

THE FUTURE OF GERMANY.

Herr Windthorst's Party for Peace and the Emperor's Reforms.

THE KAISER CARRIES THE FLAG.

Social Reform the Paramount Question—Sorry the U. S. and Russia Were Not Represented at the Labor Conference.—Viennese Sentiment.

A Berlin special says: The new Reichstag will contain three great political groups, two in deadly opposition to each other, the third holding a sort of middle position between them. The first two parties are the remnants of the Cartel group, sprung during the recent elections from 214 votes to 137, and the left, or opposition, grown recently from a band of 55 to one of 127. The third party is the centre or clerical Roman Catholic party. It includes ten delegates from Alsace-Lorraine and sixteen Poles. It has certain definite aims to which it has always remained true. It believes in religious instruction in schools and the entire freedom of the Roman Catholic Church in Germany. It preserves its political independence and either opposes the Government or supports it as it deems best. Its mouthpiece is Ludwig Von Windthorst, ex-Minister of the old kingdom of Hanover, the only man who ever held his own with Prince Bismarck on the Reichstag floor. He is a contemporary of the Prince. Herr Von Windthorst was born January 17th, 1812. He is a small slight man with wrinkled face from which shine forth two eyes, brimful of intelligence, kindness, courage and humor. In the Reichstag his party holds the balance of power. With Bismarck away, Windthorst is the best parliamentarian and the best debater on the floor. In an interview yesterday, Herr Windthorst said: Our great object at the elections was the defeat of the Cartel party. To achieve that we strained every nerve. Nothing was neglected. We remained victors and the Cartel party has ceased to exist. The individual parties composing it and other parties are entirely independent, and in the new Reichstag new groups must be formed. No permanent coalitions will be made by the Centre party, only certain combinations from time to time as necessity may arise. The Centre stands in the middle between all parties, and will accept the support of any other party which, under certain contingencies arise, it may deem best able to support it. There is no question of a systematic opposition to the Government on our part. The Centre would much prefer to further the affairs of Germany by a mutual good understanding with the Government without of course conceding a single one of their principles. We will especially support with the entire strength of our party the policy of social reform inaugurated by the Kaiser. With good will on both sides affairs will go on with perfect smoothness. Most important is that all without regard to party standpoint, should rally to the support of society and the Government and protect them against every attack. The new Reichstag will support the Peace policy of the Government to the best of its ability. Germany's interests are those of peace, and can be furthered by peace and by peace alone. The new Reichstag will be able to protect the independence and security of the country from all attacks whatsoever from whatever side they may come. The idea of social reform will develop more and more. I am sorry Russia and America did not take part in the Labor Conference. Every State where there is not slavery, but free labor, is interested in the result of this conference. I and my friends were delighted at the Kaiser's having taken the initiative now, as the Pope had before. In this matter the Pope and the Kaiser are as one. The agitation that leads to Socialism and Nihilism exists also where slavery exists, as in the East, only there it is not on the surface. Of a million votes cast for the Socialist candidates here I do not believe more than 10, or at least 15, per cent. came from genuine social democrats. The larger portion were cast by workmen, who think that the success of Socialism would benefit their condition, and who form the dissatisfied elements. I hope and pray for the success of the labor conference. It is impossible for one nation alone to do much to improve the condition of the workingmen. If I had been President of the United States I should have sent one of the ablest men in the country over to watch and report about the success of the conference. Social reform is the most important question at the end of this century, as the question of civil rights was of the last century. It is no time for anyone to pull his nighthead over his eyes. The Kaiser carries the flag; we march behind him. We are in earnest.

Count Kalnoky, the Imperial Prime Minister, has suggested that a conference be held between the Emperor William, Emperor Francis Joseph and King Humbert, as the only means of allaying anxiety prevailing in Austria and Italy in regard to the situation arising from Prince Bismarck's resignation. It is hoped Emperor William will agree to attend such a conference, and that he will bring with him Gen. Von Caprivi, the new Chancellor. Count Kalnoky and Signor Crispi, the Italian Prime Minister would also be present at the conference in case Chancellor Von Caprivi attended. The Austrian Government considers that Emperor William's declaration to attend such a conference would cause trouble and uneasiness throughout Europe, especially would this be the case in the Balkan States, in regard to which it is reported that the Governments of Russia and Germany are tending to agreement at the expense of Bulgaria.

She Wanted to be Fashionable.
Grocer—What kind of tea did you ask for, madam?
Customer—Five o'clock tea, please. I hear that's the most stylish now.
A social philosopher has discovered that men wear long hair only in countries where women are under complete subjugation.

WHY DID HE LEAVE?

This is the Question Woodstock Asks About Pickthall.

WRITS ISSUED AGAINST HIM

His Prevarications—He Has an Alias—Murray Thinks There May be Other Victims—Mrs. Birchell.

A Woodstock despatch says: There is nothing new in reference to Birchell-to-day, but curiosity and speculation over the mysterious disappearance of Pickthall, the young Englishman, who disappeared on February 10th, and his probable connection with Birchell appears to be increasing. A young lady, a member of a well-known family, living a few miles from here, who is well acquainted with Pickthall, stated to-day that on the morning of February 12th she was in Woodstock, and while standing in front of John White & Co's. dry goods store sometime, she saw Pickthall drive up Finkle street in his own buggy. He turned down Dundas street east. His manner suggested to her mind the idea that he did not wish to be observed. She is

that being the only day of the week she was in town. This is the day on which Mr. Francis, editor of the Times, saw Pickthall, the date being fixed clearly and beyond doubt by various facts which he has already mentioned. Now, on the Metropolitan Hotel register, New York, on the 11th of February, the name "H. A. Jackson, New York," appears, but he was not assigned to a room. On the 13th, however, the register shows a poorly written signature "H. Jackson, Buffalo," who was given room 265. The books show that he settled his bill on February 14th, but he evidently changed his mind as to his movements and remained on till February 17th. Here, then, are some curious dates and facts: Pickthall left Woodstock on the 5:20 train, Monday afternoon, February 10th. He was seen by Mr. W. H. Van Ingen, collector of customs of Woodstock, at the Bridge that evening. He stated that he was going to New York to meet one of his sisters who was coming out to live with him.

as was probably another statement that he was then looking for a young man from Woodstock. The next day, February 11th, he registers in New York as H. A. Jackson. The next day (Wednesday, the 12th) he is seen in Woodstock by two persons who know him well, one of whom spoke to him, and both of whom have no doubt whatever about the date. The next day, the 13th, he again appears to register in New York as H. Jackson, Buffalo. On the 14th, the day on which the Birchell-Benwell party arrived, he settles his bill at the hotel, but remained there until the 17th, the day when Birchell and Benwell are seen at Eastwood. After the 17th February Pickthall's whereabouts was a mystery until the 23rd, when a telegram reached here from him from Tucson, Arizona. Following this a letter arrived on March 2nd. In these he declares that he had lost his money and was in need of funds, but does not clear up the mystery of his departure. His friends, who have the telegram and letters, declare that there is nothing in them to throw any light upon the mystery, and that they know of no other facts that will.

Nothing more is heard of him until on March 14th, a New York World reporter interviews him at Tucson. The interview is clearly genuine, but the same cannot be said of Pickthall's alleged reason for leaving Woodstock. He declares that he arrived in New York on the 11th and left for California on the 14th. It is now six weeks since he disappeared, during one month of which his name has been constantly connected with the Birchell-Benwell mystery, which he must know all about by letter and from the newspapers. Still he has not returned, nor offered any reason for going away. If he is in Tucson, is sane and innocent of crime, why does he not return and let the world know it? The more the mystery is looked into the stranger it seems.

The business agencies of Toronto received word yesterday that writs had been issued by two Woodstock firms against Mr. Neville T. Pickthall. When Mr. Pickthall first left Woodstock the reason given was business embarrassments, and that he did not wish personal service. It appears now that there must have been some truth in this statement. The firms that have issued writs against him are Messrs. White & Co. and Mr. T. H. Parker.

A special from Hurley, Wis., says: A big fire is raging in the Germania mine and five men have been burned to death. It was about midnight when the fire was discovered in No. 2 shaft at the third level. The alarm was quickly given to the men at work in the mine. In spite of their efforts to escape, five of the men at work between the fifth and sixth levels in the same shaft were cut off. The fire burned fiercely, and soon found its way to the surface and destroyed the engine and boiler house. The entire timbering of the shaft and the rooms in that part of the mine will be destroyed. Waller came to the surface once and returned to look for his companions, and there is no doubt he was suffocated and fell down the shaft. The bodies of Thomas and his son were found shortly before noon. The loss so far will reach \$100,000.

Husband—Those people living next door are newly married, aren't they?
Wife—What makes you think so?
Husband—I see the husband is doing the housework.
In a fashionable dry goods store: First lady—What possessed you to buy them? You've got heaps of stockings at home. Second lady—I know I have, but he told me these were below cost.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

OTTAWA, March — [The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time: Respecting the Ontario Pacific Railway Company—Mr. Bergin. To prevent the disclosure of official documents—Sir Adolphe Caron. Mr. Charlton asked when the Government proposed to lay on the table the promised papers dealing with the reference of the Jesuit Estates Act to the law officers of the Crown. Sir John Macdonald—I have brought them down to-day.

Mr. Haggart, replying to Mr. Landerkin, said it was not the intention of the Government to guarantee the safe delivery of registered letters. Mr. McMillan (Huron), in moving that it is expedient to remove the duty on artificial fertilizers and place them on the free list, said that this was proposed for the relief of farmers. In the past Canada had not required to use artificial fertilizers. Last year the quantity of artificial fertilizers manufactured in Canada was only 500 tons, notwithstanding the protection. Farmers were suffering more than any other class of the community, and were getting no assistance from the Government. At present the use of artificial fertilizers was experimental. Every farmer must experiment on his own farm, and should be given every opportunity to do so. It was said that this was assailing the National Policy. He denied this, but if this request for relief was an attack on the National Policy, the sooner the agricultural community knew it the better. If the Government would not give relief, then it was impossible to come to any other conclusion than that they were determined to ignore all the claims of the agricultural community.

Mr. Hesson said that there were only \$258 worth of fertilizers imported into the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec last year. He thought that the Government should do its utmost to develop the phosphate mines of this country, and this, he claimed, would be done by maintaining the duty. Mr. Bain (Wentworth) said the last speaker's argument went to show that the duty was prohibitive in Ontario and Quebec, because he found in looking at the gross import of fertilizers that nearly \$13,000 worth was imported, showing that whereas the great Province of Ontario had not imported very largely the burden of this 20 per cent. duty had fallen upon the Maritime Provinces. He argued that Canadian resources could not be developed with a prohibitive duty on fertilizers. The duty should be abolished, so as to give Canadian agriculturists an opportunity of seeing what these fertilizers were worth. The Government should drop their policy of protecting a few treasured monopolies and do something to advance the interests of the consumers.

Mr. McMillan (Huron) said the farmers of this country had been raising grain at a loss. On spring wheat alone for the last four or five years the loss had been \$400,000. Mr. Ferguson (Welland) said that in no State in the Union were fertilizers allowed to be sold until a proper analysis had been given by the State in which they were manufactured. The object of the duty was to prevent the importation into this country of rubbish which was of no use to the farmer. To his own knowledge fertilizers were manufactured in the city of Buffalo and sold to the farmers of this country for \$36 per ton which were not worth \$5 a ton.

Mr. Armstrong said the Government of the United States, as well as of Canada, made the tremendous mistake, in insisting upon an analysis of fertilizers before sale, of imagining that the farmers of both countries were fools. The farmers of the United States and Canada had sense enough to find out for themselves the quality of fertilizers and whether they would be fit for the soil or not. The resolution was declared lost on division.

Sir Hector Langevin moved that leave be granted for the withdrawal of the Hamilton Junction Railway Bill—Carried. Sir Richard Cartwright asked when the Banking Bill would be introduced. The Government had promised to bring it down to-day, and he would like to know if they would fulfil that promise.

Sir John Macdonald said the Finance Minister would have introduced the Bill, but it was found to be a matter of doubt as to whether notice should be given in the shape of a general resolution. It was found that a notice was given on the introduction of former legislation. The notice would be given to-morrow. Mr. Casey criticized the management of the Geological Department. It had been reported to him that information had been disclosed by an agent named Coste, as to natural gas in Essex, to the present Postmaster-General, and that a company had been formed with Coste as manager and Mr. Haggart as chief owner.

Mr. Wilson repeated the charge, and asked the Postmaster-General for his answer. Mr. Haggart replied that he was connected with the company, but that he did not become a member at the instance of Coste. He did not know Coste had been in that district. In fact, he joined at the instance of Mr. Patterson (Essex). It was, however, none of Mr. Wilson's business. Mr. Landerkin replied that the Minister should not answer a member in that way. Mr. Barron stated, on the item for Indian annuities, that, as an instance of the way Indians were treated, it was shown last year that 71 miles of their timber lands had been sold for \$317, and that Mr. Robillard had a half interest in the transaction and at that time Mr. Robillard declared he had not made a cent from the transaction. He was prepared to prove that the limit was sold for \$350,000, and that at one time Mr. Robillard refused \$10,000 for his half share.

Mr. Dewdney stated that many of the Indians in the Northwest were becoming self-sustaining. Eleven reserves showed an increase of population. Rations were served out, and varied from 8 ounces to 23 ounces per day. Mr. Curran introduced a bill to enable the Grand Trunk Railway Company to aid the St. Clair Tunnel Company and for other purposes. The Bill was read a first time.

Sir Hector Langevin, replying to Mr. Guay, said the contract for placing buoys in the River St. Lawrence, between Quebec and Montreal, had been awarded to McNaughton & Co., Montreal. Sir John Macdonald, on resuming the debate on the second reading of Mr. Taylor's bill to prohibit alien labor, asked that the second reading be taken pro forma, and the bill referred to a special committee to report. This course would satisfy the working classes of Canada that their grievances were not being ignored.

Sir John Thompson said that this reference in no way affirmed the principle of the Bill. Mr. Taylor moved that the Bill be referred to a special committee composed of Messrs. Colby, Mitchell, Girouard, Lepine, Weldon (Albert), McKay, Mulock, Mills (Bothwell), Ferguson (Welland), Wilson (Elgin), Daly, Davin, Gilmour, Mills (Annapolis), Walsh, Earle, McDougall (Picton), and Taylor. The hon. gentleman stated that he had received a letter suggesting that if his Bill in its entirety could not be adopted, much good would be effected by passing a short measure compelling the Americans who found work in Canada to be domiciled in this country. This he thought worthy of consideration.

Mr. Mills said he must decline to act upon the committee, as he was not in favor of that method of dealing with the Bill. Mr. Mitchell declined to act for similar reasons on the committee. Sir John Macdonald suggested the names of Messrs. Brien and Lister in place of the gentlemen who desired not to act. This was agreed to. The motion for reference to the committee was carried on division. Mr. Mitchell called attention to the statement that Mr. Hitt's committee had unanimously agreed to recommend that the President of the United States be authorized to appoint three commissioners to consult with Canadian commissioners with a view to an inquiry into the relations between Canada and the United States.

Mr. Foster—We have no official information of that kind. Mr. Mitchell—I regret to hear it very much. On a vote of \$4,800 to provide for the appointment of eight additional third class excoismen. Mr. Costigan explained that he had made inquiries as to what changes were necessary in order to maintain the efficiency of the organization, and he was informed that eight additional officers were necessary. Mr. Lovett inquired for what purpose \$200, credited to Hon. John Costigan, was paid.

Mr. Costigan hoped the hon. gentleman did not think he appropriated the money to his own use. It was paid out through him to the preventive service, and he could not give any particulars, as the work was of a secret character. On the vote for stamps for tobacco, Sir Richard Cartwright said there were a great many complaints as to the oppressive manner in which retailers were dealt with in this matter. A great many of the regulations, if he understood correctly, were needless. The packages had to be opened in a particular way, and in a great variety of ways traps were laid for the retailer. Some retailers considered they had been very harshly dealt with by the revenue officers.

Mr. Costigan said it was true there had been complaints, but there was some inconvenience in enforcing the law. A bill was to be introduced, however, in which this matter was to be dealt with, and when the Act came in it could be discussed. It was hoped that the new Act would make matters work more smoothly. The following Bills were read a third time and passed: Sir Richard Cartwright inquired the reason of the decrease of \$13,176 in the sum required for the payment of the Northwest Mounted Police. Sir John Macdonald replied that during 1890 nearly 400 men would be entitled to their discharge.

Mr. Patterson inquired whether there was any necessity for keeping the force at its present strength now that the district was getting more settled. He would like to know whether there was any intention of reducing the force in the direction, for instance, of not recruiting when the men's time was expired. Sir John Macdonald observed that it would be a great mistake to reduce the force. The force as originally organized had simply to look after the Indians. Now there was a large influx across the border of people of all kind of habits, and smuggling was continually on the increase. In fact, the force was harder worked than before in order to afford protection against the people who crossed the border and committed all kinds of outrages. Fortunately they had the most friendly relations with the American force to the south of the border, otherwise the situation there would have been most intolerable. He did not think there was any chance of the force being reduced, because that would result in great injury to the country.

Mr. Patterson quoted from the report of the Commissioner of Police an expression of opinion that the use of 4 per cent. beer had resulted in a decrease of drunkenness, and suggesting that if brewing were allowed in the Territories under proper restrictions it would have a beneficial effect, as well as allay considerable discontent that existed. Sir John Macdonald said he did not wish to bring up a discussion on teetotalism, but the subject mentioned in the report was to be left to the Local Legislature, and discussion would come up on the Northwest bill. He believed that the 4 per cent. beer had actually rooted out the horrible stuff that used to be smuggled across the line, and he believed it was sufficiently stimulating to be a substitute, except for the very hard drinkers.

The remainder of the evening was taken up with the discussion of the estimates for fisheries. A Land of Blow. "I see there has been a great gale in Pennsylvania, a cyclone in Iowa, a blizzard in Dakota and heavy winds in New York." "Yep—and Chicago is in Illinois." Switzerland means to attract visitors in August by a gigantic international musical festival in Geneva, for which 11,000 invitations have already been issued.

ANOTHER DISASTER.

The Walls of a Burned Building Collapse With Terrible Results.

An Indianapolis despatch says: Part of the Bowen Merrill Company's building which projected from the iron front fell at 1 o'clock this afternoon, burying a number of men in the ruins. It is believed that from fifteen to twenty-five persons were killed or injured. Great excitement prevails. Thousands of people surround the scene of the disaster. The reports of eyewitnesses are conflicting as to the number supposed to be in the wreck. It is probable most of those near the falling wall escaped when the roofs fell. Captain Campbell, of the Metropolitan police, and Officers Manning and Leffler were standing on the main floor, about forty-five feet from the front. Almost directly beneath the projecting roof were Peter Albin and Wm. Meadows, carpenters, who were bracing up the iron front. The officers escaped injury, but Albin and Meadows were buried beneath the timbers. Both were extricated in a few minutes. Meadows was struck in the back with a piece of heavy timber, and may be injured internally. Albin escaped with a few bruises, but is prostrated from fright. It is impossible to clear away the wreck at this time, as the iron front is cracking badly, and may topple over any moment. The fire department is working heroically. Immediately after the fall of the roof the eastern part of the building, occupied by Bicknell's five and ten cent store fell in with a crash. It is stated, but not authenticated, that all the customers and clerks escaped. Forty-five men working under the supervision of Commissioner de Ruyter narrowly escaped.

It is now known only two men were injured, and they but slightly. Several had narrow escapes. Bicknell's loss is \$10,000.

Woman's Queer Ways.

The ways of women are queer. A woman can faint away at the sight of a bit of blood on her finger, have all the children in the house screaming with fright, require eau de cologne to bring her to, and be nervous for twenty-four hours after, yet the same woman can, in perfect silence, stand by and help a doctor perform an operation that may mean death to some one she loves. A woman can scorn what she calls made-over clothes, can laugh at indiscriminate charity, and yet the same woman can cry as if her heart would break and take all her spending money to buy an overcoat for a newboy she met in the street cars because his face was so pitiful. She can take two hours and a half to dress to go to the theatre, and then tell Charley she knows she looks like a dowdy, but the same woman can pack a trunk with things enough to last her for two weeks in twenty minutes when she gets a telegram saying: "Come as soon as possible; your mother is sick." She will bake a chicken until it is brown, and then calmly ask the master of the establishment if he doesn't think the English way of roasting is preferable to any other.—New York Sun.

The Female Polar Bear.

The female polar bear is taught by a wonderful instinct to shelter her young under the snow. In December she retreats to the side of a rock, where by dint of scraping and letting the snow fall upon her, she forms a cell in which to live during the winter. There is no fear that she will be stifled for want of air, for the warmth of her breath always keeps a small passage open. Within this strange nursery she produces her young and remains with them beneath the snow till March, when she comes out into the open air with her baby bears. As the only use of the snow burrow is to shelter the young, the male bears do not hibernate like the females, but roam freely about during the winter months. Before retiring under the snow, the bear eats enormously, so that she becomes very fat, thus laying in an internal store of food which enables her not only to support her own life but to nourish her young during her long seclusion. By an admirable provision of nature, the young polar bears are extremely small at birth, and grow slowly so long as they are in their crystal nursery, thus needing little food and space. When they emerge from their shelter the mother bear is extremely thin and very fierce.—Once a Week.

A Bar-room Incident.

A few mornings ago a man who had stayed over night had just departed from a Tilbury Centre hotel when the landlord said to the bar-tender: "Did that man settle with you?" "No," was the reply, "I supposed he had paid you." "No, he didn't, but I was just thinking the pants he had on look like yours." In haste the genial concoctor of mixed drinks sought his room to verify the suspicion. The landlord was right, the slippery guest had taken his \$9 pants and lit out. To the station landlord and bar-tender flew, only to see the pants attached to a man who hastily climbed on top of a freight train, moving out. But he was not quite out of the woods, for at Fletcher he was headed off by a telegraphic despatch, and fell into the hands of a waiting constable, who escorted him back to Tilbury Centre.

The Wounded Kingston Turnkey.

Blair, the turnkey of the Kingston jail, is suffering very much from the murderous attack made on him on Wednesday. He thinks that one of the blows received was done with a sack containing a piece of brick. One of the prisoners admitted that he struck Blair with a brick. Little stated this afternoon that Burns planned the whole affair. Burns told Little that he knew he would get five years anyway, and if possible he was going to try and get out. Burns, when spoken to, said he struck the turnkey two blows, and he thought they were two good ones. Little confessed to having struck the guard, but was not sure whether the blows took effect or not. Burns and Little both confessed to having concocted the matter.

At a recent Wagner concert at the Metropolitan Opera House—"Are you not carried away by Wagner's music?" she asked, as he reached for his hat preparatory to an interview with a clove. "Well—er—no, not exactly! I am driven away."