

Old World Topics

Egypt Has Another Prosperous Year—The Granary of the Soudan—Prevalence of Disease Among British Soldiers.

Waterloo Defeat for the "Unionists" in the Irish County Elections—Boom for Home Rule—Royalty Going to Ireland—Germany Wants the Upper Hand in Samoa—Results of the Figaro Revelations—England's Big Bill for Drink.

PROSPERITY IN EGYPT.

London, April 10.—Lord Cromer, the British minister, in his annual report on the finances and condition of Egypt, and the Soudan, says that Egypt has had another year of prosperity, the surplus for 1938 amounting to £244,000 (Egyptian). He remarks upon the growing disposition to invest British capital in the country. The deficit in the finances of the Soudan is placed at £200,000 (Egyptian).

Dealing with the development of the Soudan, Lord Cromer refers to the contract for the Atbara bridge, the placing of which with an American company caused much comment. He says that an old English firm offered to deliver the bridge in six months and a half at a cost of £10,490, while the American firm undertook to deliver it up in 42 days at a cost of £6,500.

The report of Baron Cromer is looked upon as being a wonderful story of progress and the triumph of administrative foresight and military vigor. He advocates extending the railroad from Khartoum through Abu-Haraz to Goedarf and Massala to Suakin, and thus tap the territory about the Upper Nile which Sir Samuel Baker called "the granary of the Soudan." Goedarf is the center of this grain-producing region. Lord Cromer says that hitherto grain at Khartoum has at times been sold at famine prices, while at Goedarf it can be had in such quantities that it is unsaleable. The railroad will change all this. The British agent also makes a significant remark that "school statistics show that French is dying out in the language of the middle classes, and English has already largely taken its place."

DISEASE AMONG THE BRITISH TROOPS.

In view of the cable reports that many of the American soldiers from Cuba have been attacked by cerebro spinal meningitis, a representative of the Associated Press saw the medical authorities of the war office with reference to the dispatch from Cairo to the Daily Telegraph saying that all the Anglo-Egyptian troops have been removed from Omdurman owing to the persistence of cerebro spinal meningitis due to the former unsanitary condition of the town. Surgeon-Major Muir, who has just returned from the Soudan, said:

"The position there is extremely serious. We had this trouble from the first with the Egyptian troops, but the British soldiers did not suffer, because they were surrounded by the utmost precautions. The disease is due to unsanitary conditions such as probably prevailed in the case of the hastily-organized Cuban campaign. Our campaign in the Upper Nile was planned with time in our favor, and thus the best sanitary arrangements could be made for the British soldiers who escaped."

AFRICAN RAILWAYS.

African railway questions are receiving more attention from the English press than any policies affecting American interests. Mr. Rhodes has many warm partisans, who are attempting to force the chancellor of the exchequer to take up the project for a railway from the Cape to Cairo as an imperial work, and they are laying great stress upon the fact that all the capital required for the German section of the railway has been guaranteed, whereas Mr. Rhodes

received no encouragement from the British Government. They are also arguing that the government guarantee of the work will not cost the British taxpayer a single penny, but they do not succeed in convincing anyone that so grandiose an imperial project will not prove burdensome.

FANTASTIC REVOLUTION.

The whirligig of time never made a more fantastic revolution. Three years ago Mr. Rhodes was behind the Transvaal raiders, and the German emperor was congratulating President Kruger on his victory over the filibusters and forcing the British Government to order out the flying squadron; now the German emperor is Mr. Rhodes' chief patron in carrying out a tremendous policy of African expansion.

LIBERAL LOSSES.

The retirement of the Earl of Rosebery, Sir William Vernon Harcourt and John Morley, and the death of Baron Herschell are followed by the terribly sudden death of Thomas Ellis, the chief Liberal whip. He was married last May, receiving then an extraordinary tribute of affection from the party. Earl Rosebery, Lord Tweedmouth, and other wealthy Liberals uniting to present him with a charming house in Westminster.

THE IRISH ELECTIONS.

Returns of the Irish county council elections are not yet nearly all to hand, but enough is known to justify the remark of the London Times' correspondent that "Unionism has been annihilated in Munster and Connaught, almost totally extirpated in Leinster, and badly wounded even in Ulster." The Unionists of position and property have been defeated by the wholesale, while several Nationalists have been beaten by Labor candidates. The council elections, in spite of everything foretold to the contrary, have been fought solely and wholly upon political lines, and the result is an overwhelming victory for Nationalism. In Kildare Lord Frederick Fitzgerald, a landlord and Tory, secured an election as the only Unionist among seven Nationalists.

A HOME RULE BOOM.

It is needless to dwell upon the fact that Thursday's startling elections will give an enormous impetus to home rule in the not far distant future, on two conditions: First, that the new Nationalist councils do not plunge Ireland into an uproar, but show some capacity for the management of public affairs; and, second, that the Irish members finally manage to subordinate personal jealousies to patriotism. Mr. Dillon's overtures for reunion have not yet been accepted by Messrs. Redmond and Healy, and his attitude is so patriotic and disinterested that they will be placed in a false position unless they meet him part way. Already there are signs that the Nationalists will make use of the new councils as bridges for entering Dublin Castle, and proposing the creation of a central administration in touch with all local bodies. That would be a close approach to Gladstonian home rule, with a body modeled after the London county council substituted for the national parliament.

ROYALTY GOING TO IRELAND.

The Duke and Duchess of York this week will pay their second visit to Ireland within two years. It is evident that they desire to become pop-

ular with the Irish people. They intend to attend a number of public functions. On their arrival in Dublin on Monday they will become the guests of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Earl Cadogan, and will attend the Punches and Leopards races, the vice-regal ball at Dublin Castle, the Dublin Society's cattle show, and will also pay a short visit to the Marquis of Ormonde at Kilkenny Castle.

MORE POLITICAL PRISONERS TO BE RELEASED.

The government has decided to release the three Irish political prisoners, Mullett, Fitzharris and O'Hanlon, now undergoing life sentence in Maryborough jail for participation in the Phoenix Park murders. A deputation from the Corporation of Dublin, headed by the lord mayor, went to Dublin Castle in state on Friday and presented a petition for the release of the prisoners. The lord lieutenant replied that he had resolved to release them, but could not fix the date of their release.

A FAREWELL FUNCTION.

It is announced that the Prince of Wales has succeeded in finally arranging for the Queen to open, in May or June, the Royal College of Science, in which the science collection of the South Kensington Museum will be housed. The collection at present is lodged in the part of the museum known from its hideous shape, as the "Brompton Boilers." The ceremony of opening the college will be on the same scale as imperial institute inaugurations, the route will be lined with troops, and the prince will have a melancholy side, as her Majesty has determined that it will be her last public appearance at a ceremony of this nature.

"UP-TO-DATE" PREACHING.

A so-called "up-to-date" rector of the city church of St. Mary-at-Hill, in the center of Billingsgate, on Sunday announces that his sermon on Sunday would be "Millionaire Marriages," with particular reference to the Vanderbilts wedding, accompanied by lime-light mania and the interior of American millionaires' residences. The rector dealt with the worthlessness of worldly goods, contrasting the gorgeous surroundings of the Vanderbilts and other millionaires with the lives of the field.

SIGNIFICANT ROYAL VISIT.

The visit of the King and Queen of Italy to Sardinia this week will be an interesting occasion, and from some standpoints significant. The event will shape the naval reunion at Cagliari, capital of the island of Sardinia, and the fleets of Great Britain and France, and it is hoped the opportunity will be seized upon to emphasize the better understanding now existing between the two countries. Altogether there will be 50 warships in the harbor, 20 British and 15 each from France and Italy. There will be no review, but the King of Italy will hold a ceremonious reception of the principal officers.

THE SAMOAN TANGLE.

The unraveling of the Samoan entanglement is followed with keen interest here, especially in colonial circles. Germany's "obstinacy," as her attitude is termed here, from the beginning of the troubles is regarded as "incomprehensible," and is said to be only explained by a desire to get the upper hand in the islands. This view is expressed by a colonial expert who, writing to the Morning Post, says: "For some reason never yet explained Germany regards Samoa as an important link in her foreign policy. Rather than give up Samoa the Germans would go to war."

VIOLATION OF THE SAMOA ACT.

The foreign office official empowered to speak for the German Government, tells the correspondent of the Associated Press that the action of the Americans and British is a clear violation of the Samoa act. That Germany intends to adhere to this view, that she considers the new government of Samoa illegal and that she has so instructed her ambassadors at Washington and London. The newspapers point out the growing importance of Samoa to New Zealand and the significance of the latter's offer to send volunteers to Samoa.

PREPOSTEROUS IMPORTANCE.

The Spectator, which thinks that "preposterous importance" has been given to the whole affair, says: "Great Britain only needs a coaling station, if she needs that. But we must vigorously support American claims and

the business will be tedious and expensive."

THE FEELING IN GERMANY.

The Samoan question continues to hold the attention of the public, the newspapers being full of dispatches and comments on the subject. The emperor has devoted much time to the matter. It is interesting to note that German distrust and dissatisfaction at the latest events are almost entirely aimed at Great Britain, whose attitude is described, even in official circles, as being dictated by duplicity and unfriendliness. The delay of Great Britain in accepting the proposals for a settlement of the difficulty is generally interpreted in Germany as showing distinctly unfriendly motives upon the part of Great Britain.

A high foreign office official remarked: "It has been a source of astonishment that Great Britain has not expressed regret at the latest turn of affairs in Samoa, while acceptance of our peaceful settlement has so far been coupled with unacceptable conditions containing the seed of new troubles and manifestly unfair. We could not accept conditions enabling the American and British commissioners at any time to override German rights, thus perpetuating the unpleasant state of affairs in the islands."

The press comment is in the same key, but more outspoken.

THE FIGARO REVELATIONS.

The Figaro revelations in the publication of the evidence presented to the court of cassation in the Dreyfus case is the sensation of Paris and has revived the keenest interest in the Dreyfus affair. The Dreyfusites are highly pleased with the publication of the depositions. The Figaro's bold step is particularly interesting as, last year, its editor unexpectedly championed Dreyfus with the result that the paper lost a great number of subscribers and the proprietors removed the editor from his post. The Figaro has now taken a step which has drawn upon it the formidable hostility of the general staff of the war office, which desired secrecy, and whose reputation is grievously damaged by the publication of evidence that the war department engineered different trials, influenced witnesses and had the intention of preventing the exculpation of Dreyfus.

The revelations made by the Figaro came before the correctional court Saturday afternoon, when the new managers of the paper MM. Roder and Borel, were sentenced, in default, to 500 francs fine, and costs for publishing the testimony.

ENGLAND'S BIG BEER BILL.

An official statement, just issued, shows England to be the greatest drinking nation in the world, a discovery which has astonished her people, who hoped she had fallen behind in the alcoholic race. Of beer England drinks 80.31 gallons per head per annum; America, 12.20; Germany, 25.50; France, 5.10. Wine—England drinks 39 gallons; America, 44; Germany, 134; France, 21.80. Of spirits England drinks 1.02 per head; America, 84; Germany and France, both 1.39. This gives England's total consumption at \$2.71 gallons; America's, 12.48; Germany's, 28.73; France's, 28.79. The drinking of wine is decreasing in England, while that of spirits and beer is increasing.

BACK TO LONDON.

The Prince of Wales has left Cannes and is now on his way back to England. Nearly all of the other prominent people are leaving the Riviera. As the season is drawing to a close, the trains from Nice and Cannes to Paris are filled with passengers, and all the berths of the sleeping cars have been secured for the next three weeks.

WEDDINGS.

The forthcoming season will be remarkable for its unusually large number of fashionable weddings. None, however, will surpass that of Lord Crewe and Lady Peggy Primrose at Westminster Abbey, on the 20th of the month. The royal romance of Princess Victoria of Wales and her cousin, Prince George of Greece, which has been talked about for years, will, it is whispered, culminate shortly in the announcement of their engagement. It has been generally said in society circles for some years past that the princess was very much in love with her tall, stalwart cousin, but that he, fearing that he had very little to offer, did not dare to press his suit until his recent appointment as governor of Crete gave

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NOTES.

Justin McCarthy, suffering from a double cataract, underwent a preliminary operation last week in a private hospital at Margate for removal on the right eye. He stood the operation admirably. He will be six weeks under treatment before both cataracts are removed. His health was wonderfully restored by a long stay at Westgate-on-Sea.

Mr. F. Marion Crawford has undertaken already to write the biography of the pope, and is now at work upon it at his beautiful residence at Sorrento. His recent work, "Ava Roma Immortalis," has met with great favor in Vatican circles, since it describes the sacred city in a spirit of enthusiasm and reverence.

A poor Berlin family was recently augmented by triplets, and since then the parents have been the recipients of parcels of baby linen and other useful articles, and a Sister of Mercy arrived to nurse the mother. On Thursday the neighbors were astonished at the sight of an imperial carriage in front of the house. Two ladies and two gentlemen emerged from the vehicle and climbed to the fifth story. Entering the room occupied by the poor mother, one of the ladies said: "Good day; I have taken the liberty to come and have a look at the triplets." It was the Empress of Germany, who, after a long conversation, revealed herself as the unknown benefactor of the family. She left a present of money and promised other assistance.

TERRIBLE MISTAKE

Drank Carbolic Acid Instead of Filtered Water.

Big Rapids, Mich., April 10.—Mistaking a bottle of carbolic acid for a bottle of water Ole M. Olson, a prominent business man and Mason, Saturday afternoon died a violent death. Suffering from headache, he entered Fairman's drug store, helped himself to a headache powder and went to the rear of the store for a drink of water, as he had done many times previous. Instead of the filtered water bottle he poured from a carbolic acid bottle and washed the powder down with the same. He told the startled clerks of his terrible mistake, and physicians were summoned, but he was dead in a few minutes.

SILVER MINE IN HIS HOUSE.

Brantford, April 10.—Mr. Wortley Acret, whose lucky discovery of \$500 in an old safe was reported Friday, has supplemented his find of the day before by discovering \$427 more in the same treasure box. After depositing the first money in the Bank of Commerce, Mr. Acret made a thorough examination of the old safe, when he discovered back of a number of pigeonholes a secret chamber which contained the second treasure, in English silver of the time of George IV., like the first.

STOLE A PREACHER'S GOWN.

Port Huron, Mich., April 10.—Rev. J. W. Gibson, a Presbyterian divine, on his way home from Kingston, Canada, to Cincinnati, had a valise containing part of his wardrobe stolen Friday night while the train was stopping at the Tunnel station. Upon discovering his loss he notified the station police officer, who found the valise in an out-of-the-way place in the yards with part of the contents strewn on the ground. The officer also captured the thief while he was attempting to sell a black silk gown valued at \$60 for \$1. In the police court a charge of simple larceny was preferred against

the prisoner, to which he pleaded guilty, and was given accommodation at the Detroit house of correction for 90 days.

AFRAID SHE WOULD LOSE HER BOY.

He was wasting away with a terrible Cough. Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup cured the Cough and restored his health.

It takes the life out of a mother to see her child—the idol of her heart—slipping away, succumbing to a cruel cough that all the remedies she has tried won't cure. Mrs. Jasper Singer of Burgessville, Ont., went through a trying experience and gladly gives an account of it for the benefit of Canadian mothers. This is what she says: "My little boy of a year and four months old took down with a heavy cold last fall. I tried different medicines but they did no good. He got so thin he was nothing but bones and hardly ate anything. I thought quite a few times I would lose him, till I tried Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. The first bottle helped him wonderfully and the third bottle completed the cure."

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