

The Shah's Crown in Danger While He Enjoys Life in Paris

Prince's Accident Due to Spectators on the Race Course--Belgium to Raise no More Loans Except for Public Utilities--Singapore Base Scheme Will Not be Carried Out.

REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT IN PERSIA GROWING

Official confirmation has been received by the French Foreign Office through diplomatic channels of the reports that the Republican movement in Persia was assuming a serious aspect for the dynasty. Thirty-six former ministers of the crown in the course of a meeting pledged themselves to demand the abolition of the present regime and the creation of a Republic.

SHAH SURPRISED AT INTEREST IN HIS AFFAIRS

The Shah of Persia, through one of his aides, expressed surprise to-day that the public seemed so keenly interested in the reports that he was in danger of losing his throne. The ruler, whom all the morning papers refer to to-day as quite likely to lose his throne before many days, refused absolutely to see inquirers or discuss the report from Tehran that a committee of fifty prominent persons had decided to proclaim a Republic shortly. Insistent calls finally induced the Shah to send down to the hotel lobby an attendant with a message to the general effect that the ruler failed to sympathize with the public interest in his future. The Shah, who is on a protracted European visit, has been in Paris for several weeks past living with a large household in the most expensive hotel in the city, in the quarters reserved for royalty. He continues to be a familiar figure at the race tracks and many lavish social affairs.

REASON OF PRINCE'S LATEST ACCIDENT

England discovered the excitement of the nearly disastrous fall of the Prince of Wales in the Arbor Field Cross steeplechase on Saturday, when motion pictures of the accident were shown. The film shows that the Prince swerved his horse to avoid crashing into spectators who were crowding the course. The horse missed his stride and failed to make the fence hurling the Prince to the ground and kicking him a glancing blow in the face.

SINGAPORE BASE SCHEME ABANDONED

Definite announcement was made in the House of Commons to-day of the Government's decision not to proceed further with the Singapore naval base scheme. Charles G. Ammon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, made the announcement. Mr. Ammon declared the Government had reached the decision after full consideration of all relative facts and after consultation with the Overseas Dominions. The announcement evoked loud cheers by the Labor members.

BELGIUM CURTAILING ALSO

BRUSSELS, Belgium, March 18. France is doing away with special benefits based on the hope of reparations payments from Germany. It was made clear to-day by Premier Thomas in reading the declaration of his reconstructed Ministry before the Chamber of Deputies. The Government, he declared, was determined not to raise further loans except for public works of a productive nature,

and no new expenditure for reparations would be incurred unless the funds were provided beforehand.

ALBERTA APPROVES UNION

EDMONTON, Alberta, March 18. The Church Union Bill, with the exception of a few clauses, was approved by committee of the whole in the Legislature yesterday, in spite of vigorous opposition offered by three members of the House.

HOUSE PASSED SOLDIERS BONUS BILL

WASHINGTON, March 18. The House to-day passed the soldier bonus bill 355 to 54, a margin of 82 over the necessary two-thirds. As sent to the Senate the Bill provides for paid up 20 year endowment life insurance policies and cash payments to those veterans not entitled to more than fifty dollars in the adjusted compensation.

FATALITIES IN PHILIPPINES

MANILA, March 18. Seven Philippines were killed in a clash between landlords and tenants on a sugar plantation near Candaba Pampanga Province, said a despatch reaching here yesterday. A number of others were wounded. The fight developed over deliveries of sugar cane. Five tenants were shot and killed and two landlords were slashed to death.

POPE NEVER FELT BETTER

ROME, March 18. Reports of the ill-health of Pope Plus were denied to-day by the Pontiff himself in an energetic statement. "I have got to die sooner or later," a well known functionary quotes His Holiness as saying. "What passes my comprehension is why people are so anxious to make it so dreadfully soon. I myself say frankly that I know no reason why it should be in the near future. Why have perhaps never felt better or more energetic than just now."

BOLSHEVIKS IN INDIA

CANNONPORT, British India, March 18.—The trial opened here yesterday of eight Indians, alleged Bolshevik agents, charged with conspiring to establish Communist International organization throughout India. Four of the accused were absent. The prosecution showed that the defendants "used the workers' and peasants' organization to attempt the complete separation of India from Great Britain, aiming at full control by the Indian National Congress with financial help from a Russian revolutionary organization. Testimony was given purporting to show that Indian revolutionaries met at Moscow in 1921 and decided on a programme of Bolshevik propaganda.

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CANADA'S PREMIER BASSO PROFUNDO

Nothing in Particular

By TRINCULO

MAH JONGG.

Said Brown, "Do you play Mah Jongg?"
"Sorry," I said, "but I have never been able to master these Chinese musical instruments. Anyway, I have no ear for music."
"Ass," retorted Brown. "It's a game. You must have heard of it. It comes from China and it has wiped Bridge completely off the map."
This hit me on the raw, for I rather fancy myself as a Bridge player. "You're a liar," I said heatedly, ignoring the shocked o-o-ohs that issued from the female members of the company. I continued, "Trot out your silly old game, and we'll soon see."

A card table was quickly set up and on it Brown proceeded to turn out a vast quantity of curiously decorated tiles, shaped very much like dominoes. He seated himself opposite his wife and his sister and I took the other vacant chairs.
"This game," he said, "can really be played only by brainy people. His wife interrupted him, "But, dear, that can't be so, for you play it."
I could not help hitting Brown when he was down, and added, "Of course, but you know, it is the exception that proves the rule."

For a while my initiation into the mystery of Mah Jongg was interrupted by an explosive flow of language from my would-be teacher. After a few seconds he recovered and the lesson proceeded. Within fifteen minutes I had more or less grasped the elementary principles of the game, which seemed to me very much like Coon-can. The tiles gave me the most trouble. There were enough dragons of all colours to give St. George, if he were now living, a job for life; there were all the winds that blow, and then some; a lot of fancifully decorated things which were sufficient, if looked at too long, to give one a chronic nightmare. Brown explained as Seasons. I could not help saying that one had to be pretty well seasoned to play with such pictorial horrors. To continue with the tiles, there were ban-

boos, and dots and characters enough to dazzle one. By the time Brown had finished explaining them, my brain was a seething mass of confusion. I felt dazed, and must have looked, for Brown's infant daughter who had been watching me attentively, asked her mother loudly if I had my mouth open to catch flies, or was it because I could not help it. Now, said my teacher, we shall start to build our walls. It is supposed to be "Good Jose" if you get it done first, but you must keep a stiff finger, or the tiles will fall about. A lot of rubbish of this sort was drilled into me, and the game proceeded. My head was soon filled with so many puns, and chows and kongs that I was not sure if my surroundings did not consist of a mixed pickle factory, or a Chinese laundry. We played three or four games, and I watched other punning and konging and chowing and Mah Jongging, plunged in silence. I did not do these weird things myself, because I did not know how. At last, Brown thought we had had enough for the night and he started to work out

the scores. He finished and looking at me sympathetically, said "Sorry old man, but you're 10,000 points down. Of course, it isn't really so bad as we only play for a dollar a shot." I paid up and soon after took my departure. It will be a long time before I visit the Browns, and I shall probably become a murderer if anyone ever mentions Mah Jongg to me again.

I've played many games in the course of my life. Such as rounders and golf and ping pong. But the worst of them all is not played with a ball but with tiles, and they call it Mah Jongg. I've tried all the rough games like hockey. While at tennis I'm specially strong. But never have sweat at any game yet. As I do when I'm playing Mah Jongg.

The tiles with their winds and their seasons. And their dragons in green, white and red. Always get on my nerves, while the curious curves of the characters go to my head. The dots and bamboos I find equally bad. And the building of walls is a bore. And I'm hanged if I know how the darned things go. While I'm helpless when trying to score.

They say that the Chinese were civilized. Some thousands of years before us. But I'm sure this is wrong, for they gave us Mah Jongg. Which at best I must call od-ious. For myself, I don't fancy new crazes. And they never survive very long. I for one won't shed tears when, at last, disappears. This latest mad game of Mah Jongg.

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As the News Comes Back From Abroad

SAILORS PERISH BLASTING "SEALER" OUT OF ST. JOHN'S.

ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland—(Can-Press)—The sealing steamers which have been blockaded in this port by ice, since last Friday, all got away Tuesday, the seven steamers pulling out before noon with the Terra Nova, Captain Kean, in the van. In the strenuous efforts that were

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Fashions and Fads
Touches of beige or red are used with black. The jackets of the new suits are slightly fitted. Green is particularly good, especially for evening. The monogram tie is smart with the tailored vest. The coat of the spring suit is generally hip length. The new vests are severely tailored and very smart. Printed linens will be used for summer sports frocks. Very few of the spring frocks are alike on both sides. The new closely fitting turban has a brim which rolls up. Plaids seem to have monopolized the world of sports clothes. Rows of pleatings are used on the skirt of an unbelted frock. Alpaca is one of the smartest materials for spring tailcoats. Embroidery in white wool is used on a frock of soft blue linen. Bands of light fur are used on the collars of spring sports coats. Many of the new spring coats flare from the shoulders down.

Catalina

On Sunday, March 9th, at 3 p.m., a Memorial Service was held in St. Peter's Church for the crew of the ill-fated "President Coaker." One of the members of the crew, the late G. House, was a member of the L.O.A., and the members of "Morning Star" Lodge, I.O.A. paraded as a body to the church. The members of the F.P.U. living at Catalina and Port Union also attended service. In addition there was a large congregation, all mutely testifying to the loss befallen to the neighbourhood in the sudden taking away of 6 young men, 4 of whom lived here. Everyone joined in honouring the memory of those "who go down to the sea in ships," and who in this case "finished their work in the waters." The preacher was the Rev. T. W. Upward, who taking as his text Hebrews 14-13, "Here we have no continuing city," centred the attention of the congregation on the inevitability of death, and the too often forgotten fact that this world is but a preparatory stage on which we learn, as it were, in readiness for the revealed worship of God hereafter. After the sermon Hymn 140 (A.E.M.) was sung, the note of victory emphasizing the lesson of the preacher that "Death is swallowed up in Victory." After the Benediction the "Dead March" was rendered by the Organist. The note of Victory over Death so dominant in

"Jesus lives, no longer now Can thy sorrows, Death appal us," is well emphasized in a poem written by McCreery:
There is no death! The stars go down To rise upon some other shores; And bright in Heaven's jewelled crown They shine for evermore.
And ever near us, though unseen, The dear immortal spirits tread. For all the boundless universe Is Life. There are no dead.

We regret to state that Mr. William White, who has been attending the Lighthouse on Green Island, has gone to St. John's for an operation for Cancer on the lip.

We understand that several parties are making preparatory efforts for the Dramatic Arts to be given to the public during the Easter term. We are very glad to note this, as, apart from the financial returns from such undertakings, the benefit and pleasure derived from practice and rehearsal in places where recreations are few make them to be desired and encouraged. We hope that we may have the pleasure of reporting unqualified successes in due time. S. J. H.

McMurdo's Store News

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MUTT AND JEFF

A. MUTT, INCOME TAX EXPERT. LITTLE JEFF, DABBLER IN LAW.

By Bud Fisher.



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