

# THE TORONTO WORLD'S COPY RIGHTS EUROPEAN CABLES

## WEDLOCK IRKSOME TO YOUNG DUKE AMERICAN DUCHESS TO RESIST SUIT

Emperor William Understood to Have Interested Himself in Behalf of Duke Henry Borwin—Duchess Who Has Had Two Matrimonial Ventures Shows Rock-Ribbed Obstinacy of New England Stock.

Special Cable to The World. PARIS, March 23.—(Copyright.)—A suit to annul the marriage of Elizabeth, Countess of Casquet, an American woman, to young Duke Henry Borwin of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, a cousin of Crown Prince Cecilie of Germany, has been started at Rostock-on-the-Baltic.

It is understood that Emperor William has sanctioned the proceedings, which promise to be sensational as the American duchess means to sustain the legality of her marriage. She has retained a lawyer in Paris, in Berlin, where her husband spends much of his time; in England, where her marriage to the German duke was contracted, and in Rostock, forty-nine miles from Schwerin, where the annulment proceeding is under way.

The duchess is a beautiful, gray-haired, stately woman in the October of life, twenty-eight years the senior of the duke, who is twenty-seven. She owns castles in Dinard and Dinan in Brittany.

Her first husband was Count de Gasquet, a papal nobleman, who died a few years ago, leaving her a considerable fortune in Europe. Before marrying him, she was Elizabeth Tibbitts Pratt, belonging to a well-known New York stock family. Her father, Col. Pratt, who organized and commanded a New York regiment, was killed in the civil war, at the second battle of Bull Run.

Before meeting Duke Henry Borwin of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, the countess spent a large part of her time in Dresden, Saxony. Her eldest daughter, now dead, had married Baron von Derdecken, an officer in the Prussian army. This is the American woman who was presented at court.

Formerly Her Apparent. She met the young duke while he was attending school in the city. Until April 22, 1910, when a son was born to his cousin, Grand Duke Frederick Francis IV., Duke Henry Borwin was the heir apparent to the throne, but after that he was put somewhat in the nobility discard. He was also dropped from the rolls of two German regiments.

Friends of both the American countess and Duke Henry Borwin have done considerable speculating as to events leading up to the marriage, but the fact remains that on June 15, 1911, the countess became a duchess by reason of a marriage solemnized on that date in Dover, England, before a registrar. A fair explanation of the match is that the countess was deeply interested in the career of the young German nobleman, who is quite poor and whose relatives had in a manner left him to shift for himself when he was no longer the apparent, and she married the boy to put him upon his feet socially and financially.

Not Sanctioned by Emperor. At the time of the marriage a man named Paul was the guardian of the duke's property. He was not present at the ceremony in Dover, which marriage had not received the sanction of Emperor William. Shortly after the duke married the countess, they came to Paris, where the duchess has three children, a son named George, daughter, who is the wife of Count Delbrun, an officer in the French army, and another daughter, who is the wife of Viscount de la Mettrie, well known in Paris society.

A few weeks ago the duchess was notified of the suit begun in Rostock. It was instituted in the name of Paul, the guardian of the duke's property. The basis of the annulment suit is the contention of Paul that the duke was under his guardianship at the time of his marriage in Dover, and that therefore, although the duke had no incapacity, he had not the legal capacity to consent. Paul also alleges that he never consented to the marriage, and therefore it is voidable by the courts of Germany, notwithstanding that it took place in a foreign court.

Legal Action Pending. The world correspondent called today upon General Cacheron, secretary, a brother of Justice Willard Bartlett of the New York court of appeals, who represents the duke. The general was found in his office at 116 Avenue des Champs Elysees. "It was not my wish," he said, "that knowledge of this unfortunate proceeding should become public, but inasmuch as you have heard of the suit, I am willing to admit that such action is pending at Rostock. You ask how a German law court can have jurisdiction to annul an English marriage. That is just the point. The international law of marriage, recognized in all civilized countries, is that if the marriage is legal in the place where it is solemnized, it is legal elsewhere. This is only a recognition of the broad principles of locus regit actum."

"Has the duke another marriage in view?" "I have no knowledge of his purposes, and if I had I should not reveal them under any circumstances. It is all most regrettable, and I cannot discuss this matter any further."

## OLD LONDON NOW CITY OF PAGANS?

Missionary From Africa Is Shocked by Decay of Religion.

NOBODY READS BIBLE WORRIES OVER HER SON

Great Change Has Taken Place in Demeanor of Women.

LONDON, March 22.—(Copyright.)—Nobody reads the Bible any more, and London, alas, has become a pagan city. So declares the Rev. Mr. Crawford, a missionary, who has just returned after twenty-three years' absence in Africa, and he is heart sore, he says, over the godlessness of the British capital.

Dean Inge of St. Paul's, "the gloomy dean," does not agree with Dr. Crawford. London, he says, is not as irreligious as it looks to be to the casual observer.

On the other hand, the Rev. Dr. Horton, a leading Nonconformist, who also is back here after considerable absence, says: "I think with the utmost pain the appearance of Londoners, that is all worn, over-driven, the joy of life has gone from their faces. But I notice an intense religious love on the part of the people. There undoubtedly is a new type of women. A great change has taken place in their demeanor. They behave like men, rather than like women, adopting a manner that is not an improvement, on the surface at least."

Wear, Darlington of St. Mark's, Kensington, one of the biggest Episcopalian churches in the working people's district, says: "I think that there is a wave of infidelity spreading all over London. The numerous counter attractions to the churches, such as bands and picnics with this, Sunday is no longer Sunday in this city."

U. S. WITHDRAWAL DOES NOT AFFECT THE LOAN

AMERICAN SYNDICATE LEAST ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN CHINESE POLICY.

REFINED HISTORY FOR THE PRINCE

MAYOR SPENCER TO RUN SOUTHERN ALBERTA TORIES HOLD ENTHUSIASTIC CONVENTION

LOW RATES FOR EASTER, VIA GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY SYSTEM.

CLINTON'S LOCAL OPTION BYLAW FIELD.

THE OLDEST MAN LIVING

## STORK IS HEADED FOR CZAR'S HOME

Czarina's Absence From Some of the Fetes Is Explained.

INSURANCE MEN ARE SUSPICIOUS COMPANIES SAID TO HAVE INSTIGATED EXHUMATION OF COL. MECKING'S BODY.

LATE OFFICER WAS VERY HEAVILY INSURED IN BRITISH COMPANIES.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 22.—(Copyright.)—The absence of the Czarina from the public functions of the first days of the Romanoff centenary celebrations was due to the fact that the Czar is in again expecting a visit from the stork.

There naturally great interest in the possible addition to the imperial family. The second heir to the throne, the Czar's son, Grand Duke Michael, is expected to marry Madam Scheremetevsky. After the marriage, the Czar's son, Grand Duke Vladimir, and Paul, but it is not likely to be accepted by the Czar. It is probable that Nicholas II would be glad to see the Czar's son, Grand Duke Vladimir, and Paul, but it is not likely to be accepted by the Czar.

FINAL STRUGGLE IS NEAR AT HAND

NO ROOM IN BERLIN FOR COUNTRY CLUB

DRAWING ROOM TEA SOCIETY IS LATEST

SURRENDERED AFTER SHOOTING HIS WIFE

WALKED COOLLY INTO SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND TOLD OF CRIME.

FRENCH-CANADIANS STILL INTERDICTED

ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWS LEGISLATION EXTENDING POWERS OF BISHOP OF PORTLAND.

ADDRESS AT THE ART GALLERY.

NEURALGIC CONDITION OF THE NERVES

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## UNION OF JAPAN AND CHINA IS BREEDING DISTRUST IN RUSSIA

Hopes of Substantial Gain Thru Coming Russo-Japanese Alliance Dampened by Distinctly Disturbing News—England's Refusal to Deal With St. Petersburg Touching Mongolian Trade Reductions Another Disappointment.

CHINA APPLAUDS WILSON'S COURSE

JOURNALISTS MAY BECOME UNIONIZED

REBUFF GIVEN BANKERS VINDICATES AMERICA'S POSITION IN FAR EAST.

DEMOCRATS DISAGREE ON INCOME TAX FORM

SOME FAVOR GRADUATED SCALE AGAINST STRAIGHT TAX PROPOSED.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—(Can. Press.)—Differences among the Democrats regarding the form of the income tax will be thrashed out at the coming caucus of the house. The sub-way and means committee considering the income tax and the administrative sections spent most of the day in going into details, but reached no conclusion as to either the rate or the extent of the exemption of incomes.

Some of the Democrats insist that there must be a graduated income tax and not a straight tax. Representative Gardner of Texas is one of those who will fight out the cause of the graduated form of the tax if the committee majority should agree on a straight tax without attempting to graduate it so as to make the percentage of burden rest upon the richer classes. Mr. Gardner is a member of the first conductors of the new members of the house, but one means committee, recently selected at the Democratic caucus. He stated tonight he believed 75 per cent. of the members of the congress, including some leading members, favored a graduated tax.

WIRELESS SERVICE ERRATIC.

PARIS-WASHINGTON COMMUNICATION IS DIVERSE.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—(Can. Press.)—Paris radio signals were today received from the Eiffel Tower station in Paris by the Arlington station in New York, but there were no radio messages. It was stated that this was due largely to the recent storm that has disturbed the atmospheric conditions on this side of the Atlantic.

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