LIVE NEWS FROM THE OLD WORLD

English Volunteers and Boer War Medals.

PAINTS IN DARKENED CELLAR

Remarkable Feat of an English Artist —The Naval Reforms—Workmen Find Ancient Coins.

London, Dec. 22.—The total number of awards secured by British exhibitors at the St. Louis exhibition is 696.

These are made up as follows: Grand prizes, 142; gold medals, 250; silver medals, 170; bronze medals, 134.

A noteworthy amalgamation of British engineering firms has been formed in Alexandria and Cairo under the direction of one general representative. The firms consist of Messrs. Dick Kerr & Co., Limited, Callender's Cable and Electrical Construction Company, Limited, Messrs. Babcock and Wilcox, Limited, Messrs. Gwynnes, Limited, and Messrs. Gibb & Co.

The combination is styled the "British Engineering Company of Egypt, Limited," and composed, as it is, of firms of the first rank, the centralization of their varied interests and operations should conduce to a rapid expansion of their business with this prosperous country.

Many regiments in the army consider themselves slighted by the action of the authorities in deciding the South African battle honors which they may bear on the colors.

Regiments who had not the good fortune to be present at a big action, are merely to have the scroll, "South Africa, 1899-1902," on their colors.

This, it is contended, is an inadequate record of two years' campaigning including scores of fights and the chase after Dewet.

Those whose colors already bear the South African scroll get an extra date added.

This, it is claimed, is absurd for so protracted a campaign, in which some battalions lost one half of their men.

The Admiralty's new movement to insure the thorough efficiency of the navy is to be even more drastic than was expected. All obsolete warships are to be withdrawn from the fleets abroad.

Between twenty and thirty ships will be recalled, and 8,000 men will thus be released for service on new and effective ships. There will be a great saving of money that has been swallowed up hitherto in patching practically useless craft.

The Pacific and North American squadrons are affected to the greatest extent by the reform, and in future the units of a fleet will be concentrated so that should war come outlying ships will not be cut off.

No more square-rigged vessels will be seen in the training service and such old ships as the Pallas, Calliope, Cleopatra, and Northampton are doomed.

Mr. Keyworth Raine, the artist who started society last season by painting portraits of its members in a darkened cellar, is to be submitted to a severe test.

Working in a dark room, with only one brush and no palettes, he is to paint a portrait of Mr. Edwin Drow. Four sittings of one hour each will be required, and the artist undertakes to turn out a finished portrait that will look as though it had been painted 200 years ago.

Mr. Raine's secret is a specially constructed window, which modifies the lighting of the room to the required gloom. The artist claims to have rediscovered a secret possessed by Rembrandt and Velasquez, but lost for centuries.

The discovery is the result of six years' patient investigation and scientific search. It is announced that the test will be supervised by a committee of R. A.'s.

Much discussion has been aroused in Melbourne by the receipt of a cable from Mr. Lyttleton, Secretary of State for the Colonies, insisting on the payment by the Australian Commonwealth of its promised contribution to the Queen Victoria Memorial. The Government, fearing opposition to the proposed grant of £25,000, have postponed indefinitely the authorizing resolutions in view of the straitened finances of the Australian States.

The general opinion is that Australia cannot afford the money.

A memorial window to the late Rev. Hugh Price Hughes in the south wall of Wesley's Chapel, City road, subscribed for by friends and admirers, has been unveiled.

The design shows a life-size figure of Christ, copied from Leonardo da Vinci's well known picture of "The Last Supper." Beneath this is an inscription, "To the glory of God and in memory of the Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, M.A., President of the Conference. Born 1847, died 1902. This window is erected as a tribute of love and admiration from friends at home and abroad."

A proposal to include in the design of the window a portrait medallion of Mr. Hughes himself was given up at the wish of Mrs. Hughes, but it is hoped that a portrait will be placed in the new central hall which the Wesleyans are erecting at Westminster.

As a number of workmen were engaged in making excavations under the Prince of Wales public house in High street, Kirkcaldy, a shovelful of earth thrown on to a heap of rubbish in the roadway was seen to break into a shower of coins.

For some minutes there was a scene of wild confusion, but when the excitement had calmed down and the excavations had been carefully examined, discovery was made of about fourteen pounds of gold and silver coins, dating from 1736.

A retired councilor bought a couple of George II. half-sovereigns for a sovereign, but one of the workmen refused £5 for a two-guinea piece. Most of the coins were £2 and £1 pieces, and half-sovereigns, but there were also a few silver coins of foreign currency.

TERENCE HOOLEY JUGGLED MILLIONS

Remarkable Career of th Famous Promoter.

BOUGHT TWELVE RESIDENCES

Made Seven Millions of Pounds in Three Years and Is Now a Dealer in £10 Notes.

London, Dec. 23.—Although it was in 1893 that the notorious Hooley case startled the world, echoes of the sensation continue to reverberate through English courts. On Saturday a trial in which Hooley figured came to an end, before Mr. Justice Lawrence. The famous promoter was acquitted, but one of his business associates, Henry John Lawson, was not so fortunate, and was sentenced to a year's imprisonment, with hard labor, Hooley was charged with aiding and abetting Lawson to defraud one Paine, a hotelkeeper, by means of falsely representing the condition of a certain company. There was nothing particularly sensational disclosed in the three weeks' trial, the amount at stake being not excessive and the methods employed by Lawson not original. Lawson attempted to defend himself, but Hooley was represented by some of the best lawyers at the London bar. The result, therefore, is chiefly remarkable as a vindication of the legal profession.

The point we find of interest is the fact that the immortal Hooley figured in it. Hooley, instead of being utterly cast down and crushed by the tremendous disclosures in his bankruptcy proceedings, is, apparently again active, even rampant. He can never become again a star of the first magnitude in the sky of finance, but he may, as a lesser light, make an easy living. In the trial he figures as a mere satellite to a man like Lawson, unknown outside a very small circle. This is a change, indeed, from the olden days, when the head of any table was where Hooley sat. The brazenness which enables Hooley to show himself in public was utterly lacking with Whittaker Wright, not so colossal a swindler, but a man of keener sensibilities. Wright unable to face the future, poisoned himself. Hooley, unabashed, continues to puff his black cigars in the face of public opinion. If he has the nerve to keep it up he may yet become an institution, part pathetic, part humorous, like Punch.

Ernest Terah Hooley is the descendant of a long line of Lincolnshire yeomen. Ten years ago he was a small lace manufacturer and cotton broker in Nottingham. He had inherited £20,000 from his father, and in 1895, under wise management, his business was worth £150,000 This was the sum he obtained when he formed a company to run the factory, and sold out. No doubt he made a handsome profit out of this transaction, judged from what we know of Hooley, and it is not unlikely that this provincial success encouraged him to head for London, there to establish himself as a promoter. A promoter has been wittily defined as one who sells something he has not got to somebody who does not want it. In three years Mr. Hooley made £7,000,000 at this business. At the end of that time he applied for protection to the Bankruptcy Court; then—the deluge.

Hooley is a man of the utmost brazenness, but he has little grit, or the world would never have had the sensational disclosures which marked his trial in 1898. He told everything, betrayed those who could be betrayed, slandered everyone else, and attempted to pose as a much maligned business man. A score of titled gentlemen were implicated by his confession. Some of them appeared in court, but most evaded this ordeal. Some of the others were kicked out of the leading clubs, but among the "guinea pigs" many had been as innocent as the guileless investing public. They also were Hooley's victims, but he accused them of being his accomplices. To one of them, the Earl of De la Warr, he gave £50,000 for the use of is name on a company prospectus. This was excessive, for according to Hooley's own statement, the market price for a "guinea pig" earl was £25,000. He stated that he owed every pound he had made to his phenomenal success in preparing the front page of his prospectuses, which invariably contained the names of the titled gentlemen figuring as directors of the companies he promoted.

There was something more than this, however, in Hooley's case. He was not the originator of the noble order of "guinea pigs." The device of trading on the names of titled nonentities had become threadbare in 1895. Hooley's originality lay in giving the investing public something for something, something like £400,000 for £2,500,000 for instance. This was not, of course, what the public thought it was getting, but a great deal more than it got from lesser swindlers. Invariably he chose going concerns, well-known businesses, like the Dunlop Company, Bovril, and Schweppes, for his operations. The Dunlop Company was at the time making a fortune, for the bicycle boom was on in full force. Hooley, who then had acquired a considerable reputation as a financier, bought the concern for £3,000,000, formed a company, and sold it for £5,000,000. The £2,000,000 of water which he loaded on the public was his profit Bovril he bought for £400,000 and sold for £2,500,000. On a bicycle chain patent he made £65,000 in much the same way.

In all he floated a full score of companies in three years, made probably £7,000,000, but in 1898 was hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt. This, after all, was the miracle; but Hooley calmly explained this away in the witness box. He himself was the victim of a hundred London blood-suckers. He paid millions of blackmail money, paid £10,000 where 25 cents' worth of ordinary sand would have answered. Every dishonest newspaper men in the city had only to hint darkly that he could write an unpleasant paragraph and Hooley would give him a check for practically any sum he demanded. From his yeoman ancestors he had inherited a list for country houses and land. He bought at least twelve famous residences. He owned two great steam yachts, he paid $1,000 a week at his hotel, he gave a gold communion service to St. Paul's, he spent £1,000,000 in Jubilee year, hoping for a knighthood; he paid a lawyer £20,000 for a month's work. Thus he made away with his profits, so that today he is a dealer in ten-pound notes where a few years ago he juggled with millions.

The insurance companies have quoted 50 per cent additional for insuring the life of Prince Obolenski, who has succeeded to the post of Governor-General of Finland, in the room of the late General Bobrikoff, killed by an assassin.

Mayors appear to have had their troubues two centuries ago. At Bielefeld, Germany, there is a tombstone with this inscription: "Here lies Johannes Burggreve, who considered his election as burgemaster of this city the greatest misfortune of his life."

RIVAL AUTHORS OF CHRISTIANIA

Ibsen and Bjornson Jealous of Each Other.

ARE RELATED BY MARRIAGE

Former Is Now Unable to Walk and His Death Is Expected at Any Moment.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—A cablegram from Christiania tells of the serious illness of Henrik Ibsen, the dramatic poet, and the announcement of his death at any time ought not to be a surprise. Mr. Ibsen suffered a stroke of paralysis in 1901, from which he has only partially recovered, and he is getting to be a very old man. He has done no writing since, and has spent most of his time sitting in the window of the apartment house in which he lives, on one of the busiest streets of Christiania. He has a pension from the government, and considerable property. While he is much beloved and admired by the people, he is an unhappy and discontented man, filled with eccentricities, vain, selfish, irritable and unreasonable. He has never been able to get on with his wife, and has been separated from her more than half of the years they have been married.

Nor have his relations with his son and only child, Sigurd Ibsen, been any more agreeable. The latter is eminent in politics and public affairs. He spent twenty years or more in the diplomatic service and was at one time secretary of the legation of Norway and Sweden at Washington. He is at present a member of the Norwegian Cabinet and one of the leaders of the Liberal party. While Sigurd Ibsen has never entirely broken off his relations with his father and has patiently endured the old gentleman's peculiarities, his marriage to the daughter of Bjornstjerne Bjornson, his father's most formidable rival in literature and popular estimation, has been a permanent cause of disagreement. These two famous men have never been friends. They have always been intensely jealous of each other, and while Bjornson has always treated Ibsen with tolerance and has never called him anything worse than "a pompous old donkey," Ibsen's fiery temper always flames up at the mention of Bjornson's name and his vocabulary has never been sufficient to permit him to express the contempt he feels.

The people of Christiania are very proud of their popular heroes, and have erected bronze statues of both in a plaza in front of the National Theater. The figures are generally admired, but are unsatisfactory to the originals. It is seldom that any man has the privilege of criticising his own statue. Such honors are usually reserved until people are dead. But the admiration of the Norwegians for their two most famous men could not be restrained. Ibsen would have been perfectly satisfied if only one monument had been erected, provided it was in his honor, but the fact that the distinction is shared by his rival and enemy makes it no honor at all, and he has never been so condescending as to inspect either statue. Bjornson is a hearty, good humored, impetuous boy of 65 years, and no one was so much interested in the statue project as himself until the figures were unveiled, when he pronounced Ibsen's a perfect likeness and his own "a permanent calumny." His son, who is the manager of the theater, has frequently joked the old gentleman about the statue, but nobody else has ever dared take such a liberty.

Before his illness in 1901, Ibsen was a familiar spectacle upon the streets. He always took a walk every morning at precisely the same hour, and always went the same way. He was so regular in his habit that the people of Christiania could set their watches by his coming and going. Having reached the Grand Hotel, he entered the cafe, took a special seat in the corner, which was always reserved for him, and read the morning newspapers for exactly an hour, in the meantime sipping a sort of "highball" of whisky and soda, which the Norwegians call "a pjolter." Having finished his glass he walked to the postoffice, and then perhaps to a bank or a bookstore and returned to his home. This daily programme was terminated by his illness. Since his stroke of paralysis he has not been able to walk about without assistance, but on sunny afternoons he has usually taken a drive, and at certain hours every day he may be seen sitting in his window. This habit is so regular that the hotel clerks and guides always direct strangers there to see him, and his enthusiastic admirers make it a point to pass the house, and lift their hats to him. On his birthday, at Christmas, New Year and other holidays it is customary for people to send him presents. Little girls often leave bunches of flowers at his door.

The cable dispatches from China bring the news that the Empress Dowager issued an edict requiring all of the soldiers in the army to wear European dress and cut off their queues. Her orders have already been obeyed in the Province of Honan. The Viceroy of Honan, who has been so prompt in carrying out these instructions, has a son being educated in the United States, and the youngster had not been six weeks in this country before he cut off his own queue to escape the teasing of his schoolmates. The viceroy was greatly shocked when he heard the news, because a young man without a queue in China is quite as conspicuous as a young man with one would be in the United States. It was difficult to reconcile the old gentleman to the situation, but he seems to have obeyed his imperial orders in that respect very promptly.

Li Hsing Jui, for many years viceroy at Nanking, who recently died of old age, has been succeeded by Chou Fu, recently governor of Shantung Province, who is regarded as one of the most progressive and enterprising officials in China. This illustrates the reform tendencies of the empress, and is full proof that she is in earnest in her determination to modernize China. Chou Fu was one of the group of able and progressive young men who surrounded Li Hung Chang while he was viceroy of the metropolitan province. He has a large foreign acquaintance, a foreign education, and is a cordial supporter of the missionaries. He was recently engaged in negotiating the new treaty with Minister Conger.

American rainbow trout have been acclimated successfully in the Lake of Constance, and further experiments are to be made with them elsewhere in Switzerland.

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Municipal Elections.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Municipal Electors of the City of London.—At the request of a number of citizens I have agreed to become a candidate for the position of Alderman for the year 1905, and I respectfully request your vote and influence. Faithfully yours,

Alex Stuart

London, Dec. 22, 1904. 93k-tywt

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Dramatized Novels.

Among the constituents of the modern dramatic offerings the book-play is a recent manifestation, and it lives on sturdily, being still, to all appearances, at the height of its vigorous supremacy in the dramatic world. A number of such plays came to grief last season, but the failures included no greater proportion of dramatized books than of other classes of theatrical productions. The year past was one in which managers suffered much more than their accustomed share of misfortune, for reasons apparently quite apart from any considerations indicating a change in the dramatic tastes of the people. A novel no sooner establishes its title to be regarded as a success than the author is besieged by a manager—or more often still by an actor, who sees in it a part that he conceives to be suited to his particular manner and figure—and besought to dramatize the work. The author, too, is likely to be approached by playwrights whose special business it is to prepare current fiction for the stage. In the end, the author yields to temptation which comes in the form of royalties that are munificent when compared with anything customarily received by a novelist from his publisher. The book is forthwith dramatized and the play is produced, but too often the result is neither fish, flesh nor good red herring. The transfer is of necessity a desecration of a good novel, if there is to be any quality of goodness in the play, since the novel and drama are two distinct forms of literary art, not interchangeable.

The growth of the book-play tendency seems to be explicable only by the desire that exists among large classes of people to speak with a semblance of knowledge about books their friends have read, but with which they with less trouble can familiarize themselves by sitting for two hours and a half in comfortable surroundings, by looking at a few pictures and by listening to a little clever dialogue.

Publishers are now clear in their own minds that a play does not greatly invigorate the sale of a book. Indeed, dramatization may have the opposite effect. The hour at which an author sells his book to the manager should be well chosen. The psychological moment is just after it has run its course on the bookstalls and in the libraries.—Booklover's Magazine.

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STEERAGE IN PANIC

Terrific Gale Starts Panic Amongst Passengers of Liner.

Halifax, Dec. 23. — The North German Lloyd steamer Princess Irene, which left Naples Dec. 9, reached here tonight short of fuel. She will take on 500 tons of coal and proceed to New York. She reports terrific gales and head seas and was compelled to use large quanatities of oil.

Three passengers were injured by being thrown from their feet. Several ventilators were smashed and the steamer's boats were damaged. When the storm was at its height the 1,000 steerage passengers became panic-stricken and were restrained witn difficulty.

Fifty of the first-class passengers landed from the steamer tonight and left by trains for their home in the United States.

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