

# British---Latest News From Across the Atlantic Ocean---Foreign

## Husband's Slip May Be Accidental, Forgivable, But Wife's Is Fatal, Declares Learned Judge

Remarkable Opinions on Marriage and Divorce Given in Evidence Before Royal Commission of England—One Standard for Man, Another for Woman—Sir John Bigham Stirs Country.

LONDON, April 2.—"I do not believe I am speaking on a subject I don't care much to speak about in public—I do not think that an act of misconduct on the part of a man has any significance like the same significance as an act of misconduct on the part of a woman."

"Most—I think all—men know perfectly well that an act of misconduct on the part of a man may be more or less accidental. It does not diminish very frequently at all events, and I am not speaking of continuous misconduct—it is not inconsistent with his continued love and esteem for his wife. Some people may say that it is inconsistent. I do not agree. On the other hand, an act of impropriety on the part of a woman is, in my opinion, quite inconsistent with continued love and esteem for her husband."

These words of Sir John Bigham, senior divorce judge of England, have raised a storm through Great Britain. No controversy of recent years has been so bitterly debated as that aroused by these opinions. Sir John Bigham was giving evidence before a royal commission appointed to enquire into the working of the divorce law in England. The commission included leading lawyers, social workers, newspaper editors and highest representatives of the churches. Regarded as the strongest personality on the English bench, and exceedingly unpopular, Sir John Bigham expressly



remarked that his evidence was given apart from religious considerations, and merely as that of a man of great worldly and legal experience.

Asked what should be considered due grounds for divorce, he said: "I would not give relief to a man who habitually lived in open misconduct, but, looking at it from a man's point of view, I do not think that if in the course of 30 years' married life, a man once made a slip, that ought to take away his right to separate himself from a dissolute and bad living woman."

wife to a divorce, the reply was: "No—on the bald facts, I do not think that the fact that a child comes into the world should justify a divorce. A wise wife, in my opinion, shuts her eyes to her husband's mistakes." The significance of these statements can be easily understood when it is remembered that for many years a strong agitation has been going on in England for sex equality in matters relating to divorce. At present the law stands as follows: A man can obtain a divorce solely on the ground of misconduct on the part of the wife. A woman can obtain a divorce only if she can prove both misconduct and cruelty toward herself on the part of the husband.

For many years now the tendency of the courts has been to ignore the crucial question as far as possible, and the law has been strained so that two acts of cruelty, however slight, on the part of the husband, coupled with misconduct, will justify the grant of a divorce to the wife. This is in accordance with the trend of English opinion.

But now, Sir John Bigham, with all the weight of his position behind him, has gone back to the old view which regarded a wife as part of a man's chattels. He believes that women and men, in respect to sexual matters, stand on different planes. Ministers of religion of all denominations, suffragettes, divorce reform associations and women's societies generally are all up in arms against the judge and they finally forced his resignation the other day.

Briefly the following is the position of his antagonists: "At the present time, many men lead immoral lives, knowing that, so long as they are not actually cruel to their wives, they cannot be divorced. Justice Bigham's words simply encourage them in their ways, and even afford them justification. Opinions of this kind simply put a premium on immorality."

## GYPSY SMITH HAS FAITH HE WILL SAVE FRANCE

Noted Evangelist Says He Will Go Into Streets If Necessary to Reach the People.

PARIS, April 2.—(Special.)—Paris, the capital of the world of fashions and fancies, has just discovered that there is something new under the sun which did not originate here. An old-fashioned religious revival meeting is being held in the city, with "Gipsy" Smith, who conducted a series of meetings in Toronto, last year, in charge.

No "mission" for English-speaking people exclusively has been held on the continent in twenty years. To meet natives it is a thing altogether new. The "Gipsy" Smith neither speaks nor reads French he refuses to preach through an interpreter, because he believes that a sermon loses force in repetition in another tongue. The series of meetings which he has just begun is by no means intended for the American and English colonies only. A nobleman in charge. Every French Protestant church in the city is represented on the committee which brought the evangelist from London, and Count Jacques de Pourtales, a full-fledged nobleman, is the chairman of the organization. Many of the best-educated Frenchmen understand English, of course, and through them "Gipsy" Smith hopes to reach Frenchmen of every class. He believes that he can interest Parisians, who do understand him to the degree that they will attend his meetings in a bench after he has gone.

The first of the special services was held two weeks ago in the Salle Gaveau, and it is there that all the principal meetings will be conducted. This is far removed from both the American and English quarters of the city and is a hall where recitals of a high order of merit and "conferences," or lectures, by men who are authorities on intellectual subjects are given frequently. But "Gipsy" Smith confesses that he is unable to reach those whom he seeks by means of these gatherings. He will go into the highways and hedges," which, in this instance, means the drawing-rooms of the homes of Parisian society folk. In his efforts he has a faithful second in Count Jacques de Pourtales.

Politics Didn't Bring Him. Mr. Smith was asked last night if political conditions in France had influenced him in his decision to come to Paris at this time. The general elections are to be held in a few weeks and the question of the relationship between church and state will be a leading issue. The government has not only effected a separation of the two but forbids any religious instruction in the public schools.

"I know very little about political conditions here and the political situation had nothing to do with my coming," said the evangelist. "I don't preach politics. The man who subscribes to my religious ticket is not likely to be far wrong when he gets an

## Pitiful Efforts of London's Poor to Make a Living



The woman was a widow with four children.

In the early part of 1908, I was commissioned by an influential London newspaper to investigate into the conditions under which women home workers lived in various parts of the great British metropolis. During recent years in Great Britain there has been much agitation against what is known as "sweated labor," that is work performed in circumstances which force the worker to toil for a scarcely living wage, and which is in all respects harmful to health. Of all forms of sweated labor, home work is the worst paid and most injurious to the health of the workers themselves and of the general public. Such work is done almost entirely by women and girls. The first example of the manner in which home work is carried on was witnessed by me at a sweated industries exhibition, which took place at the Bishops' Catechism Institute, in the east end of London, in the winter of 1907, and which was organized by the Rev. Robert Blatchford, the editor of the Clarion, and whose writings have been recently making so great a stir in Great Britain and with other well-known socialists. Although the exhibition conveyed a good idea of the intensity of the work, I regretted that, by that visiting the homes of the workers themselves a far clearer impression of the true state of affairs would be obtained. Accordingly, I procured introductions to the homes of women home workers in the north, south and east of London from the Women's Industrial Council in the Strand and from Mrs. Ramsay Macdonald, wife of the labor M.P. for Leicester, and myself an advocate for reform of the sweated industries. Fortunately, I have kept notes of my many visits, and will choose some typical ones to describe to Toronto readers. The first district visited lay in that part of London where the worst work is done, and where forms might be expected to occur, and I am free to confess that I was not disappointed in my expectations. The first house entered was a long street of mean houses well known to all east-enders as the Old Ford-road. The woman who lived here was a widow with four children, and working at the trade of trouser finishing. She was paid at the rate of 30 cents per 12 pairs, and was able to earn about three cents an hour. She generally worked for 13 hours daily for five days of the week and earned 12.50 cents. Her husband had died from the poor rates to the extent of \$2.50 weekly. Even with this aid, she had to feed and keep warm herself and four children on less than \$4 a week. The room in which she worked was small, untidy and stuffy. In this instance the woman and children appeared in good health, but no doubt I chanced to light upon a very favorable specimen of a trouser finisher, whose work is very hard and hard and monotonous. The next house visited was inhabited by an altogether different type of home worker—that of the woman who works to add to her husband's wages. In this particular case, the husband earned 50 cents, and she was able to add 25 cents to his wages. The person was paid 4 cents a gross (144 boxes) for making match boxes, and by working on an average 10 hours a day for 12 days in the week was able to earn about \$2. Here the family consisted of father, mother and three children. The house was dirty and untidy, but as may be well imagined working at such pressure can leave but little time for domestic amenities. In the same street I interviewed a single woman, who, with an aged mother, occupied one small room. They were engaged in sewing beads on shoes, and were able to earn from two cents to three cents per hour, with help of mother in two days she could earn about 15 cents. The condition of the room in the house visited next was disgusting; it was filthy, hot, stuffy and smelt offensively. The woman was married, but husband earned small wages. She made blouses, for which she was paid 25 cents for 12. She could make a blouse in one hour, but would work 12 hours to earn 25 cents. I think in this case drink had something to do with the miserable condition of home and family. Other houses in the locality were visited, but

## SOUTH AFRICA'S COURSE OF EMPIRE

Plan Followed for Consolidation of States Should Be Followed for an Imperial Convention.

LONDON, April 2.—"We South Africans quite regard the United States as a British colony," said Sir Pieter Barm in a review with The World correspondent.

"I am sure you look awfully American," I replied somewhat irascibly. "Ah, you're mistaken, I'm a Canadian by descent," altho a naturalized American citizen. "There, you are. Same blood, it wasn't so long ago that the Knickerbockers and Vanderbilts of the United States and the Bullers and Bams of South Africa were meeting together before their old Dutch ancestors. No wonder we still think of you as brothers, as colonials."

Sir Pieter is an entirely Dutch-descendant and he was the first South African without English blood in him, to be knighted. Furthermore he is an imperialist.

The "consolidating the Empire" has long been a by-phrase in present day politics. Sir Pieter is the only man who has offered a practical solution of the problem of colony representation. Scheme of Representation. In most cases, the suggestions have been based on the idea of the colonies having some sort of representation in the house of lords. Sir Pieter's scheme, however, is simpler, more feasible and more practical.

Let me take as a precedent what has been accomplished in South Africa," he explained, "where less than ten years ago a big war was in progress. To-day, South Africa is a thoroughly settled and a union in existence of all its colonies. This has been done because all sections of the community in South Africa realized that whatever their opinions on politics might be, in a question of union there must be no division of view; and that in order to bring about a union a convention should be held in which all parties should be represented."

"The initiative was taken by the oldest colony, Cape Colony. It came for a national convention was drawn up, deciding that there should be no representation from the Cape Colony eight from the Transvaal, five from Natal and five from the Orange River Colony. Prime ministers of those colonies consulted with all sections in their parliaments with a view to ensuring a selection of men that would be representative of all parties. When the convention met, all sections had representatives from all parts of South Africa but at the same time members representative of each political party in each colony. The result was a unanimous decision by all present."

Too Sectional. In the past whenever public men from the various colonies have met in England to discuss matters with the British government, it has always happened that they have met in a certain section of the community they came from—other colonies were not represented at all; in the same way the British government they were consulting with, only represented a certain portion of the British parliament and the British people.

"In the scheme I now put forward for an imperial convention, the lines followed should be the same as those adopted by South Africa. All sections of the community in each colony, all sections of the British parliament, and all sections of the British people. The initiative is taken by the parliament of the mother-country with a resolution that it is desirable to have a convention for the consolidation of an imperial senate. Then, let a convention be called on entirely non-party lines, thoroughly representative of the Empire. Get the best brains of the Empire, irrespective of race, creed, or politics, to decide what ought to be done that the mother-country and the Colonies may exercise mutual influence on imperial affairs."

On Imperial Basis. "In the main, the lines of this scheme are analogous to the state representation in America. Nevertheless, the government of South Africa on its imperial basis is a lot better than a republic. If there had been an imperial parliament from the beginning the United States would still be a colony of Great Britain."

Sir Pieter goes at once to South Africa in order to be present when the election of senators for the union parliament takes place. There is no doubt among political leaders that the adoption of Sir Pieter's scheme for consolidating the Empire would effectively settle the Irish question, the problem of national defense, the labor distribution of any natural surplus within the Empire, and roughly speaking, all questions coming within the scope of international law.

Straw Braiding by Machinery. A native of Tsingtau in China, has recently invented a machine which, it is stated, is likely to revolutionize the strawbraiding industry. The manipulator of the apparatus is extremely simple and it is said that one person can turn out twelve-fold more with this machine than by hand. A newspaper representative before whom the inventor presented made states that the manufacture, especially of the fine braids, runs very smoothly, while the cheaper and coarser grades do not seem to be so satisfactory. Machines are now being made in Germany, and if the expectations of the inventor are fulfilled, Tsingtau may become the world's strawbraiding emporium for straw braids.

## British Supremacy at Sea Still Unquestioned by Powers

World's Greatest Naval Power Will Build Dozen Dreadnoughts Within Next Year—Will Maintain Offensive Standard.

LONDON, April 2.—Those, in high places in Germany at the present time view the future with obvious alarm, and are now asking openly how long the German Empire can stand the strain of its endeavor to become at one and the same time all-powerful on land and sea. Only those intimate with the finances of the British Empire at the moment realize to the full how deeply the national purse has been dipped into in recent years in order to maintain its colossal army, on the one hand, and to challenge naval supremacy on the other. Sooner or later a halt must be called somewhere, and Berlin is wondering when this will take place.

For Imperial Defence. Great Britain stands at her feet at the present time. She has only to make it unmistakably clear that she intends to maintain to the full the Two-Power Standard, and is prepared to go beyond that if necessary, and Germany must give up the present competition. Under these circumstances, the announcements that a Naval Defence Act, to be spread over the next five or seven years, providing for twelve Dreadnoughts to be laid down year by year, together with their proper complement of smaller craft, is much to be desired, and it is good news to hear that this is a step that is now receiving the consideration of the committee on imperial defence.

If it can only be forced home upon the German authorities that, whatever naval program Germany brings forward, Great Britain is constantly prepared to double it, and that, no matter which political party be in power, both shall go resolutely forward along the path they have marked out for ourselves, the competition will end.

Napoleon's Idea. It was Napoleon who realized that it is impossible for any state to be both a supreme naval and military power. "Had I a navy like Great Britain, and my own army, I could conquer the world," he once remarked to one of his marshals. He clearly recognized, however, that France could not be all-powerful on both land and

sea. Had it been otherwise, he would never have accepted Trafalgar as the final defeat of his navy. On the contrary, he would have set to work with the whole of his restless energy to build up another and stronger fleet that should be able to crush the British navy, and to obliterate from the pages of history the name of Nelson's glorious victory. He could foresee, however, that there were limits to the resources of his country.

Britain's Supremacy. British politicians should realize the situation plainly, and face it boldly: This competition in naval construction was not sought by England, nor did Britain desire it. Once British supremacy at sea is challenged, however, the very life blood of the nation is threatened. Under these circumstances, there will be no cringing and no half-measures.

Telephone Prints Message. According to Electrical Engineering three Danish engineers recently made public in Copenhagen a new invention by which any telephone subscriber can, in the absence of the called subscriber, send a telegraphic communication. The apparatus at the transmitting end comprises a keyboard like that of an ordinary typewriter, and the message is received at the other end on a tape printed in ordinary characters.

## SURVEYORS NEARLY STARVED

Supplies of Food Were Stolen From the Cache.

VANCOUVER, B.C., April 2.—(Special.)—Thrilling in the extreme were the adventures of a Canadian Northern survey party engaged during the past winter in locating a preliminary line in northern British Columbia. On a return trip from Yellowhead, the engineers found that previous caches of food had been stolen by Cree Indians. In the end, only forty-four of their horses perished of starvation. C. F. Hannington, surveyor in charge, lost 28 pounds in weight in making the homeward trip. All experienced the pangs of famine as they dragged the toboggans over the snow and slush. Over the last ninety miles, the 22 men subsisted on one hundred pounds of flour, being on short rations.

Quicker Ship Building. Time was when it took nearly six years to build a battleship in private yards in the United States; but, says The Scientific American, the construction of the "Connecticut" at the government yard at Brooklyn set a pace which has steadily accelerated. The "Mississippi," whose trials took place as recently as October, 1907, took 44 months to construct. The "New Hampshire," December, 1907, was built in 26 months; the "North Carolina" (cruiser), January, 1908, in 26 months; "Michigan" (battleship), 1909, in 24½ months; the "Delaware" (battleship), October, 1909, in 27 months.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES. In June of last year, the last semi-official estimate, there were 239,233 Indians in the United States. Considering the whole of Europe, there are nearly 107 inhabitants to the square mile. John Bull's diet is not exclusively one of beef. At last accounts Great Britain had 1,500,000 turkeys.

The 652 registered trade unions of Great Britain have a total membership of 1,373,660. About 5200 trade marks are registered during the course of the year at the patent office. The Carnegie Steel Company pays about one-seventh of the entire taxes collected by the city of Youngstown, Ohio.

The number of horses in the United States January 1, 1909, was nearly 14,000,000. In New York proposed extensions of the subway are contemplated which would represent an expenditure of \$100,000,000. During the last seventeen years, 22,340 men have lost their lives in U. S. mines and 11,000 of these deaths have occurred during the past six years.

The grand total of all federal employees at present is 370,065, as against 206,141 in 1907, an increase in the two years of about 64,000 persons, or about twenty per cent.

## Upholding Rule of France in West Africa.



SENEGAL. SHARPSHOOTERS UNDER THE FRENCH FLAG. France is depending more and more upon the loyalty of her black troops to maintain her authority in her West African possessions. The devotion of the Senegalese sharpshooters to the French flag has been repeatedly proved since the formation of the first company, in 1824, and cases of treason or desertion among them are unknown.

election ballot in his hand. I simply seek to arouse the people to faithful service in Christianity. That is my sole mission, whether it happen to be in France, England, Canada, the United States, or Australia.

"Men know where their neighbors live when the elections come on and they are able to bring them to the polls. If they were as anxious to save their neighbors' souls as they are to get their votes we would fill the churches. Let's attend to that first. Then we have no reason to complain of political conditions."

France Virgin Soil. "France is virgin soil for the evangelist but the Frenchman is not hostile. If he is indifferent, the so-called Christian is to blame. A form of religion, without power behind it, is the incubator which hatches infidelity. It is