

MEN OF TO-DAY

PASSING GLIMPSES OF PUBLIC MEN AT HOME AND ABROAD

WILHELM THE PACIFIC

THE Kaiser seems to have grown mellow of late. He has lost his new Chancellor Von Bethmann Hollweg, who is not suitable for the post anyway. Since his visit to England during the funeral of King Edward he has advocated the marriage of his eldest son to the eldest daughter of King George and Queen Mary; thereby taking a pacific leaf out of his late uncle's note-book. This the terrible Kaiser! who a while ago was considered the disturber of Europe.

At the same time the subjects of the Kaiser are not quite so pacific. There is quite as much political unrest in Germany as in England, though of a different character—with one point of agreement. The Socialist agitation in Germany bears some resemblance to the popular upheaval in England against the Lords. But opposed to the Socialists are the Pan-German party who are not so anxious to reform social conditions within as to adjust matters without. The Pan-Germans desire war. They do not see the use of building a huge fleet and maintaining a vast conscriptive army unless the fleet and the army get something to do. This unconscionable utility! Even the bellicose Kaiser is often credited with the enunciation of a pretty political theory when he says that German ships and soldiers are necessary to preserve the peace of Europe. But the party within are not enamoured of the peace of Europe as long as that means a military dumb show in Germany.

Perhaps after all even in autocratic Germany, the home of egoistic emperors and iron chancellors, the people rule.

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IS IT BRICKS WITHOUT STRAW?

EVER since the days of Pharaoh there seems to have been trouble in administering Egypt. Col. Roosevelt succeeded in bringing the present mal-administration to the notice of the civilised world by his Guildhall speech—which when it is sifted down seems not to have been so bumpiously offensive after all. On one point Mr. Roosevelt agrees with scriptural history—in advising a swift exodus out of Egypt unless conditions can be changed. He had no complaint to make about British domination in any of the other Africas—including the Soudan, Uganda and East Africa, which latter, being under the efficient hand of a Canadian, Sir Percy Girouard, might be expected to have good government. But in Egypt, that riddle of history, he alleges: "Where the effort made by your officials to help the Egyptians towards self-government is taken advantage of by them to try to bring murderous chaos upon the land, then it becomes the primary duty of whomever is responsible for the government in Egypt to establish order." He added also—or get out.

Mr. Roosevelt was hitting at the growth of the Nationalist party which was responsible for the murder of Boutros Pasha, the Christianised Prime Minister. He virtually accuses England of letting self-government get ahead too fast; not so in the Philippines. Of course the United States had experience with the black race long before Mr. Roosevelt entertained Booker T. Washington at the White House; about which time the ex-President seems to have been favourable to more enfranchisement among the blacks. Before leaving for mid-Africa, however, he seems to have hinted that Jeffries should be able to whip Johnson—which has not turned out to be the case; hence the jubilation of American Africa.

Whether the dusky Nationalist party in Egypt consider themselves one of the tribes that made the exodus from Egypt in the reign of Pharaoh or not, it seems they have taken considerable advantage of the leniency of Sir Eldon Gorst, K.C.B., British Agent and Consul-General in Egypt. And it was Sir Eldon Gorst's leniency which Mr.

Roosevelt was criticising. Sir Eldon has been Consul-General in Egypt three years. He succeeded Lord Cromer. Twenty-four years ago, however, he first went to Cairo as an attache. At that time he had put in twenty-five years in British politics and foreign administration; civil commissioner in Waikato, N.Z., '61-'63; M. P. for Cambridge and Chatham; solicitor-general '85-'86; under-secretary for India for five years following; British plenipotentiary to the great labour conference at Berlin in 1890; financial secretary to the Treasury '91-'92; for three years deputy-chairman of committees in the House of Commons; vice-president of committee in the Council of Education; Lord Rector of Glasgow University; besides being adviser to the Ministry of the Interior.

Sir Eldon Gorst's apparent failure to keep the Nationalist party in check cannot be set down to lack of experience. Just what the real causes and conditions are will be better understood when the British public have had time to digest Col. Roosevelt's criticism.

It may be a case of Sir Eldon trying to make bricks without straw; which was the last straw that broke the camel's back a few thousand years ago. At any rate British statesmen have for a good while been content to let things flicker in some of the spheres of influence. Now alleges the *Daily Telegraph*: "The basis of our position is unshaken in Egypt; we intend to stay there; Nationalist agitation on recent lines will be impotent to dislodge us." On the other hand the *Telegraph* admits: "The political status of Egypt is ambiguous. We have substantial control, but not formal sovereignty."

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A CRYPTIC PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT HAYS of the Grand Trunk will be known as the cryptic communicator. His recent letters to Hon. Mackenzie King on arbitration deserve to go on record with the letters of Junius—if not with those of Chesterfield. The Minister of Labour exhorts the railway president and the representative of the strikers to be amicable enough to let the Government arbitrate, paying full cost of the same. Mr. Hays replies rather acidly that in a previous communication he so advised the minister who at that time ignored the advice on the ground that it was not within his province. Mr. King earnestly requests the president to be more explicit. Mr. Hays replies with a two-line note to say that he has nothing to add. We seldom have such curt correspondence

between the head of a railway and the head of a department of government. The President understands his position; also his power. Just at present he is not dealing with what Disraeli called "the amenities of literature."

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A CZAR IN THE AIR

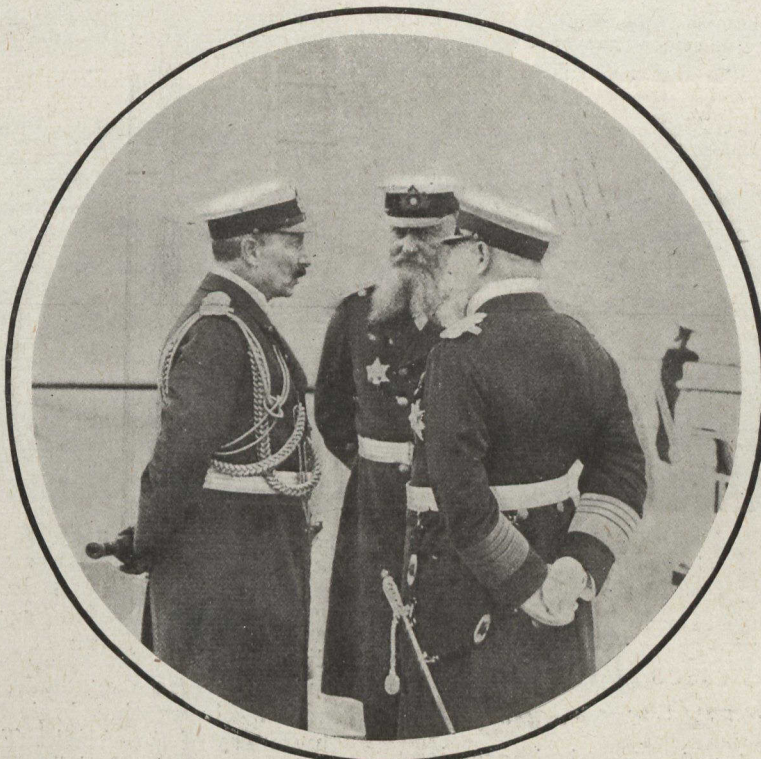
THE Tsar of Bulgaria is the only European monarch who ever went up in the air—in a flying machine. He is said to be the most unpopular monarch in Europe, yet one of the most diligent, determined and effective. He has done more to pull Bulgaria together than any of his predecessors. His kingdom may not be large; but the head of it rules. He is a real czar; which cannot be said of his confrere, Nicholas of Russia. Ferdinand believes in absolutism. When he went up in an aeroplane lately he took occasion to look down upon his subjects from a loftier height than a throne. A few of them hoped he would never come back.

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PUBLIC TRAMPS ABROAD

THIS is a moving season for public men. Half a dozen Canadian dignitaries are cod-fishing at the Hague. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has another aggregation touring the West to find out what the people want—and then not do it;

incidentally to inquire why the postage stamp province doesn't cover the envelope. Leader Borden has been touring Ontario telling Conservatives what ails the Grits. Messrs. Bourassa and Monk have been holding open-air demonstrations against an Imperial-colonial navy. Hon. Frank Oliver is reviving his Red River cart days by roughing it over the Yukon, finding out what that part of the interior has by way of new gold fields on the Portland Canal and what it needs in administration. Finally Earl Grey is about to start on a canoe voyage from Lake Winnipeg to Hudson Bay, coming out by way of Labrador.



The Kaiser (left), Admiral Von Holtzendorff (right), and Admiral Von Terpitz (centre), on board the "Hohenzollern," in Kiel Harbour.

This was the first outing of the Emperor after his indisposition. The anxiety apparent in the Imperial countenance is possibly due to the Ministerial Resignations which have been so very frequent of late.



Sir Eldon Gorst, K.C.B.,
Probably does not love Col. Roosevelt either
wisely or too well.