

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1891.

WAR IN EUROPE.

The spectacle of Europe in arms is one that appeals nearly every observer. Who is to know when the great nations, armed to the teeth, shall fly at each other's throats, and make the whole world resound with the noise of battle? Every month rumors of war are raised. Each movement of the great powers is watched, and its significance carefully studied. The belief that war may break out at any time is so intense, so general, that acts, which at any other time would pass unnoticed, or would be regarded as harmless, are construed to portend the immediate breaking out of the contest which all see to be impending and inevitable.

But there is one observer in Europe who occupies a position most favorable to see all that is going on, who has had much experience, and who is allowed to possess remarkable ability in discerning the signs of the times, who believes, and who gives his reason for believing, that the fears of those who apprehend an immediate war in Europe are not well grounded, and that the nations of that continent will remain in the same position, relatively, to each other, that they now occupy, for an indefinite period longer. This man is M. Blowitz, the Paris correspondent of the London Times. He has contributed a very remarkable paper to Harper's Monthly, in which he gives the readers of that publication his views as to the prospect of a war in Europe, what is to bring it about, and who are to be engaged in it.

This eminent publicist does not believe that there is much danger of an immediate war. He shows at considerable length that none of the great powers is in a position to incur the terrible risks which a war at this particular time would involve. France and Germany, he believes, are inclined to fight, and will certainly fight, but not just now. The Republic is not yet sufficiently well established to permit France to engage in a great war. The people are divided into factions which are ready to fall upon the Republic and rend it in pieces at the first appearance of disaster; and the nation would be almost sure to declare the general, who would defeat the Germans and give them back Alsace and Lorraine, Emperor. The result of war just now would be, if successful, the establishment of a new Empire, or if unsuccessful, the return of anarchy. Patriotic Frenchmen, therefore, do not favor an immediate war. They want the nation to become firmly, and from conviction, republican before it engages in a contest with Germany.

It is not, M. Blowitz maintains, in the interest of Germany to go to war at the present time. The fortune of war is, at best, uncertain, and it would be sheer madness for Germany to risk all it has gained by wantonly engaging in a struggle with France. That nation is well prepared for war. Germany could not now take it unawares. The invader of France would, to-day, be met promptly by an army as well organized and equipped in every way as is to be found in the world. The result would be, by no means, doubtful. The German army might be defeated, and, in that case, would the young Emperor be, and what would become of the Empire which the genius of Bismarck has built up? This, as regards Germany, is what M. Blowitz says would be the result of defeat: "The Rhine will at last become a conquered frontier, the Empire will crumble into hostile fragments, and the Emperor of yesterday will sink into nothingness in the dry, sandy soil of Baden-Baden." It, then, is not by any means probable that the Emperor of Germany will recklessly provoke a contest with France.

Austria has nothing to gain by war, and Russia is not in a position to begin the fight alone. Italy can do nothing by herself. Without the co-operation of Germany and Austria she is powerless. As long, then, as France remains quiet there will not, according to M. Blowitz, be war in Europe. And it is the interest of France to keep the peace for some time longer.

But although the great struggle may be deferred, it is certain to come. The signal for a European war, M. Blowitz firmly believes, will be the death of the Emperor of Austria. Then the catastrophe cannot any longer be averted. The nations and races that now form the Austro-Hungarian Empire will then be like sheep without a shepherd. Unhappily the Emperor Francis Joseph has no son to succeed him. This is what made the suicide of Prince Rudolf such a dreadful tragedy. The heir to the Throne of Austria is a vicious imbecile. This is how he is described by M. Blowitz.

Franco Ferdinand is twenty-eight years of age. He is unmarried. He is not known to have any friend of either sex. He is almost always seen alone. He has the long face of the Hapsburgs, sheepish, and without character, a leaden eye, a thin and expressionless mouth, a slow and dazed gait. His physiognomy is at once shy and malicious. He hunts, he rides, he drives four in hand, and that is about all he does. He is one of the most ignorant princes of the day. He can scarcely write even German; he writes meagre and even worse than ordinary French; he has never been able to speak a word of English; and he is ignorant of all the various languages spoken on the soil of Austria. At eighteen, when he was emancipated, and when his professors bade him adieu, he burned all his books, vowing that he would never touch another book in his life, and he has, so far, kept his word. This young man is described as arrogant, insolent and unfeeling. Since the death of the Emperor took him in hand and tried to prepare him, in some sort, for the duties he would have to perform when he should succeed to the throne, but he was unteachable and incorrigible, and the Emperor had to give up the task of improving him in despair. This young man has

a brother who is as stupid, and even more brutal than himself. The Emperor is sixty-one years of age, and, in the course of nature, it cannot be very long before one of these imbeciles will become the ruler of Austro-Hungary.

M. Blowitz believes the crisis will then have come. The Austrian Empire, which has been kept together with difficulty, will fall to pieces, and there will be a scramble for the fragments. Russia, Germany, and Italy will divide Austria between them. It is not likely that England and France will remain inactive spectators of the struggle. "France and England," M. Blowitz says, "united by force of common interests and common fears, will, at best, be able only to mitigate the insatiable fury of the spoiler, and to reconstitute on a basis not traced by themselves a new Europe, in which they will have perhaps but an accessory role." This is not cheerful outlook. But it must be remembered that M. Blowitz, though well informed and sagacious, is neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, and that there is a profound and a convincing truth in the French saying: "Man proposes, but God disposes."

A PROPOSAL.

It is quite evident that the citizens of Victoria believe that the city contains more inhabitants than the census returns show. The general belief is that many have been passed over. The proposal to have a re-count is, therefore, well received. The official count should, it is said, be either verified or corrected. It would be easy to do this if intelligent citizens felt sufficient interest in it to do it themselves. Very little time need be lost. The work of taking the names could be done in an evening. Let a committee be formed, and a call for volunteer enumerators be made. The wards could be divided into sections, so that each enumerator would not have more work to do than could easily be performed in, say, two hours. A count on which the citizens might rely could thus be made at the cost of little more than the voluntary labor of those who undertake the work. There are details that could be attended to by the central committee. The advantage of this plan is that the census of the whole city can be taken simultaneously and in a short time, by men who take an interest in the work and are qualified to do it well. We think that there is public spirit enough in the young men of the city to find out the number of its inhabitants in some such way as we have indicated. We fear that if the work of enumeration is left to the paid labor of such men as the corporation can hire to do it the business will be done very slowly, and it would hardly be safe to place much reliance on the result.

Taking the census in a few hours is not by any means a new thing. The census of the whole United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland was taken in that way.

A SEVERE CRITIC.

The Argonaut, which seldom does things by halves, and whose fall is certainly, not understatement, expresses itself in very plain terms with respect to the part taken by the Government of the United States in the late Chilean struggle. After saying that all well-informed, intelligent, law-abiding, property-owning American citizens sympathized with the men who revolted against the tyranny of the Dictator, Balmaceda, it goes on to say:

"But this class does not embrace the President of the United States nor his Cabinet of constitutional advisers. If the President had enjoyed the faculties and possessed the judgment of a common-sense which he ought to possess, he would not have been transported from the States of the South and West to prepare himself to be renominated for the presidential office. He would not have appointed Patrick Egan to be United States Minister and Ambassador to the Republic of Chile, which position he so unworthily filled; and if the American Congress had the proper conception of the Monroe doctrine over which our country has vaunted, our Government would not have remained in indifference to the fact that an usurper had stolen power, proclaimed himself dictator, ignored the constitution of Chile, set at defiance the laws, dismissed the Supreme Court, made himself head of the army and navy, appropriated all the public revenues, and constituted himself and his colleagues the sole arbiters of life and property."

The Argonaut also considers the seizure in the first place, and subsequently the chase and capture of the Itata, illegal and without excuse, and concludes by saying: "The whole business is by no means creditable to the administration of the American Republic. President Harrison and his junketing cabinet might have been better engaged than in travelling, speech-making and delivering lectures to Young Men's Christian Associations, in aid of his re-nomination as a candidate of the Republican Party for the Presidency."

The course taken by the Government of the United States, representing as it does, a people proud of their freedom and jealous of their rights, was indeed singular, and we are not surprised that a true republican and an ardent lover of popular liberty like the editor of the Argonaut, is indignant and expresses himself strongly.

MEN AND WOMEN.

The Cobden Club lost one of its oldest members by the death of Prince Napoleon. He has been on the books of the club since 1869.

Mr. Theodore Thomas is so well known as a conductor that it is almost forgotten he is a violinist. Nor has he forgotten his craft.

E. Cora de Puy, a bright newspaper woman of Southern Michigan, is trying to start a publication daily in the State, and wants to be managing editor of it herself.

There are portraits of eight possible lawn tennis champions in a current number of a popular weekly. All but one, Clarence Hobart, part their hair in the middle.

Perhaps the oldest maiden is Miss Permelie Wright, who recently turned her 100th birthday at her home in Benton Harbor, Mich. She never had but one suitor.

DISTRESSFUL CHILL.

Two Insurgent Combatants in the City—How Dictator Balmaceda Maintained His Position.

Defeats Turned into Victories by the Telegraph Wires—Experiences on a War Vessel.

Prospects of the Future—Americans Unpopular—A Constitutional Government being Formed.

Messrs. J. Brett and W. E. Blythe, who have recently arrived from South America, are staying at the Occidental Hotel, and are full of interesting information as to their experiences in connection with the successful movement of the revolutionary party in Chile. Mr. Brett was purser on the steamer Capatzi, which, at the beginning of the revolution, was on the freight and passenger route between Iquique and Valparaiso. On the way out, just before the trouble had begun, that vessel received a telephone from Horacio Lyon, managing director of the South American Steamship Company, ordering her to call at Coquimbo. Naturally, the receipt of this order occasioned considerable surprise; but it was supposed that the object was to take on freight, or passengers. Arrived at Coquimbo, the vessel was met by the man-of-war "O'Higgins." As soon as they had dropped anchor a boat came alongside in charge of a naval officer, who, having looked over the ship's papers, ordered the vessel not to leave port. He then informed them that the naval squadron had revolted, and that the Capatzi was now in the custody of the party opposed to Balmaceda. Having been several days in Coquimbo, a colonel, with a number of officers and soldiers, together with a quantity of treasure, were placed on her. It was announced that Valparaiso had been blockaded; that they were to proceed there and convey to

the soldiers from the O'Higgins. It was between twelve and one o'clock in the morning when they ran alongside the Blanco at Valparaiso, there being also in the bay a vessel which, the captain of the Capatzi recognized as the Balmaceda warship Imperial. He informed Commander George Mont, of the Blanco, that the Imperial was preparing to go to sea, and advised him to stop her. This advice was laughed at, the remark being made that if the Imperial—the only warship in the Balmaceda service—attempted to get out they would easily overtake her. However, she got away with 1,500 troops on route to the north; but for whose escape the revolutionary party would have had no difficulty in securing control of affairs. The Capatzi then proceeded to Lota, where she took on coal. At this point, according to the South American Company, not knowing that she had been impressed into the revolutionary service, advised her to leave at once as the Balmaceda service was in a desperate straits, and that she was in a position to be of great service to the cause.

Mr. Brett was only for a short time on board the Laja, which had been taken by the Aconcagua and released because her service was defective and therefore she was deemed to be of no use for the service, and was taken by the Laja and the Imperial to the north; but for whose escape the revolutionary party would have had no difficulty in securing control of affairs. The Capatzi then proceeded to Lota, where she took on coal. At this point, according to the South American Company, not knowing that she had been impressed into the revolutionary service, advised her to leave at once as the Balmaceda service was in a desperate straits, and that she was in a position to be of great service to the cause.

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ALL RECORDS BEATEN.

Mails From Japan Via the C. P. R. Delivered in London in Twenty Days.

The Steamship City of New York Completes the Globe-Circling Feat.

LONDON, Sept. 8.—The steamer City of New York, of the Inman line, arrived at Queenstown at 1 o'clock this afternoon, having crossed the Atlantic in five days, 24 hours and 50 minutes, breaking the best previous record.

New York, Sept. 8.—The steamship City of New York had on board the famous record-breaking Japanese mail, that the steamship Empress of Japan, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the New York Central Railroad Company brought from Yokohama to this city in 14 days. The letters contained in these mail bags were read in England ten days before the actual time of arrival of Japanese mails. Letters that were written on the 15th left Yokohama on the same day.

Nine days and 19 hours later they reached Liverpool. It was the quickest passage ever made. The Canadian people were so proud of the achievement that they determined to attempt greater things. The steamship City of New York was scheduled to leave this port September 2 at 5 a. m., and the postal authorities decided that the Canadian Pacific would try to catch the steamer. It was a difficult task. As the Empress of Japan reached her dock a special train was waiting to receive the mails. The special train left Vancouver August 28 p. m. and arrived at Brockville in 233 miles. It was covered in 77 hours and 30 minutes, a record which was broken when it was considered that the train ran over two chains of mountains, sometimes crawling up a grade of 100 feet to the mile and reaching elevations of 10,000 feet above the level of the sea. From Brockville the mail bag crossed the St. Lawrence on a steamer, reaching Morris-town, N. Y., September 1. The New York Central declared that the run from Morris-town to this city could not possibly be made in less than 100 hours. The postal authorities thought differently. Anyway, they were willing to make the effort.

From Morris-town to New York, a distance over the Central system of 338 miles, was covered in 6 hours and 38 minutes, an average of 54 miles an hour. The total distance was 1,000 miles, and was made in 90 minutes. When the special pulled into the Grand Central depot this city, on the morning of September 2, it was exactly 4.43 o'clock.

They were just 17 minutes in which to transfer the mail bags to a wagon and drive to the Manhattan Post Office. Superintendent Bradley, the railway mail service knew that it could not be done but he pushed ahead and trusted to luck. The transfer was made in 17 minutes. As a pair of big black horses, wet with rain, were harnessed to the wagon, the mail was loaded. Three minutes later the last pack had been tossed aboard the City of New York and the steamer was swinging out into the river. Just 20 days from the time the letters left Yokohama they were in England.

Mr. Ward Not Thoroughly Satisfied With the Character of the Standard Theatre.

The License Not Yet Given to John Cort—Other Business Disposed of Yesterday.

Mayor Grant, Police Magistrate Belyea and Mr. Cort were on the Board of License Commissioners at the City Hall, yesterday, and disposed of eight applications, six of which were granted, and two adjourned. The only business transacted was upon the request for a transfer of the license held by Mrs. Barker to the Standard Theatre to John Cort. This application had made its appearance at three previous sessions of the Court, on each occasion being adjourned. Mr. R. F. Mills, representing the applicant, presented a document signed by Mayor White and other prominent citizens of Seattle, stating that, in their opinion, the Standard Theatre was a place of amusement, and that it was in the public interest that it should be licensed. Mr. Cort, according to counsel's statement, was a business of procuring licenses at a different place than the Court, and was not a resident of Seattle.

Mr. Ward said that the matter of this license had been repeatedly adjourned to afford Cort opportunity to produce evidence in support of his application. He said that he had been repeatedly informed that Cort did not possess the necessary qualifications, and that he was seeking to obtain the position of license holder by means of a bribe. Mr. Ward said that he had been repeatedly informed that Cort did not possess the necessary qualifications, and that he was seeking to obtain the position of license holder by means of a bribe.

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JOKES AGAINST JOKE.

An Incident of a Dry Goods Merchant's Farewell to the Road.

"Just before I left the road for good and all," began a dry goods merchant in the Merchants' club recently, says the New York Herald, "I had one comical experience that I shall never forget."

"There were several of us traveling together," he continued. "We had been skylarking all along the road, playing off pranks on one another and having a pretty good time generally. It was to be my farewell trip and the boys made a dead set at me for that reason. After while the novelty wore away and life became burdensome."

"I tried to call a halt, but it was no go. One fellow, finding that I was annoyed, persisted in his attempts to put up games on me, and he succeeded pretty well."

"I said nothing for awhile, but resolved to get even if it took me the balance of my life," he continued. "The boys separated at New Orleans," added the speaker. "Some of them were booked for Texas, while my practical-joking friend and I continued up the Mississippi valley. We reached Memphis early one morning by the Jackson route. We were driven immediately to the city's headquarters house."

"I had stopped there half a hundred times before and had struck up a great friendship with Wiley, the second waiter. I knew the dandy would do anything in the world for me. I had matured a scheme by which I proposed to retaliate on my tormentor."

"We were shown to our rooms