

Cabled Comment

On the Topics of the Day--The "Silly Season" in America--Outcome of the Bayard Incident--Salisbury Scored by His Party Organs.

"Albert Day" Observed by the Royal Family--The School Question Is Dividing the Parties--Metropolitan Amusements--Efforts to Unite the Irish Factions--Socialism Agitates Germany.

THE BAYARD INCIDENT.

London, Dec. 15.--The long dispatches from New York on the Bayard incident have revived interest in the speeches at Boston, England, and Edinburgh. Mr. Bayard, however, treats the whole matter lightly, and regards it as a result of the "silly season" in America. The Saturday Review says: "In its whole history, the Republic has sent us no representative better qualified to challenge comparison with the old world diplomatists. The suggestion that partisan rancour could descend to the level of endangering his tenure is painful to contemplate." The article, however, remarks: "Mr. Bayard was undoubtedly guilty of indiscretion. But, it was only an error of judgment. To understand the feelings of the Americans, we must imagine Sir Julian Pauncefote lecturing in Philadelphia on the principle of local autonomy and advocating home rule."

The weekly newspapers also devote considerable space to the alleged unfriendly attitude of the United States respecting Venezuela and the Bering Sea questions. The Saturday Review says: "Such vulgar impudence as Senator Morgan's wish for war, does the United States wish for war, and why? We may say with Bayard and Marshall (the German Minister for Foreign Affairs), in his dignified reply to President Cleveland's petition, that we have a right to demand reciprocity in friendly feelings."

SALISBURY SCORED.

The St. James' Gazette congratulates the Ministers upon pleasing the Radical press, "whose carcasses," it adds, "may console Lord Salisbury for the distinct chilliness of the Unionist papers." The Standard remarks: "Under a Minister thus pledged to free trade the farmers should have free trade in the matter of sugar, i.e., fair competition against foreigners. Foreign Government should be informed that our efforts should be to pay a bounty on less they cease paying a bounty on sugar a duty at our ports." The Morning Post says: "Lord Salisbury would be far more in touch with the sentiments and wishes of the masses if he defended and expanded his protection remarks at Hastings. The bent of public opinion is directed strongly and firmly to a speedy alteration of the fiscal system which only hurts those who employ it."

THE VENEZUELA DISPUTE.

The National Observer confirms the dispatch to the Associated Press of Dec. 4, saying that the Marquis of Salisbury has refused to allow England's claim to Venezuelan territory within the Schomburgk line to be questioned, and adds: "It is taken for granted that President Cleveland does not intend to press the whole claim implied in his message. But if his words have the meaning which we should attach to any other ruler, the conflict of views is very serious, and it seems that an open quarrel can hardly be avoided, except by the surrender of one side. For the United States a withdrawal would be a very serious defeat."

The article quoted above also discusses Senator Morgan and the general unfriendliness of the United States and England, the disposition given in "Yankee bluster," and concludes with a "dishonest warning" to America that "she stands on the same footing as other powers. Persistent unfriendliness should be met in the same spirit, and might have a wholesome influence in clearing the air."

PROTECTIONIST AGITATION.

The feature of home politics during the week here has been the development of a marked advocacy of protection. The cattle show at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, has been the occasion for representatives of every branch of industry connected with husbandry, and the Cabinet Ministers have been overwhelmed with deputations urging them to take steps to prevent British agriculture from being wiped out by foreign competition. The course suggested to the Government is a tariff upon a variety of imports. The Marquis of Salisbury, replying to one of these deputations, said that he could not hold out the slightest prospect of protection, and explained that his famous speech at Hastings in 1892 was misunderstood. He added that the country to arm for an attack upon the wall of tariffs be never believed or expected a restoration of protection. This, with the replies of the other Ministers, was extremely disappointing to a great body of their supporters, and the severe criticisms of some of the sturdiest Conservatives made quite a sensation.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

The Conservative newspapers deny that there is a difference of opinion in the Cabinet on the education question, and the denial is partly true, for the reason that a definite measure is not yet before the Cabinet, but it is an open secret that the Duke of Devonshire, Sir Chamberlain and Sir John Gorst, vice-president of committee of the Council, are opposed to Lord Salisbury's tentative proposals. Mr. Chamberlain's organ, the Birmingham Post, says he has clearly ranged himself with the Duke of Devonshire against the Prime Minister.

It is alleged that Justin McCarthy, in a speech at Waltham the other day, definitely committed that party to support the Tory scheme for sectarian education. The Methodist Times declares that if the Irish members of the House of Commons swell the majority following the Archbishop of Canterbury, home rule will pass out of the range of practical politics. It is asserted in some quarters that the Liberals will now get quit of home rule with a general feeling of relief, and will aspire to consolidate the party on the old lines, so that it will be acceptable to the Duke of Dev-

onshire, president of the Council; the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Colonial Secretary; Lord James, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and other Unionists, who are certain to refuse to follow Lord Salisbury if he attempts to gratify the Anglican clericals by an extension of State grants to sectarian schools.

"ALBERT DAY."

The Queen, the Prince of Wales, and other members of the royal family were present yesterday at the memorial service at Frogmore, it being Albert day, the anniversary of the death of her husband. All the arrangements were carried out with melancholy splendour. Her Majesty deposited the usual wreath on the cenotaph, and anthems and hymns were sung by the boys of St. George's choir.

ROYAL PRIZE-WINNERS.

The Islington cattle show last week was a record-breaker, being the largest ever held in that place. Queen Victoria's wonderful heifer, Frederick, reared at Windsor, which swept all before it at the other shows, won £800 in specie and cups at the agricultural hall this week, including the celebrated Queen's challenge cup, valued at £500. Lord Rosebery's black heifer was also good second. Her Majesty's exhibits also won prizes in other classes; the Prince of Wales triumphed with Southdowns, and the Duke of York won with his display of red polled cattle and Berkshire pigs. The prince and his son won four cups.

WILLIAM WAS FRIGID.

A Berlin correspondent says: The manner in which his Majesty received the presiding officer of the Reichstag has been unpleasantly commented upon, and his behavior was extremely reserved and frigid. The whole audience lasted but three minutes, and, contrary to custom, no reception by the Empress followed. It is understood that the Emperor desired to show his displeasure at the fact that the three temporary officers of the last session, all members of the Opposition, had been re-elected.

THE GERMAN SOCIALISTS.

A passage-at-arms occurred Saturday afternoon in the German Reichstag between Herr Singer, the Socialist leader, and Dr. Von Boetticher, the Imperial Secretary of State for the Interior. The latter, in reply to a taunt, rejoined that he would never stand in the way of Socialists who chose to criticise in the Reichstag immorality in the higher circles of society. During the coming week Herr Lebknecht is to deliver a speech on "Socialist Baiting," which is expected to make a great sensation.

The Socialists have introduced long strings of bills in the Reichstag, including proposals to eliminate from the penal code the paragraphs against lese majeste; for a law of a liberal tendency on the right of association; to replace the special laws of the various states of Germany; to make the eight hours work day obligatory everywhere; to make the franchise uniform throughout Germany; and to amend article 31 of the code, so as to require special authority from the Reichstag for the imprisonment of a member of the Reichstag.

At twelve mass meetings in Berlin on Tuesday evening addressed by Socialist members of the Reichstag, a unanimous protest was adopted, condemning the Government method of destroying the Socialist party organization. In the fifth election district of Berlin, where 5,000 persons were present, the police dissolved the meeting, and the election of a political representative was proposed.

The Abendblatt, of Stettin, has collected and published data showing that since Aug. 1 there have been sentences aggregating 31 years and 2 months in jail and 5 months' imprisonment in a fortress imposed for lese majeste in Prussia alone.

"TRILBY" ATTACKED.

The hostile criticism which Clement Scott, the well-known dramatic critic, has continually bestowed upon the performances of "Trilby" at the Haymarket has recently assumed a magnitude that is classed as surprising. He alone of all the London critics, it is claimed, has found fault with the play and its clever interpretation. The provincial newspapers, which were quick to recognize the merits of the play, have, it appears, become much exercised by Mr. Scott's strictures, which, it is asserted, seem to reflect upon their previously expressed opinions, and in some cases denounce his criticism, which, they think, is inspired by personal animosity instead of from the standpoint of impartial journalism. To such an extent has Mr. Scott carried his resentment that his criticism for Truth, of which he is the regular dramatic critic, was rejected by that paper and written by Henry Douchere himself. What makes the matter more interesting is the fact that Clement Scott is a relative of Du Maurier by marriage, and it is intimated in many circles that a family feud may have something to do with the affair.

THE IRISH PARLIAMENTARY PARTY.

It is expected that an intercolonial conference of the Irish parties will be arranged to be held in Dublin in April. The anti-Parnellites, who are projecting the conference, desire that all sections be represented, including the extremists. It is recognized that the conference aims at anything practical conference aims at anything practical. Unless the projectors find that the meeting is likely to result in some form of policy, the conference will not be convened. When some basis of the agreement is obtained Mr. Justin McCarthy, the leader of the anti-Parnellites, proposes to retire from the leadership, leaving it to the conference to select a new chief. Mr. John Dillon will start today from Rome, where he has been spending part of his honeymoon. He is returning home to assist in the deliberations of the conference. If the hopes of earnest Nationalists are realized, the conference will put an end to the factionalism now prevailing, and no personal jealousies will be allowed to debar a

union. In speaking of the leadership, it can be said that many of the anti-Parnellites would not hesitate to accept Mr. William Redmond, the Parnellite leader, who is admitted to be one of the best speakers and most capable politicians belonging to the Irish Parliamentary party. Mr. Thos. Sexton would be preferred as the ablest Parliamentary tactician, as well as the greatest Irish orator in the House of Commons, but unless the conference should give him an almost unanimous vote, he will not be likely to be accepted.

BISHOP VS. RECTOR.

The new Bishop of Winchester has joined issue with a Ritualistic rector of his diocese, Rev. R. Dolling, who wished to erect an additional altar for the celebration of mass for the dead without communions. The bishop declined to sanction the project, and the rector resigned, but his parishioners held a meeting and asked him to remain. He replied that he considered it his duty as a priest to exercise sacerdotal power in behalf of the dead as well as of the living, and that the mass without communions was essential. The bishop will find it difficult to replace the rector, whose people are devoted to him. He must act, since the rector is now in open revolt. The incident lights up afresh the ritualistic controversy in the English Church.

THE REVISED APOCRYPHA.

The publisher of the University Press, in an interview, remarks that the public has made no marked demand for the revised Apocrypha. An American committee did not take part in the revision. The orders from the United States were so small that the provisions were taken to keep the new text secret. Since the work was issued, the English orders have increased, but compared with the million copies of the Revised Testament, which were sold on the day of publication, the Apocrypha was nowhere.

HAPPENINGS IN A FOG.

The dense fog enveloping England last week had its tragic and comic incidents. The sinking of the Cumbria by the Germanic off the mouth of the Mersey was a disaster which brought out the fine qualities of the seamanship. The crew of the White Star steamer showed presence of mind in holding the two ships together until everybody had been rescued. Even Lord Dunraven had no fault to find with the conduct of the officers. The rescue of the theatrical company, which had been playing "Saved From the Sea," was a comic side. More ludicrous was the "Varsity" football game in West Kensington, played in a thick fog, while 10,000 spectators looked on and saw nothing. Cambridge won in spite of a good defense by the Oxford backs, but the players were entirely lost to view during the game, and could hardly see one another.

AN AMUSING OCCURRENCE.

An attaché of a foreign embassy at Rome, returning home late after a masked ball the other night, where he had taken the character of Mephistopheles, entered the train muffled up to his eyes. He found himself in a compartment along with a sinister looking individual, who, after the train had started, demanded money with threats. The diplomatist cast off his wrappings and towered over the rough in his flaming costume with horns and hoofs. The thief dropped to his knees trembling with terror, and began to pour out a confession of his sins. At the next station the Prince of Darkness dismissed the terrified wretch into the hands of the police.

TAXING PLAYING CARDS.

There is little in France which escapes being taxed for the public revenue. There has been a tax of 18 cents a pack on playing cards for several years, and a bill is now before the Chamber of Deputies which will probably increase this to 25 cents. It is expected thus to add \$200,000 annually to the national revenue. The use of playing cards in France has been much restricted already by the high tax, and it is probable that this great increase will so reduce the demand that the promoters of the new law will be disappointed in the amount yielded. The bill restricts the use of cards in that country. The most unhappy effect in France probably will be that the cards used publicly in clubs and cafes will become filthier than ever.

LEO'S SUCCESSOR.

Sir T. W. Reid, editor of the Speaker, who has recently had interviews with leading Italian statesmen, gives semi-official importance to a startling declaration in the issue of that paper today regarding the intention of the Italian Ministerialists in the event of the Pope's death. The sum of his long argument, which is stated represents the views of the Italian Government, is that the successor which will elect the next Pope must be held outside of Italy. The Government means to provide for what is called "An honorable exodus of the Conclave." The practical beginning to see of Italian papacy would be practically unable to pose as a pretender to a temporal throne in Italy, while to an Italian Pope, residing abroad, such an attitude would involve the loss of spiritual supremacy of the Italian Church, and the state protecting him would be bound by the Italian laws, applicable to pretenders disturbing the peace of other states.

METROPOLITAN AMUSEMENTS.

The business at the various music halls is enormous. A testimonial is shortly to be presented to Lady Halle on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of her first public appearance. Lady Halle, before her marriage, was Norman Neruda, the celebrated violinist. The old popular Hengler's circus in Argyl street is now a thing of the past. The building has undergone a complete transformation and will open next Monday as the National Skating Palace. There is to be a flooring of real ice covering a space of 11,200 sq. ft. The place has been handsomely decorated.

The exact date has now been announced for the opening of the new opera house in the Haymarket. It will occur on May 24, Queen's birthday. The building will be known as the Imperial Opera House, and Col. Mapleson, the manager, has already made contracts with leading continental artists who will appear at the first performance. Special matinees of "The Mikado," which is meeting with enormous success at the Savoy, will be given on Dec. 15 and 24. The revival of "The Mikado" has proved so successful that Mr. Curtes' provincial company has for the past week been presenting "Princess Ida" at the Theatre Metropolitan, Camberwell. Nothing has been such instant success in London as a popular topical song. Among such is the new trio sung by the Sisters Trilby at the Middlesex Theatre. It is a song and dance, entitled "Oh, the Three of Us," which tells of three young ladies who never

like to be separated, and who find to their horror that they have all married the same man.

CABLE NOTES.

To celebrate the tercentenary of the visit of Sir Walter Raleigh to British Guiana, Sir Maunde Thompson and Dr. Garnett are arranging an exhibition at the British Museum which shall consist of relics, pictures, documents, etc., bearing upon Sir Walter's expedition. It is reported on good authority that the Prince of Wales made an enormous lot of money when the South African mining market was at its height here a few months ago. An English insurance company has received a solid premium for writing a policy on the life of Prince Henry of Battenburg, who volunteered for service in the Ashantee campaign. The amount of the policy is £100,000. Archibald Forbes, the well-known war correspondent, is seriously ill.

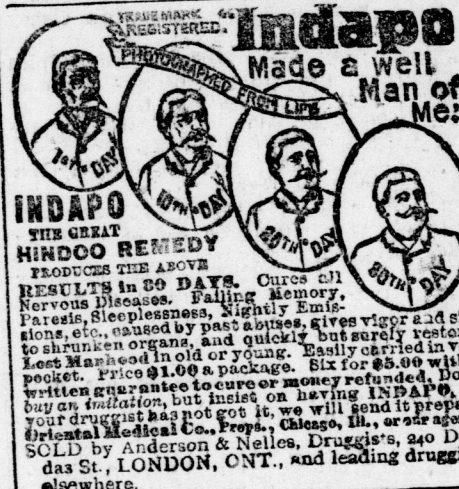
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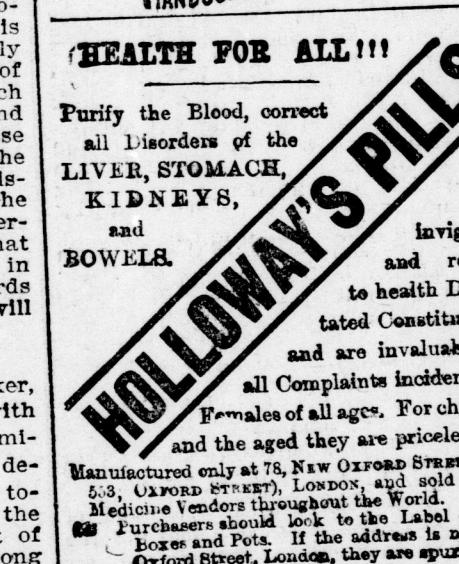
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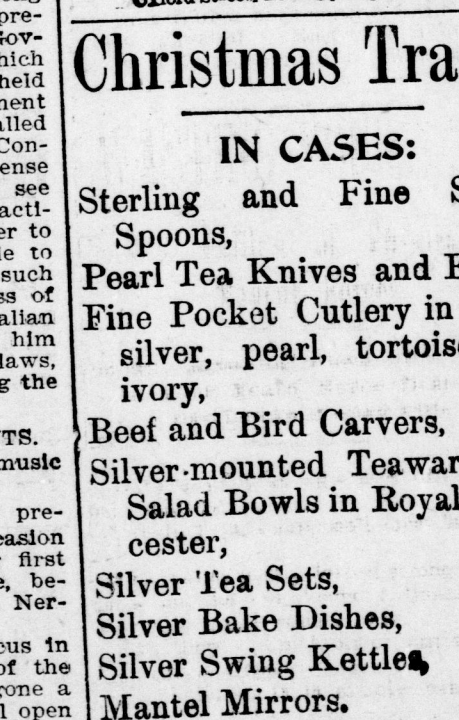
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