

Cabled Comments

On Current Topics of Discussion in the Old Land
—Talk of Another Eastern War—Growth of Great Britain's Postal Telegraph—Wild Speculation in London—The Socialist Question a Puzzler for the German Government—Princely Honors for Lord Lansdale—Important Phase of the Samoan Matter—Mrs. Langtry Can't Find Her Jewels—An English Aristocratic Party Expelled From Sebastopol—Frost in England—Rosebery Active as Ever.

TALK OF ANOTHER EASTERN WAR.

The Economist this week expresses the opinion that it has become a question whether another war in the far east can be averted. Russia, the Economist says, evidently distrusts Japan's promises, and is resolved to give her no time to increase her fleet, but to insist on the immediate evacuation of the Liao Tang Peninsula, and an abandonment of all pretensions on the part of Japan to a protectorate over Korea.

ANXIOUS TO SETTLE THE SAMOA QUESTION.

A reporter of the Associated Press has had an interview with Dr. Lampriere, the agent of the late Mr. Sherwood, the owner of Pango Pango, the largest harbor of Samoa, and the only one secure from cyclonic disturbances. Dr. Lampriere said:

"There have been constant communication between the British, German and American Governments regarding the future of Samoa. The present situation is an impossible one and can only result in the absolute destruction of trade and the gradual extinction of the natives. According to the last account trade is at a standstill, and the natives are in a condition of turbulence. New Zealand being the nearest British possession and largely interested in the development of Polynesian trade is the proper quarter from which the question can best be pressed on the attention of the Imperial Government. I have the greatest confidence in Mr. Ward, the Colonial Treasurer of New Zealand, laying before the Government some scheme having in view alteration of the present condition of affairs."

"The Pacific cable having been decided on and the money guaranteed is a matter of vital importance to America, as well as to Great Britain and the colonies. Fiji, which was first proposed as a central station for coaling, and for a station for repairing steamers, has been found unfit, being situated in the center of cyclonic disturbance. Only last winter a storm there leveled all the buildings in its track. Samoa, which is in the postal union, and in direct steam connection with San Francisco, New Zealand and Australia, has a harbor three miles long by one-fourth of a mile wide, with a safe anchorage. That America and Great Britain are anxious to have the Samoan question settled is certain. Both countries desire to have an end put to the present deadlock, and it is hoped that some means may soon be found to settle the German claims and buy them out, if not at too exorbitant a figure."

THE GERMAN CHANCELLORSHIP.

A Berlin dispatch says: Semi-official denials that a change in the imperial chancellorship is impending are accepted as settling for the present the question of displacing Prince Hohenlohe. The fact must not be forgotten, however, that the agitation against Prince Hohenlohe proceeds from the same quarters and is prosecuted upon the same lines and, significantly enough, under almost precisely the same circumstances as the agitation which preceded the fall of Count von Caprivi. People are beginning to ask themselves whether Emperor William's return from shooting at Rembrandt will be the signal for another change in the chancellorship, such as followed his return from Count von Fuenberg's estate last year. Prince Hohenlohe returned from his long vacation looking much stouter and more robust than he did last winter. The other Ministers are also returning to Berlin, one by one. The Bundesrath will convene early in October, when the puzzling question of dealing with the Socialists and other difficult subjects will come up for its consideration. In view of inevitable complications it is not safe to count much longer upon the duration of the present regime. There is little doubt of the truth of the Vorwaerts' declaration that Prince Hohenlohe is merely acting as a warning-pan for some younger statesman, and one more in accord with the Emperor's views, who will or less succeed him in the office of the Imperial Chancellor.

WILLIAM IS NOT SUITED.

Germany's foreign policy, as far as it has been directed or influenced by Herr von Bismarck, has not been satisfactory to Emperor William for some time past. It is rumored that the Emperor's frequent traveling companion and intimate of late, Baron Widenlocher-Waechter, whom he decorated with the grand cross of the Iron Crown after the Stettin maneuvers of last year, is destined to succeed von Bismarck in the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

GROWTH OF THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH.

The report of the Postmaster-General gives the record of the development of the postal telegraph in Great Britain. When the telegraph lines were transferred to the Government in 1870, the number of messages forwarded the first year was 9,850,000. Last year the number exceeded 71,500,000. There has also been a remarkable development of speed attained in the transmission of telegrams, 600 words a minute having become possible with the Wheatstone system, and 400 words a minute has been fixed as the standard on the main circuits. The report, however, shows a deficit of £153,915 to which must be added £288,888 for interest on capital. This deficit is due chiefly to press telegrams which are transmitted at a rate of 4-12 per 100 words, and which involves a yearly loss of £300,000.

NOT WORRYING ABOUT CHOLERA.

Ever since Hamburg had her terrible cholera visitation and it was discovered

that even then these islands escaped contagion, the British public has flatly declined to be interested in bulletins about the plague on the continent. The lapse of curiosity this year may be said to be complete. Dispatches have come from Russia chronicling thousands of deaths in the western provinces, and the London papers do not even print them. It is briefly announced now that the cholera is established in Constantinople, but all its intermediate strikes by its advance toward the Austrian Empire, though chronicled abroad, are never mentioned here. Reports indicate the proportion of deaths to cases to be much larger in Volhynia than it has been known anywhere before since the opening year, 1884, but Volhynia is a long way off, and nobody cares. Apparently, too, we are going to have a very dry winter, for there was a slight frost reported from numerous places in England last night, and there are signs of autumn prematurely advanced all over the continent, so, probably, all diseases will soon disappear. Fortunately, however, it revives now every spring, and seems to have become a permanent fixture in Europe.

MRS. LANGTRY'S LOSS.

The mystery of the disappearance of Mrs. Langtry's jewels has not yet been cleared up. The noted solicitor, Sir George Lewis, who has charge of Mrs. Langtry's case, affirms the truth of the story, although Mrs. Langtry is uncertain as to the exact value of the jewels, first placing it at £50,000, and then at £100,000. The man who presented at the bank the order calling for the delivery of the jewels gave the name of George Watts. He is unknown to the forgers of Mrs. Langtry's signature is an absolute facsimile. The paper is the same as that used by her. The thief fully described the box in which the jewels were kept.

BOUNCED FROM SEBASTOPOL.

It is not often that an English earl and a company of aristocratic tourists get expelled from a European city, whose people are usually only too glad to get their money, but this has been the experience of the Earl of Sheffield and his party in Sebastopol. The fact that the incident has passed without much comment and not the least excitement here, says a lot for the latter-day philosophy of Englishmen. His lordship and his friends were shown out of Sebastopol because it is now a fortress city, and this seems to be generally regarded as ample justification for the action of the Russian authorities; yet the Earl is still under treaty obligations to this country to keep Sebastopol as a free open port, and not to fortify it. The city is now a vast fortress, and the harbor is used exclusively for warships, which, by the treaty, Russia is pledged not to have in the Black Sea. Batoum is rapidly being made as strong as Sebastopol, and if England should ever again drift into war with Russia she will have her nuts to crack in the Black Sea than she found 40 years ago. It is fair to record that Russia is not entirely oblivious to the needs and advantages of commerce, as the harbor of Theodosia near Sebastopol has been specially constructed for merchant ships. It is understood that the Earl of Sheffield has solemnly protested to his Government, respecting his treatment, and that his powerful friends here are backing up his complaint.

WILD SPECULATION.

Not for many years past has there been so much excitement on the London Stock Exchange as has prevailed during the last few weeks, and it is alleged that more money is being made in Chapel Court now than at any time in the history of the Stock Exchange. The speculation, which can only be described as wild, has been confined principally to South African stocks, locally known as "the Kallies." Many young stock brokers, among them some of nobility, who a few weeks ago had absolutely nothing, are now spending money with the utmost lavishness. The shops around Chapel Court, and especially those of jewelers, are reaping a rich harvest in consequence.

In connection with the boom on the Stock Exchange, the Pall Mall Gazette has been printing a series of letters in which it has been alleged that frightful corruption remains supreme in all the financial newspapers of London, and, to a large extent, in the financial columns of the other papers of the city. One writer, who signs himself "American," and who says that he has floated a number of big properties on the London Stock Exchange, says that with the exception of the great political dailies of this city and one or two well-known weeklies, there is not a paper in London whose opinions cannot be purchased. Another writer, signing himself "Englishman," admits the truth of the allegation of corruption, but retorts that it is not the place of an American to point it out, and makes all sorts of charges of corruption by American promoters operating in Great Britain.

HONORS FOR LORD LONSDALE.

The Earl of Lansdale was given an almost royal reception Friday at the town of Whitehaven, of which he is the mayor, on his return from Germany, where he had been the guest of Emperor William at the recent army maneuvers. He was greeted as he alighted from his special train with salutes of artillery. The streets of the town were profusely decorated, and there were fireworks and a torchlight procession in the evening. Many curious stories are told of Lord Lansdale's experiences in Germany. One of these current is in effect that the Germans were greatly impressed with his gorgeous opera bouffe uniform of the Cumberland Yeomanry, and thought that he was at least a general of the English army until Lord Roberts, who was also a guest of Emperor William, deceived them by the coolness with which he treated Lord Lansdale, and by his amusement when he was asked about his lordship's military record.

FRANCE ALARMED.

La Justice says that the manipulation of the leather market by the American syndicates will exhaust the stocks of the French tanners within the next six months, ruin the leather industry and deprive workmen of employment in both Government and private factories for more than a year to come. Upon the reassembling of the Chamber of Deputies, Gen. Zurlin-

den, the Minister of War, will be asked what steps he is proposed to take in order to prevent such a disaster.

ROSEBERY IS NOT RETIRING.

Lord Roseberry, instead of retiring from the forefront of politics, is preparing to take a most active part in political affairs. He is in constant communication with the heads of Liberal associations, and will open the autumn campaign in the City of Scarborough. John Morley maintains absolute seclusion in a hamlet in Ross-shire. He will not answer political letters, and devotes his time solely to literary work.

Lord Salisbury is in a quandary over the question of Lord Dufferin's successor in the British embassy at Paris. Sir Philip Currie wants to leave Constantinople, and Lord Lansdowne, Lord Londonderry and the Marquis of Lorne are also running for the post.

CABLE NOTES.

Emperor William has donated nine cannon which were captured from the French during the war of 1870, for conversion into church bells for the new Protestant garrison church at Hanover. King Albert of Saxony has opened the congress of the International Literary Associations at Dresden.

The international conference of the Federation for the Abolition of State Regulation of Vices, which has been sitting at Colmar, Alsace, the past week, was well attended by German people. It was announced upon authority that the Roman Catholic Church favored the movement for which the Federation was organized.

The vast march of progress within one generation is strikingly illustrated by the death, only this week, of Joseph Ruppel, engineer who drove Stevenson's first locomotive. After escaping numerous perils on the road, he met his death by falling through an open hatch on the street. Another victim of the march of progress was a member of the last Parliament, and is still an active old gentleman, who invented the lucifer match.

The Paris Gaulois says: The French Government is considering the question of issuing a new loan this year.

MONKS AS FARMERS.

The Trappists said to be the most successful farmers in Canada. — Montreal, Sept. 22.—Undoubtedly the most successful farmers in Canada are the Trappist monks. At Tracadie, in the east, at Oka, in Quebec, and at St. Norbert, on the Red River, in the West, they have changed unpromising tracts of land into fertile farms.

To the latest of their settlements—that at St. Norbert—I paid a visit recently during a holiday trip out west. The great farm is an object lesson that would show to the dullist capacity what perseverance and industry can do with vast regions of untitled and semi-sterile lands out there. Three years ago, I learned, a little company of Trappist Brothers came out to Canada from France and built a monastery on a farm of 1,300 acres that had been given to them by a priest named Father Ritchot, who had taken a leading part in the efforts that have for years been made to settle our great west. Immediately on their arrival they set to work upon the ground. They cleared it of its scrub, laid out a garden, and began what is called "breaking." What progress has been made since then, may be judged from the fact that this year they will harvest 12,000 bushels grain. And their garden is a sight worth seeing, with the marvelous abundance and variety of vegetables, enough, and to spare, to support a good-sized town. For cattle and for horses, they have put up stables of the most approved modern type; they have a creamery, a cannery, a hen-house with hundreds of fowls, a pigsty of what is said to be the "proper kind," and they are building a large granary. He saluted us politely and told us to make ourselves at home. We were afterwards told that he is the humblest and hardest-working of all the brethren.

It is well known that the rules of the Order of the Trappists are of the strictest kind. They are, however, somewhat modified in Canada. Here the daily life of a clerical member of the order is regulated as follows: Six hours, from 8:30 p.m. to 2 a.m., for sleep; six hours for devotions; six hours for manual labor, and six hours for the reading room and for private work. The lay member of the order gives from eight to ten hours to manual labor. No Trappist, clerical or lay, is permitted to eat fish or flesh food. All are strict vegetarians. Yet they all appear to be physically strong, clear-eyed, and healthy. There are fifty members in the monastery at present, twelve French and three Canadians. The work of the whole establishment is done with military precision, without the slightest appearance of stiffness or restraint. There is implicit obedience, but, as it is based on religion, it has all the appearance of freedom. They sleep on plank beds in narrow cells, and never speak to visitors, nor, for that matter, to each other. The Father Superior and the guest-master do what talking there is to be done. The Father Superior is confined to a salutation, which they claim when passing each other, and which is: "Mon frere, il faut mourir!" (brother, we must die.) When a brother dies, he is buried in the cemetery, in a yard, and a rude piece of wood bearing his Christian name merely is placed at the head of the grave. The Trappist truly the man who, the world forgetting, is "by the world forgot."

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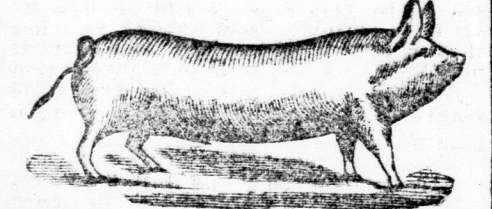
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