

A General Miscellany of News From Abroad

WOUNDED LION CHARGES HUNTER

For several days the ostrich camp near Sir Alfred Pease's homestead at Athi River had been worried by lions, and as that gentleman had just arrived by the steamship Guelph, in company with his sons and Mr. Grey, the news to hand was heartily welcomed as affording most opportune sport. A party was promptly organized, consisting of Sir Alfred Pease, G. Grey Howard and Edward Pease, Captain Slater, Mr. Clifford and H. H. Hill. The hunt started on Sunday morning, January 23. The plan of campaign was to divide into two parties, one consisting of Sir Alfred and Mr. Hill.

After about half an hour's ride, in drawing a donga, Mr. Hill espied two big male lions making off about half a mile to the right, and the party of two galloped after the quarry endeavoring to keep them in sight. Sir Alfred followed the bigger and slower animal and Mr. Hill the leader, which was some four or five hundred yards to his left. The object of the hunters was to turn the game into a donga, thus giving time for the rest of the party to come up, hoping that Mr. Grey would be given the opportunity to open the shoot. That sportsman has a fine reputation for high courage and is no novice at big game. Unfortunately, the second party had no opportunity of learning the tactics that had been agreed upon by Sir Alfred and Mr. Hill.

Mr. Grey, seeing the game, put his horse to the gallop and practically started to course the brutes. His companions were immediately alarmed at his foolish temerity and endeavored to warn him of the terrible danger he was courting. They were doubly alarmed at seeing one of the lions preparing to charge. Mr. Hill thereupon dismounted and fired a quick shot at the bigger lion in the hope of attracting his attention from Mr. Grey. The bullet unluckily fell short and the lion charged Mr. Grey, who jumped off his pony and awaited the onslaught. At about twenty yards he fired and the shot went into the shoulder, but but without stopping the deadly charge. He got in another shot at about five yards, hitting the brute in the mouth, breaking two of his murderous fangs and injuring his jaw.

The lion flung its victim to the ground and commenced to worry him just like a cat would a mouse. Meanwhile H. Pease had followed Mr. Grey and the party waved him to come up on the flank. They then covered the three hundred yards between them and the lion and his victim at top speed. When some fifty yards off the lion noticed his fresh antagonists and ceased to maul Mr. Grey.

At twenty-five yards the party dismounted and ran in. The beast immediately made toward them, and at this awful moment of peril Mr. Hill's rifle jammed, and he, too, was out of action, says the East African Standard. Almost simultaneously Sir Alfred and H. Pease fired, and the balls entered the lion's ribs. The thrice heavily wounded animal then returned to his victim. The horrified relief party scarcely remember what happened during the next brief moments further than that the lion was on top of Mr. Grey, and animal and man were so mixed up that it was most difficult to distinguish the former's head from the latter's body, in order to get in a deadly head shot, which was found impossible to place until the lion was almost lifeless. During the deadly fray the other lion was distant only about one hundred yards, growling and lashing his tail. In spite of the double danger threatening them, the hunters, who had only two 250 rifles, paid no attention to the second animal, being intent on relieving their comrade.

Mr. Grey's wounds are very numerous. The lion clawed his face and head, bit his arms, hands and thighs and inflicted nasty wounds on his back. After being rescued from his deadly peril, Mr. Grey was perfectly collected and quietly instructed his anxious friends how they could best handle his lacerated body.

HOW TO DANCE THE STAIRCASE WALTZ

During the last year or two all light operas that come out of Vienna have been "made" by waltzers. Nearly the whole civilized world is familiar with the waltz of "The Merry Widow," and "The Waltz Dream," as its name signifies, contributed something novel in a satirical sense, but it remained for "The Count of Lumembourg," London's latest comic opera success, to introduce what is unique, the staircase waltz.

In discussing this latest exemplification of the poetry of motion from the city of the beautiful Blue Danube, Mr. Bertram Wallis, with Miss Lily Elsie, glides up a golden staircase in Herr Franz Lehár's success. It is certainly a graceful novelty, but as a dance it is more difficult than it seems. A disadvantage is that the staircase is curved and has a kind of landing half way up. This half landing has to be taken in one step, just like the ordinary steps of the staircase, a little lower down. The music allows you only the same time, and dancers will appreciate what this means. Each tread or step of the staircase has to be taken to one bar of music.

"They are rather broad treads, and there is room for the feet to revolve on them completely," says Mr. Wallis. "We go up on a sort of half swing, and could not possibly do it to anything but waltz time. The right poise, and swing can be obtained only by practice, and the great thing is to go at it with

never a feeling or trace of nervousness, and this, I think any one who tries it will candidly admit, is not always easy.

"You make a complete revolution in mounting two steps of the staircase. We start off on the lowest step of the staircase with opposite feet—that is to say, the right foot of one and the left foot of the other—but not the two inside feet.

"We go up the left staircase—the right of the audience—first, and do the reverse step because this fits in more easily and naturally with the trend of the stairs. We start with my left foot and my partner with his right, so that on the next step of the staircase comes my right foot, followed by my partner's left. The secret of it all is in keeping the feet of the dancers together, and when we land on the top platform we quickly dance in the ordinary way to the left, where we make an exit—that is, to the audience's left, but to our right on the stage.

"For an encore we have arranged to go down the stairs we have just come up, I first, with my back to the audience, and my partner

will be more than compensated for by the prolonged life of the rubber.

During many years rubber paving has been used, with very satisfactory results, at some of the railway stations in London. Further, rubber paving blocks are reversible, and can also be reclaimed. The opinion is now confidently expressed that the new product is bound to supersede the old style of roadway and paving. If its introduction means that the constant roar and din of the traffic is to disappear, then Londoners will gladly welcome it.

A NEW EPOCH IN JEWELS

It is expected that this coronation year will bring about many new ideals in jewelry. Several very handsome tiaras and corsage ornaments already have left the workshops and are on show in the shops, while many more are receiving the finishing touches at the hands of the polishers.

It is possible that the George V. period will mark an epoch in British jewelry de-

signing, say experts on the subject, much the same as the early Georgian silver has made its mark in the history of the silversmith's craft. Already there are signs of a definite style and of a craftsmanship which will appeal by reason of its delicate and artistic character. Compare the heavy and wooden character of the mid-Victorian diamond ornaments and the light, graceful and cleverly wrought jewelry of today.

This delicacy of design and consummate workmanship is due to an awakening of the public taste and the efforts of the authorities to encourage design and craftsmanship by means of special schools.

It is noteworthy that the silversmithing of today is reverting to the plan but graceful forms which were characteristic of the Queen Anne and Georgian periods, but the smiths are not slavishly copying the style, merely the undecorated character of the objects, and relying more on the excellence of contour than decoration.

Paris and London are both keen supporters of flexible and chain bracelets, and it is remarkable what a large variety of designs, both in gold and platinum, are to be seen. In Paris a bracelet worn above the elbow is just now fashionable in the "smart" set. It is generally flexible and invariably jeweled, and none of its glamor is lost in such a conspicuous position.

Platinum is so much in favor in France that wedding rings are now made of it, sometimes actually set with a spray of rose diamonds or a centre band of brilliants.

The pearl necklace still holds the premier position, and pearls are consequently fetching very high prices. Earrings have come to stay both in London and Paris, and, as they no longer necessitate the mutilation of the ears, no one can complain, for, after all, there is a piquant charm about the pearl when set on the lobe of the ear, while a long and graceful pendant earring is sometimes very sightly, particularly when it hangs loosely and gives a delicate color effect with every movement of the body.

THE NEW PANACEA

If you want to obtain a complete rest and recuperation equal to a week's vacation, in minimum time, sleep the clock around twice, is the advice of a physician who holds a high place in medical circles in England.

"To spend 24 hours in bed," he said to a friend, "instead of rushing away for a few

hours' change of scene when you are run down physically and mentally is worth a week's holiday. The night before, having gone to a theatre to take the mind off worries and having supped wisely and well, instructions should be given that the morning calling shall be omitted.

"Then sleep. On waking, turn over and sleep again. On waking, ring for some hot milk. Drink it, and sleep again, and keep on sleeping. Have nothing in the intervals more substantial than soup. Do not read. Keep the eyes shut constantly. Have a warm bath in the evening and sleep again.

"When you are tired of sleeping, sleep again for the night. Nothing calms the nerves more than resting the eyes."

REDUCING THE INDIAN ARMY

Regarding the proposed reduction of the Indian Army, the Simla correspondent of the London Times, says the position is that as economies are inevitable and as the Government of India has pledged itself to overhaul expenditure on all departments, the question of possible savings on the Army is now being considered. It has reached an initial stage only, and deliberation will be shown in formulating any scheme for reducing numerically the strength of the Native Army.

There has never been any thought of a reduction of the British garrison. Such reductions as may be proposed in the Indian Army will solely relate to regiments which are not up to the standard of modern requirements, the material in the ranks being inferior and drawn from classes which have not true fighting qualities. One of the points under consideration is whether such regiments should be mustered out or reduced in strength, their cadres being still retained. This will form matter for discussion by military experts.

The Pioneer, in raising the question of reduction in an article published on the 15th inst., suggested the possible absorption of battalions of the Indian Infantry as the soundest policy, further suggesting that the British officers affected should be given small life pensions and offered careers elsewhere. Shortage of officers at home was probably in view when this suggestion was made.

The policy of Lord Hardinge's Government may be briefly described as aiming at having a native Army composed of the best material, the reduction in the numerical strength being counterbalanced by securing the highest efficiency in all units, while the most modern standard of equipment in armament and scientific appliances of warfare for both British and Indian forces is to be insisted upon. The local administrations must, of course, be consulted as the maintenance of internal order is of the highest importance, and due provision must be made for the inland garrisons when the field army is mobilized on or beyond the frontier.

Any scheme propounded by India would in due course be submitted to the home government, Imperial as well as local considerations being weighed before any material reduction in the strength will be sanctioned. The existence of the Anglo-Russian agreement must be an important factor in regulating the decision.

The question seems to turn upon one main consideration: Can India afford to continue expenditure upon regiments which are admittedly below a certain standard and which can never hope to reach it? Troops of this kind are equal to police duties in case of emergency, but their value as parts of a fighting machine is practically nil. They are, indeed, sources of weakness rather than strength from the purely military point of view, and hence their disappearance would not prejudicially affect the capacity for war of the combined British and Indian garrisons, while it would raise the general standard of efficiency of the Indian Army.

The problems of India were discussed in the Times' Empire supplement of May 24, and the article "India and Imperial Defence" should be closely studied by those who may be tempted to believe that our military strength in India is in excess of our needs. What is the strength of the garrison? In round numbers, 75,000 British soldiers and 35,000 volunteers, and an Indian native army of 162,000, with 46,000 reserves and Imperial service troops—in all, 318,000 men, to hold and protect a territory of 1,773,000 square miles, a continent as big as Europe without Russia, and with a land frontier of 6,000 miles. In the words of the writer of the article: "Considering the magnitude of its responsibilities, the Army of India is the smallest in the world."

POLES INCREASE IN EUROPE

At the Pan-German Congress a few days ago great alarm was expressed at the rapid increase of the Polish population, not only in the eastern provinces, but in the industrial regions of the west as well. One speaker after another spoke of this as the empire's chief danger, and the government was adjured to put into effect the expropriation law passed against the Poles three years ago, which enables the State to purchase large Polish estates compulsorily and divide them out among German colonists.

It was pointed out that the Poles were advancing from the east in what is called a steady Slavonic wave, and that this wave is inundating regions which until recently were purely Teutonic. Poles, as a rule, have larger families than Germans and marry younger. Their surplus is sent westward, and in Westphalia and Rhenish Prussia there are already hundreds of thousands of this race, all organized into flourishing communities.

It is not only this increase of their own Poles which troubles the Pan-Germans. In 1909 no fewer than 393,000 Poles from abroad settled in this country, of whom 260,000 settled in rural and the remainder in urban districts. In the region of Frankfurt Oder in 1891 only 1 per cent. of the population were Poles; at present the Poles there number nearly 9 per cent. In the Potsdam district they have risen in the same period from 1 to 12 per cent., in Liebnitz from 10 to 20 per cent., in Magdeburg, from 2 to 20, and in Merseburg from 1 to 14.

DESTRUCTION OF THE MAINE

As the work of raising the battered hulk of the United States battleship Maine from the depths of Havana harbor proceeds, the conviction is growing that the ill-fated vessel was not blown up by a Spanish bomb, as has been popularly supposed ever since that memorable day in 1898, but was wrecked as the result of an explosion in the warship's own powder magazines.

The theory that a few American navy officers and the Spanish government have all along maintained seems about to be confirmed by no less an authority than the wrecked vessel itself.

Enough of the tangled wreckage has already been brought above the water to establish the point in the minds of many. But the government officials who are conducting the work have sealed their lips pending communication with official Washington.

Much of the Maine's deck amidships is now above water. The forward deck is torn open in such a way that it indicates that one explosion occurred forward of amidships on the port side, and another a little farther forward on the starboard side. The upper decks were thrown outward and upward.

It was in this part of the ship that the Maine's main powder magazines were located.

The men in charge of the work have not yet been able to penetrate to the seamen's cabins to recover the bodies of the victims believed to have been imprisoned in the wreckage all these years. The work of pumping the water out of the great cofferdam built around the vessel is proceeding rapidly.

BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES IN FRANCE

According to statistics which M. Jacques Bertillon, the author of "La Depopulation en France," has supplied to the Temps, the birth rate in France continues to be very unsatisfactory. The statistics for the year 1910, which will shortly be published officially, show that the excess of births over deaths was only 70,581. The decline of the birthrate during the last 50 years may be seen by the following comparisons. In 1859 there were 1,000,000 births, and this figure was approximately maintained until 1868, when it fell to 984,000; for nearly 20 years the figure remained above 900,000, but in 1887 it fell to 899,000. Since 1906 the number of births has steadily fallen below 800,000, and for 1910 it was 793,774. The excess of births over deaths in 1910 was, as already mentioned, 70,581. In Germany during the same year it was 884,061, or more than ten times as much.

On the other hand, there has been a great increase in the number of marriages in France. The number in 1910 was 309,289, which has only been exceeded in 1813—when marriage furnished the only escape from conscription—and in 1872 and 1873. The recent increase in the number of marriages is attributed to the effects of the law of 1907, which simplified the necessary formalities, and it will doubtless be followed by a marked increase in the birth rate. There is already an increase of 4,389 over the figures for 1909.

A pretty rosy cheeked Swedish girl entered a Euclid avenue door of a department store yesterday morning, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer. It was a bargain day, and the crowd was greater than usual. She wandered about from floor to floor—using the stairways because she was afraid of the elevators—and finally she stopped, lost and confused in the middle of the biggest store she had ever seen.

A floor walker saw her and politely approached. "Is anybody waiting on you?" he asked, with a pleasant smile.

"Yes, sir," answered the girl, blushing to the roots of her flaxen hair; "he is outside. I couldn't get him to come in and now I don't know which door he's at."

"Patrick! Patrick!" admonished a lady "Be careful where you are walking! You nearly trod upon my darling tortoise!"

"Och, be aisy, me lady," rejoined her Irish gardener. "Shure, an' I wouldn't hurt a hair of his head, sweet tratur!"

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