one another, hesitate, seemingly, to give any of their number full power to act for them.

Thus the struggle continues in sullen obstinacy, with increasing distress, though without violence, through all South Wales, and with more and more detriment to industries accustomed to the use of Welsh coal. Consequences of this sort have not been as numerous and as widespread as were those of the engineer strike since in the pinch other coal has been used. Already, however, the want of Welsh coal has caused the abandonment of the usual naval manoeuvres, put steamship companies as far east as India and China to grave inconvenience, choked London with unusual clouds of black smoke from other fuel, and necessitated the closing of many factories unable to find suitable coal outside the Welsh fields. The matter in dispute seems meet for settlement by compromise. The masters insist upon the continuance of a sliding scale, dependent upon the price of coal, as the basis of wages. The miners are willing to accept a sliding scale, with a fixed minimum—the so-called living wage—below which their pay must not fall. The real difficulty in the way is the refusal of the masters to deal with the men through intermediaries, and the reluctance of the men to clothe any representative with adequate powers.

SATISFIED WITH RESULTS.

Mrs. Browne—Are you satisfied with the results of your daughter's course at college?

Mrs. White—Quite so; she is going to marry one of the professors.

HE KNEW STIGGINS.

Stiggins—Bromlert is a man I can't bear.

Wiggins—What did Bromlert ever do for you?

PLACING HIS SYMPATHY.

I see the Spaniards at Matanzas are compelled to eat their mules to keep from starving, remarked the short man as he laid aside the paper.

Yes, I was just reading about it. It is too bad, I actually feel sorry for 'em.

Who, the Spaniards? No, the mules.