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LAW RESPECTING NEWS-PAPERS

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AUSTRIA.

The following interesting and condensed account of the empire, government, and resources of this Germanic state, which exercises so much influence on the affairs of Europe, is taken from the *London Daily News*.

Austria differs from every other state in Europe—perhaps in the world. This is a government without a nationality. The population numbers between thirty-seven and thirty-eight millions, of which the governing race (the Germans) do not exceed 7,000,000. The greater number of people are Slavonians, 17,000,000; next the Magyars, 5,000,000; and the Italians, 3,000,000; Malachians, 2,000,000; and the remainder consists of Jews, Greeks, Armenians, and Gypsies. These people have not one religion, one language, nor one interest. The bulk of them are 25,000,000—Slavonians, 17,000,000; Germans, 7,000,000; and the remainder, 1,000,000. The Slavonians are Jews and Catholics. The Germans are Jews and Catholics. The Italians are Jews and Catholics. The Malachians are Jews and Catholics. The remainder are Jews and Catholics. The Slavonians are Jews and Catholics. The Germans are Jews and Catholics. The Italians are Jews and Catholics. The Malachians are Jews and Catholics. The remainder are Jews and Catholics.

The prominent feature of a financial system, and which has been, if it be not still, the great hidden source of the strength of the government, is the large mass of property which the imperial family owns in every one of the provinces except Italy. With minor royal domains and dukedoms, scattered all about the empire, the several families whose dominions were united to the crown, and comparatively little of it has been at any time alienated. Though in some finance accounts the income of the state domains is put down at £300,000 a year, this sum represents only a very small part of the amount which the government actually disposes of. Some of the domains are in the hands of the crown; but in the early part of the century the domains yielded more than a fourth part of the revenue of the empire. Notwithstanding the immense increase of taxation, and the abolition of some tolls and other dues paid by the tenants of the crown estates, these domains still supply a considerable part of the revenue. As in the case of the cost of collecting our customs, a great portion of the revenue of the domains never makes its appearance in the exchequer. It goes to defray the government expenses and the expense of management in the provinces in which the domains are situated; it pays the salaries of the government officials, and the property which the government possesses in each province, supplies it with a large portion of the power which it exercises from a common centre to keep the whole obedient to its will. Independent of the domains, the revenue of Austria, gathered from the taxes, now amounts to about £22,000,000—a small sum to be paid by 37,000,000 people compared to the £60,000,000 levied in France, or the nearly equal sum levied on 28,000,000 of people in the United Kingdom. The actual revenue in Austria, is however, a great increase on its former revenue. The average of three years prior to 1848, was £16,000,000 and the average of the last three years nearly £21,000,000.

One consequence of the revolution of 1848 has been immense increase of government expenditure. The increase of revenue from increased taxation, large though it be, has not equalled the increase of expenditure. Since 1848, including the expense of that year, the expenditure has exceeded the revenue by nearly £10,000,000 or at the rate of nearly 45,000,000 francs a year. Nor is there much prospect of its increasing in wealth and power. All the kind of all the means of communication, nearly all the sources of enterprise, are in the hands of the government and the nobility. Manufacturers are all patronized and controlled by the state. The first step towards improvement is to increase the demand for its productions. Hence the growth of a manufacturing and town population, not only enriched by its own labours, but enriched by its patronage by the government and the nobility. Now the population of the whole empire of Austria scarcely amounts to 3,000,000, and of these a further 2,000,000 are in Italy. Besides Vienna, the only towns of

more than 100,000 inhabitants are Prague, Buda, and Pesth, and Milan, and one of which is flourishing. The commerce of Austria is for so large an empire, and such a numerous population, insignificant. The value of its imports is about £14,000,000 and of its exports, £12,000,000, making together £26,000,000, or less than one third of the value of our exports. It has seaports, and its shipping amounts to about 600 vessels, of a tonnage less than 200,000. In a very extensive territory, embracing different distances, yielding almost every vegetable product of Europe, abounding in excellent timber, rich in minerals, containing some coal, Austria has all the natural elements of great prosperity. Nor are her people—the lively, intelligent Italians; the steady, thinking, intellectual Germans; the people Slavonians, the noble Magyars—deficient in the qualities which make a nation great. They have natural abilities equal to any portion of the human family, and their home is fixed in the largest portion of Europe. But a government having no sympathies with any part of the people, constructed on the principle of governing the whole by using the power it has in each province to constrain every other—having no confidence in any, mistrustful and jealous—suppressing or regulating every natural growth lest it should split the cumbersome fabric to pieces—limiting the press, limiting education, and limiting religion and knowledge by the narrow view of what may serve its own interest—suffices to stifle skill and stop the natural progress to wealth. It keeps all central Europe in a comparative condition of ignorance, of want, and of poverty.

With natural resources almost infinitely small compared to Austria, our 28,000,000 of people place in the hands of their government a power, as measured by its revenue, threefold greater than that of Austria, and capable of a large increase, while the power of Austria is almost stretched to the utmost. Of the army of Austria numerous as it is—amounting to not less in all than 400,000 men—we shall only say that it is nearly all required for internal purposes, and to guard the frontier. The complex nature of the state makes it rather powerful at home than formidable to other states. It could easily put down the insurrection at Vienna, for that was a movement of only a portion of the metropolis, while all the nobility of all the provinces, except Hungary, from whose doings the soldiers are taken, were all in favour of the government. Their interests were bound up with it; they control the population in every district; and united, they give it great power in comparison with the capital, or with any single part of the Austrian dominions.

The Prohibitory Law.

As the first of January approaches, the necessity for making the public mind familiar with the principle of the Prohibitory Liquor Law becomes more urgent; we therefore give a synopsis of the Act, embracing its principal features. We do this that persons may understand the real state of the case, and govern themselves accordingly. Our own opinion has always been adverse to any such enactment; although if the law works well, and as law-abiding subjects we have all got to observe it, we shall be pleased to alter our views.—*Morn. News.*

The penalty for the first offence, viz: the manufacture, importation, or sale, of any liquor, is £10; and for violating the law in the second and subsequent instances, the penalty on each conviction is £20, or imprisonment for a term of not less than three, nor more than twelve months.

In order to make provisions for the sale of the article for medicinal or other purposes, an Agent is to be appointed in each Parish, by the County Sessions, or in incorporated Towns and Cities, by the respective Councils. This officer is directly responsible to the Board appointing him for the sale of the liquors, and the funds arising therefrom, he is also required to execute a Bond with securities for the faithful performance of his duty.

Any vessel or other conveyance illegally importing or transporting liquors, is forfeited and seized; and dealt with in the same manner as under any law relating to the collection or protection of the revenue. The penalties arising from this source, to be distributed among the several districts, such penalties having been imposed upon the owner or master of the vessel, or any person concerned in the getting or landing of the liquors.

Liquors imported by a Licensed Agent, and not duly reported are to be forfeited. Any person knowingly giving information, or that is given, to any person, with intent to procure the seizure of the liquor and the apprehension of any offender, if the charge be substantiated, the liquor is destroyed and the offender is liable to a fine of not less than £10, or imprisonment for a term of not less than three, nor more than twelve months.

A penalty of £10 is imposed upon an Agent who sells liquor to a minor, apprentice, or intemperate person. A like penalty is imposed upon an Agent, Clerk, or other person, who neglects to have the packages containing liquor consistently marked with the name and occupation. The penalty of £10 is also imposed upon any revenue or peace Officer refusing to search or execute any Warrant issued by a Justice, in addition to the discharge of his office.

When three or more persons on each testimony that liquor have been unlawfully kept or sold in any house, the arrested person, owner or keeper is obliged to pay a fine of £10 or to be imprisoned for three months, after the house has been searched, and in case of false testimony being knowingly given, the witnesses to be imprisoned for a term not exceeding two years.

Any person engaged in, or convicted of, unlawful importation, manufacture, or sale of liquor as disqualified from sitting upon any case arising under the Act, cases of trial under which are to take precedence of other business, except criminal cases.

Nothing in the Act prevents any artist or manufacturer from keeping such a quantity as his business may require, and no vessel or officer thereof is liable to seizure or penalty for having such a quantity as shall be required for ship's use.

Any license previously granted for the sale of liquors is of no effect after the 1st of January. An UNPROFITABLE HABIT.—Some persons are in the habit of dwelling upon, and greatly magnifying every little injury they receive at the hands of others. They thus render themselves very disagreeable to those among whose cars they are continually pouring their complaints; and at the same time greatly injure themselves in the estimation of such, while they are contributing very much to their own personal misery. How much better it would be, were such persons to bury their little troubles, or at least to keep them entirely out of sight! It is to be presumed that they do not sufficiently reflect upon the true nature of their conduct, else they would certainly be more careful to avoid it than they are. Jamieson forcibly expresses the great folly of such conduct by the following illustration:

"A man strikes me with a sword and inflicts a wound. Suppose, instead of binding up the wound, I am showing it to everybody, and after it has been bound up, I am taking off the bandage continually and examining the depth of the wound, and make it fester till my limb becomes greatly swollen, and my general health is materially affected, is there a person in the world who would not call me a fool? Now such a fool is he who, by dwelling upon little injuries, or injuries of provocation, causes them to increase and inflame his mind. How much better were it to put a bandage over the wound, and never look at it again!"—[German Reformed Messenger.]

SELF-TRAINING.—A man's own good breeding is the best and surest protection against other people's ill manners. As a gladiator trains a boy, so we must train the mind of self-sacrifice, "to endure all things," to meet and overcome difficulty and danger. We must take the rough and the thorny paths well as the smooth and pleasant; and a portion, at least, of our daily duty must be hard and disagreeable; for the mind, cannot be kept strong and healthy in perpetual sunshine only, and the most dangerous of all states is that of constantly recording pleasure, ease and prosperity. Most persons with sad difficulties and hardships enough without seeking them; let them not repine, but take them as a part of that educational discipline, necessary to fit the mind to arrive at its highest good.

SPAIN.—The Cortes had voted a vote of confidence in O'Donnell. On Monday and thirty-five votes were given in favour of the vote of confidence.

THE SECOND CHAMBER HAS VOTED THE RESOLUTIONS BY A LARGE MAJORITY.

Arrangements for reciprocal circulation of paper money have been made between Prussia, Saxony and Bavaria.

The renewed conference of the German Courts will be held in Berlin, (not Vienna) on Jan. 10th.

DENMARK.—The political difference between the King and the Prince Royal is made up.

European Intelligence.

One Week later from Europe.

HALFAX, Dec. 18.

The Steamship Asia, which left Liverpool on the 14th, arrived this morning at 10 o'clock.

The Steamship Hermann, sailed from Southampton on Wednesday the 6th, with 100 passengers and a full cargo.

The American ship Constitution, which arrived at Liverpool on the 4th instant, was discovered to be on fire on the following morning, while at anchor in the river. Assistance was immediately rendered, but the vessel burned all day, and was scuttled in 20 feet of water. She was burned to the water's edge. Part of the contents in the lower hold may be saved in a damaged state; otherwise the ship and cargo will be a total loss. The cause of the fire is unknown; but it is supposed to have been spontaneous combustion. The passengers and baggage had landed, but the ship was not docked.

IMPORTANT PEACE RUMORS.

The news by this arrival consists mainly of peace rumors; but as the public have no means of estimating their truth, they are probably of little value.

It is a very noticeable circumstance that the assertions of the British press on the subject of the negotiations, are quite at variance with those influential continental papers.

The London Times, and Disraeli's organ, among the London press are prominent in asserting that peace is near, and that Austria is about to address an ultimatum, summoning Russia, under threat of breaking off negotiations, to accept these conditions of peace, which the Western Powers can admit at present, but which they will not assent to after another successful campaign.

Berlin correspondence, under date of 4th, which appears in the Morning Chronicle, says it is impossible to separate what is true from what is false in the peace rumors; that while it is no doubt true that all the Cabinets are anxious for peace, it is equally true that it cannot be said that negotiations are going forward. At the same time, preparatory steps are being made. Austria maintains the validity of the treaty of December 23, and hence all attempts of other German States to exercise a pressure on Western Powers, with the view to pacification, have been completely paralyzed. Austria, moreover, is now ready to accept the interpretation given to the Third and Fourth Points of the Vienna Conference.

Prussia has urgently demanded at St. Petersburg that Russia should name conditions to which she is ready to submit. Russia's reply to this demand of Prussia is affirmed to be conciliatory; but the undecided Cabinet of St. Petersburg shrinks from the difficulty of making proposals that they may have the mortification to see rejected.

The cabinets of Munich and Dresden, prompted to a more influential position by the policy of France, have also essayed to influence Russia. The measures they took to that end were highly approved at Paris; but it remains to be seen if they will be successful. Our best politicians are equally divided. Some think peace near; others think it distant.

The most reliable accounts indicate that the state of affairs stand thus: There has been no communication whatever from Russia. There has been a communication made by the Austrian Government through the French Minister at Vienna, to the French Government, embodying terms which Austria is prepared to propose to Russia as an ultimatum. This communication was submitted by France to England, and is now under consideration by the two governments. The terms are a great advance on anything yet offered, and might be accepted at once; but they are the terms of Austria, not of Russia. Austria does not guarantee to join Allies if the ultimatum be rejected; but only to break off relations with Russia. At this point the matter rests.

With respect to Canrobert's mission, the Paris correspondent of the London Times of the 4th says:—

Canrobert has returned. He left Stockholm on the 19th, and the day after his departure, an act, convention, for protocol, was signed between the Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs and the English and French Ministers Plenipotentiary, and that the articles of that Convention are most satisfactory to the Allies and advantageous to Sweden.

The Paris Monitor will say something about this in a few days. Is it waiting for the admission of Denmark?

Per contra, the London Post says definitely that no convention has "at present" been entered into by Sweden.

Some persons undertake to say plans will be arranged between the Emperor Napoleon and the King of Sardinia, with respect to

Italy, which will render it impossible for Austria to continue her operations in the East. Others say that Austria really desires peace, and is now negotiating with Russia. The London Times continues to maintain the largest part of the story for the Spring campaign.

Private letters from St. Petersburg indicate a pressure for peace. The profits of the overland trade keep the general business at a more favorable point than was anticipated. Government paper is not much deteriorated, and money is abundant at Moscow and St. Petersburg.

The St. Petersburg Northern Bee has an editorial headed "The War is only beginning," and declares that Russia has ample resources to continue the war for years. The London Times replies to the Bee's article, and asserts that this boasting only betrays weakness.

FROM THE CRIMEA.

The London Times correspondent, writing from the Camp before Sebastopol, Nov. 24th, says there is really nothing to write about, as nothing has occurred. Very little fire is exchanged between the North and South sides.

The Russian works on the North side are rapidly attaining gigantic dimensions. The engineering operations to destroy Sebastopol docks are about completed. Stringent regulations are issued to keep spies and forgers out of the Allied camp. Horse races are advertised in the British, and theatres in the French camps.

The weather had been fine. Deserters confirm the report that the bulk of the Russian army remains in its former position, namely, the 11th, 12th, and 13th divisions on the Severtzaya, or North Flank; the 16th and 17th on Mackenzie Ridge; and the rest on the Plateau of Kozules, keeping the Belbec and Katcha.

The French army has been reinforced by a division, twelve thousand strong, under General Chasseloup.

The English and Sardinian are also reinforced, and, it is supposed, the Russian also.

The Russians have erected batteries to prevent a landing in the rear of the North forts.

The French and English camps have been connected by a bridge of boats. Admiral Lyons continues to cruise near Kerch, as the Russians are threatening an attack, having fortified Arabat with 30,000 men, and Genitch with 15,000 men.

On the 23rd Nov. Guricheff announced nothing new. A French colonel and captain making a reconnaissance, were captured by the Cossacks.

A letter from Constantinople, dated the 26th, mentions that the Russian cavalry near Kerch had retired into the interior. Three hundred sail of ships, laden with grain, were wind-bound in Sulina, at the mouth of the Danube.

The Imperial Commercial Bank of Odessa had suspended specie payments—the premium on silver being from 12 to 15 per cent.

The timber rafts recently captured by the Allies are lost, having been floated away and broken up in a freshet.

THE BALTIC.—A telegraph dispatch from Niebuhr, Dec. 6th, states that the united squadrons under Admiral Dundas, were then passing that place on their way homeward.

The British Admiralty have published Lieut. Genesie's account of the Hango affair, but it contains nothing new.

General Canrobert is said to have hinted that at the next Baltic campaign two Allied armies will be landed, one in Finland and the other in Gurland; and he will have command in chief at Kiel. He had a long interview with Admiral Dundas and Pennant, and some authentic Russian Council of War to initiation of these facts having reached St. Petersburg.

The Council referred to will comprise all the Generals and Admirals. Generals Rudiger, De Berg, Sievers, Parnemann, and others' object being to settle the last means for defending the coast from the Gulf of Bothnia to the southern extremity of Volhynia—to a hundred and eighty thousand men being available for this purpose, exclusive of interior garrisons.

The mission of the Russian Admiral, Gheorghi, to Stockholm, which was supposed to be with a view to counteract Canrobert's, is stated to have reference only to unimportant matters of finance, and the trading of Swedish ships to the ports of England.

FROM THE PRINCIPALITIES.

Intelligence continues respecting the chance of a Heptar. England supports John Gladstone as candidate; France and Turkey support Mr. Callimouchi; while Austria sides with Prince Strinsky. The great and bloody Austria is said to desire that, in future, the Hospodars shall be named for the Porte, subject to the veto of the Great Powers.