

EVENTS

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Some Postal Deficiencies.

NOTWITHSTANDING the improvements made by Sir William Mulock and his very efficient deputy, Mr. Coulter, the Canadian postal service is far behind Germany and other countries. One of the particular instances of the backwardness and inefficiency of the Canadian postal service in some cases, is furnished by the post office of the Capital itself. The Ottawa post office is one of the most important in the Dominion, in as much as, in addition to the mailing rights of a population numbering fully 70,000, it has to handle an enormous mass of matter sent out by various departments of government and the very bulky and extensive parcels sent from the Central Experimental Farm. In addition there is the receipt of all letters and material addressed to the various departments of government, including the Geological Survey and the Experimental Farm. Recently additions have been made to this burden by the creation of the Railway Commission an

the National Transcontinental Railway Commission. It would startle the average slow going European to be told that there is no certain way of buying a postage stamp in the city of Ottawa after 6 o'clock in the evening, although numerous mails go out after that hour. It is left to the individual enterprise of a odd drug store or messenger service to supply stamps after the single vendor of stamps at the post office chooses to close the wicket. If a drug store or bookseller or any other person received a license to sell postage stamps—and why in the name of common sense a license should be required is a problem—there is no rule or regulation requiring that person not to run out of stamps and as a matter of fact in most cases an application for stamps is met with the reply that they are out of them. The frequent delays in distributing late mail that comes in is due no doubt to an overworked and undermanned staff.

— The entrance into the Ottawa post office

is situated at the most inconvenient side of it. During more than half of the year if you have gone around all the corners leading to the main entrance it will be found to be very much like a side entrance only more so. There is a wooden porch with one or two slippery steps to climb, the door of which is weighted by fifty or sixty tons so that by no possibility can any careless intruder allow the fresh air to penetrate inside the porch. This is the door of the first part. Once inside, however, it is all plain sailing. You have only to count three or four slippery stone steps, grab one half of the door by the handle and pull it open. If a lady or two is coming out at the same time you will hold the door open until they have passed, and then silently determine to get inside before the man coming out can intercept you. The other half of the door is firmly bolted into the rock so that ingress and egress is like unto a stream of people trying to cross a narrow bridge from two sides at the same time. When at length you have obtained entrance inside the door of the second part you find yourself in another or inner porch, and the measures taken to see that this inner porch excludes the faintest breath of air from the outside render access to the lobby still more difficult. To the right and left of the porch there are two very narrow swinging baize doors, each about one foot wide, and as a matter of practice nearly all the people desire to use only the left hand door going in. Here again is a delay and if you should be going in behind a fat woman who is out of breath and travelling very slow, you will require a patience which is seldom seen in the busy hours of a busy city. Once inside you will find four people waiting to be served at the single stamp wicket and three of them are women who have six questions to ask and several parcels to weigh before you can be waited on. You open your letter box and find therein a red card indicating that there is a registered letter waiting for you at the far end of the lobby and also, if you are anyways lucky, a letter containing a postal note or money order for a sum of money.

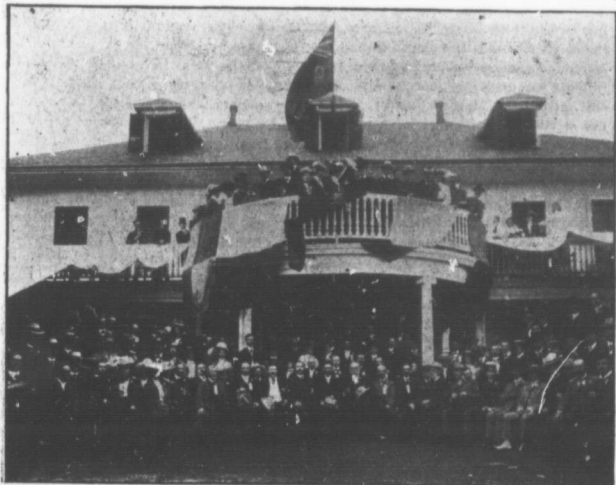
You take the money order or postal note round to the money order branch where there are three wickets. One of these is constantly closed, for no other reason, apparently, than that there is business enough for four. Opposite the remaining two wickets, one served by a man and the other by a woman, is a crowd of waiting men and women. Some of them have books of the savings bank branch, which in this case is not separated from the money order business or from the postal note business, nor is the making out of money orders or postal notes distinct from the cashing of these. The depositor who has a savings bank account has to have the deposit carefully counted, a receipt carefully given, an entry in the customers book and several entries in the forms and books of the post office. All this time a man with a postal note for a few dollars which could be cashed in five seconds has to wait and look on until the tedious process of a deposit is completed. But there is still one person ahead of you and he requires a money order which has to be carefully filled out and entered and another careful counting of money paid in. It is only too clear that the authorities are aware of the utter inefficiency of the service provided in the Ottawa post office money order and postal note branch, as they provide benches for persons to sit down upon and wait. These benches form admirable points from which to view a post office department's exhibition of how not to do it. When you go to the registered letter branch there is only one wicket and this branch is so undermanned that it is with difficulty that the clerks can find time to wait even on one wicket. The same thing is true of the general delivery wicket and all round there is an utterly insufficient service. The long suffering public has no means of redress for the post office is a monopoly and they are compelled to go there whether they are well served or otherwise. But in these days of progress and development and activity is there any reason why one of the most important post offices in the Dominion of Canada should be undermanned and overworked when there are surely some persons applying for employment fitted

to perform the duties of attending to a wicket or sorting letters or newspapers.

Perhaps some of the officials have grown so old in the service that they fail to see the necessity of immediate response to public requirements. A modern city post office should have the active executive head changed about once every ten years if efficiency is to go hand in hand with the public requirements. Probably one of the greatest mistakes that governments make is to retain in office persons who have been there for a long time and retain them for no other reason. The accumula-

tion of barnacles impede the progress of the ship of state more than anything else. The introduction into the department of a new clear headed and industrious deputy minister has done much to improve the service, but Sir William Mulock could add to his good record in the direction of reform and efficiency by paying some attention to the obvious needs of some of the post offices of the cities and towns of the Dominion.

By the way, how is it that express money orders are taken on deposit by the banks and not postal notes?



The annual convention of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association closed at Quebec on Wednesday. This photo of the Association was taken as the Kent house at Motmorency Falls.

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Published Weekly

ARNOTT J. MAGURN, Editor.

VOL. 8 SEPT. 23, 1905 No. 12-13

THE demand for the new edition of Magurn's Parliamentary Guide and Work of General Reference, just issued, has been so large that the remainder of the edition will only go a certain distance. All orders should be accompanied by a remittance of \$2.50 and each order will be filled in its turn so long as the edition lasts. Revised and enlarged, 465 pages. Address A. J. Magurn, P. O. Box 1050, Ottawa.

AT the Ontario general elections held in January, 1905, Mr. H. W. Kennedy, Liberal, was elected for the constituency of Port Arthur by a majority of 14. A petition to unseat him was tried by Justices McLennan and Teetzel at Port Arthur ending on the 15th inst. The judgment of the court was that the election had been a fair one in every respect and the petition failed, not only on account of alleged corrupt practices but also as to the scrutiny of votes. It is satisfactory to know that one of the first attempts to prove an Ontario provincial election corrupt in the present year has utterly failed. But we fancy there is no case in which some breach of the law could not easily be proved.

THE appointment of Col. Fred White, controller of the Northwest Mounted Police, to be Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, apparently means that it is the intention of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who is the minister in charge of the police to administer that country, so soon as it is of all the territory embraced in the new provinces, in connection with the Mounted Police. Col. White will remain controller and will have at his disposal the force by which alone the most remote portions of the territories can be administered. This will include the district of Keewatin and remove the anomaly which existed for many years by virtue of Keewatin being under the nominal jurisdiction of the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba who used to

make an annual visit to the district where he was looked after, of course, by the Mounted Police.

THE Canadian Railway Freight Association is reported in the daily press as deciding to conform to an order of the Railway Commission. Do the authority of Parliament and the force of statute law depend on the decision of an association? Presently we will have culprits deciding to spend the term in prison to which they have been sentenced.

AN Ontario morning newspaper asks why certain newspapers in Canada should be concerned about the policy of Mr. Chamberlain, involving the return of Great Britain to a policy of protection, and objects to certain criticisms upon Sir Gilbert Parker's references to the subject before the Canadian Club of Ottawa. If Canada is not concerned why are we invited to participate in a Colonial Conference to discuss the subject? A second look at the paper in question shows that wonder is expressed that these bold Canadian papers should "attack" Mr. Chamberlain's policy. Why, the same paper has more than once attacked the imperial policy of Russia and the Czar. Are we not to take as much interest in the welfare of the Mother Country as in the affairs of alien lands? As to Sir Gilbert Parker offering his opinion before the Ottawa audience which was gathered to hear him, that could do nobody any harm. There is no good reason why any person should be made nervous by reference to any question of public policy in any country. We are all concerned very much that Great Britain should be well guided in departing from a fiscal system under which great things have been accomplished. Hon. Gifford Sifton discussed this question before the Canadian Club of Ottawa, and why not Sir Gilbert Parker or any other member of the British or Canadian parliaments? You can't discuss private affairs before the Canadian Club, and the discussion of national public affairs is only possible by reference to political subjects.

Mr. Martin Redivivus

THE Winnipeg Telegram of the 15th inst. states that the "Hon." Joseph Martin, ex-M.P. for Winnipeg, ex-attorney general of Manitoba and ex-premier of British Columbia, delivered an address in a large hall hired for the occasion in the city of Winnipeg. The paper neglected to state that Mr. Martin is also ex-solicitor for the C.P.R., and there is a shrewd suspicion that the ex-honorable has been brought by the C.P.R. to give whatever aid he can to Mr. Haultain in the attempt to defeat the Hon. Walter Scott, the new Premier of Saskatchewan. Mr. Martin's line of argument, as stated by himself, was that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is the tool of the Quebec hierarchy, and the Conservative leader is little better, "so that it is now necessary to organize a third party to battle for provincial rights and by inference to subjugate, chastise and punish the oldest, one of the largest and one of the most important provincial members of Confederation. It is not singular in the case of Mr. Martin—to be consistent would be more singular—that he, after knifing Premier Semlin of British Columbia in 1900, went to the country as premier in the month of June and refused to accept as a supporter any candidate who declared himself to be independent. Now he seeks to back up the Conservative party in Saskatchewan which is running a provincial rights campaign by simulating a love for an independent third party. As a caustic commentary on this game in Saskatchewan their fellow Conservatives in Alberta have declared for a straight party fight in that province and have discarded any suggestion for a third or provincial rights party.

A provincial rights or a third party

appealing to the people on the ground that the Prime Minister of Canada, who risked his political life to defy the hierarchy of Quebec nine years ago, is now their tool means that Mr. Martin, who is solely and only responsible for the Manitoba school question, would like to see another Equal Rights party run up the flag of Protestant ascendancy in the new province. The game has been played before. It is a dangerous one to take part in, and we trust that all good citizens will frown upon it. When he says:—"Sir Wilfrid Laurier is only the pliant tool in the hands of this malignant force in the politics of Canada", (the Roman Catholic hierarchy), he says what he well knows to be untrue and he says it mostly because Sir Wilfrid Laurier refused to take Mr. Martin into his cabinet in 1896. Sir Wilfrid did refuse after Mr. Martin had asked him to do so and the fact that Mr. Martin did ask to be taken in is a fact to the personal knowledge of the writer.

Mr. Martin did not conclude his address at Winnipeg without describing the Laurier administration as slaves to the railway corporations. Really, Mr. Martin should credit the public with a little memory of the time when he took \$5,000 a year for three years from the C.P.R. corporation to get out of Manitoba and keep out of politics during the time he was under corporation pay. For a man of this type to denounce Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who has never been suspected even of subserviency to any corporation is a piece of brazen impudence and demagogism. Mr. Martin's whole address is a spiteful attack on Sir Wilfrid. But then Mr. Martin must attack somebody and the public is just a bit tired of him.

Two of the New Cabinet Ministers

TWO portraits of two of the members of the Scott administration for the province of Saskatchewan appear in this issue.

The Hon. J. A. Calder, who is the Minister of Education and Provincial Treasurer, was born in Oxford county, Ont., Sept. 17, 1869, so that last Sunday he completed his 36th year. In 1883 he went to Winnipeg where he finished his education, graduating from Manitoba University in 1888. Three years later he went to the Northwest Territories to accept the position of principal of the Moose Jaw High School and afterwards inspector. He was Secretary of the Council of Public Instruction which preceded the Department of Education, the foundations of which he laid. When the Department of Education was created in 1901, Mr. Calder was appointed Deputy Commissioner and held that position until the first of the present month. It is significant of the growth of the Northwest that when he assumed charge of the Department there were 560 school districts, while there are now 1400, and are being added at the rate of not less than 20 per month. Premier Scott seems to have been fortunate in selecting a man so obviously capable and so thoroughly trained for the work of superintending the education of the children of the new province of Saskatchewan.

The new Minister of Agriculture and Provincial Secretary in the Scott administration is the Hon. W. R. Motherwell, a native of the county of Lanark, Ontario, where he was born 45 years ago. He is a



Hon. W. R. Motherwell

graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College and in 1881 went West, where he has undergone the vicissitudes of pioneer life. In recent years he became a leader of the farmers, who conferred on him the position of president of the Central Grain Growers Association. This fact alone guarantees Premier Scott a representative and strong Minister of Agriculture.

All of the members of the first administration of the province of Saskatchewan come from Ontario. The Hon. J. H. Lamont, the Attorney General, is a native of Dufferin county, Ontario, and a graduate of Toronto University. A sketch and portrait of Premier Scott appeared in these columns a few weeks ago.

What did the Kaiser Say to the Czar.

THE mystery surrounding the meeting of the German Kaiser and the Russian Czar on the coast of Sweden recently, has been the subject of much comment in European periodicals. It will probably never be known what their majesties said, but the clever and celebrated political and economic writer, F. Naumann, a shrewd German, who has more than once cleared up diplomatic mysteries makes a guess, and publishes his idea of the gist of this conversation. Imagining the two monarchs to be sitting before the window of the cabin on the German Emperor's yacht. Herr Naumann reports the following conversation:

Kaiser: "Do you see the vessel out there? It is probably a Swede. There is one more. Shall we open the window. We are alone."

Czar: "One is never alone."

Kaiser: "Here we are alone."

Czar: "I must speak with you. There is so much on my mind, and I need somebody who does not want something of me."

Kaiser: "How do you know that I do not want anything of you? Perhaps I do want a great deal. Bulow has a whole portfolio of things ready to be presented to you at the opportune time. But now speak out! You know that our ancestors have treated each other as brethren."

Czar: "Will you frankly inform me what you think of our position?"

Kaiser: "We follow with regret your steps, and we hope that the present time of trial will soon be over. Of course, we

have but the sentiments of heartiest friendship, as usual."

Czar: "You do not want to understand. I feel as if everything were breaking down. I decided not to be moved by anything, but when I am alone, and when I see the little ones . . . Tell me what you would do?"

Kaiser: "Make peace and control the revolution."

Czar: "Witte is going over. The peace must cost many sacrifices, but the war also. I wish I had died out there! I did not want the war,—it was necessitated by an injustice without equal. The day transmitting the news about the torpedo fleet was terrible. And then Kuropatkin. And so it goes month by month. Sometimes I think nothing is true."

Kaiser: "Our people, the merchants of Hamburg, used to say: 'The first damage is the best, because it is the cheapest.' You must make peace—then you have free hands."

Czar: "And what shall we do then?"

Kaiser: "That is very simple. You suppose that you are Nicholas I. Do you know what he did?"

Czar: "I know it, but I do not know how he did it. I always think of Louis of France. He was such a man as I, and at that time the revolution was not as mean as now. Only think—our Sergius! And all the others! Now something seems to have happened to our old honorable Pobyedonostzev. Oh it is not human; it is barbarous, pagan! Such a hell never existed."

Kaiser: "You must be more firm. This I have resolved to inform you—that, first, all rebellion must be crushed before you make the least concessions. If you prove weak you are lost."

Czar: "But I am weak."

Kaiser: "We all are but men. Yet a ruler must forget himself and rather drop in the fight than give up. When he has shown that he is the lord, then he shall consider the wishes of his subjects and not before. We stand in a dangerous position, and nobody knows whom it strikes first. It is not only so in Russia. Come let us be brotherly and brave."

Czar: "I thank you. I must consider it."

Then there was silence for a while. The Kaiser looked thoughtfully and very seriously out of the window, as if he wished to catch the little clouds swimming away out on the horizon. But the Czar gazed on the reflection of the looking glass in the room. Finally both looked each other in the face.

Czar: "What will you do if the Poles rebel and recede from me?"

Kaiser: "We will march on Warsaw and restore it to you."

Czar: "Would you be doing that for us or for yourself?"

Kaiser: "Both. The division of Poland unites us forever."

Czar: "And your soldiers—what will they do?"

Kaiser: "They march."

Czar: "They will. . . I do not know. I do not believe in anything more in the world. You know the incident at Odessa—you know it."

Kaiser: "Do you wish another cigarette?"

Czar: "No, I do not smoke very much thank you."

Again there was a silence for a while. It seemed as if the Czar was more comforted. He also started the conversation this time:

Czar: "What sort of a constitution would you permit after crushing the revolution?"

Kaiser: "After the crushing of the revolution I would be liberal."

Czar: "Somebody told me that the Prussian constitution of 1876 would be suitable for us. I do not know it. I think it was provincial self government, but no general parliament."

Kaiser: "A strong government can rule with any constitution."

Czar: "Also with revolutionary right of suffrage!"

Kaiser: "That also. It must only have conquered first."

Czar: "I know so very few men. You do not know how narrow a life I live. What keeps me is the duty not the hope. I have the duty of holding old Russia as long as I live."

Kaiser: "There is no such duty. There only exists for us the duty to hold the inherited power. Nobody can uphold old conditions."

Czar: "You are the West Europeans. You have other feelings than we. Russia is a world for itself. How tired I am of the misery around! I love this world and would die for it. If I give this up any wind will blow me away. I remain a Russian, and God will save Russia. . . I believe he will do it."

A Government Printing Scandal.

THE first fruits of the Keep Commission appear to be the removal of the United States public printer, F. W. Palmer, from office. The spite of this official against his ambitious and aspiring young foreman, and the struggle between the Lanston and Mergenthaler people over a fat contract for supplying machines, stirred up a disturbance that led to a complete investigation of affairs in the government printing office. The Savannah News relates the story as follows:—

"The public printer is Mr. Palmer, a man up in years. It seems he had the two machines tested, with the result that the conclusion reached was that the Lanston was the better. Then, according to the story that is in circulation, the president of the Mergenthaler company declared that Mr. Palmer was improperly influenced in his decision, and he wrote to the President about the matter, making charges the President couldn't very well ignore. The President appointed a commission to investigate the merits of the two machines. This commission sustained the public printer in every particular, so it is said.

"The real row, however, is between the public printer, and his chief assistants, Oscar L. Ricketts, foreman of printing, and L. C. Hay, foreman of the job office. These men have sided with the president of the Mergenthaler machine, and have tried to make the situation particularly uncomfortable for Public Printer Palmer. So insubordinate did they become that Mr. Palmer dismissed them. They refused to go, saying that under the civil service rules they had a right to hear the charges against them and to have a trial upon them."

The "dark, dirty, nauseating stream of details now pouring forth from more than one authoritative source," proves in the opinion of the New York Evening Post,

that "the government printing office has become a hotbed of extravagance and corruption."

The sensational report of the Keep Commission, according to all accounts, shows that "slackness, waste, pilfering and irregularities in the purchase of equipment" have been the "distinguishing marks" of the Palmer administration, and that "the office is honeycombed with politics" and burdened with incompetent and dishonest employees. The extravagance and corruption complained of are looked upon as peculiarly unaccountable in view of the fact that Congress has thrown many safeguards around the government printing office. Nevertheless, in the face of all precautions extravagances and irregularities appear to such an extent that "one dollar in the government printing office will not go much farther than forty cents in a private concern." Mr. W. S. Rossiter, of New York in a carefully written article in The Atlantic Monthly for September, attempts to explain the cause for this trouble, and says:

"The waste in federal printing may be summed up as comprised in two classes; that occurring from various causes in the conduct of the printing plant itself; that resulting from the publication of pamphlets and volumes either really not needed at all, or, if needed, issued too expensively or in too large numbers. Of these two classes of waste, that existing in the plant is purely a business matter, and can be remedied to some extent by following more closely the best commercial methods. That occurring in connection with the character and amount of product can probably be met permanently only by some form of supervision dealing with the various questions which should be considered with every proposed publication.

Italian Emigration.

THE question of Italian emigration is quite as much discussed in Italy as is that of Italian immigration in the United States. In the *Nuova Antologia*, Rome, Senator Angelo Mosso considers every side of the problem, and some of his statements and conclusions are corrective of misapprehensions prevalent here. Several other articles appear in current Italian reviews, as will be mentioned.

The Italian population in foreign countries has grown thus: 1881, 1,032,392; 1891, 1,983,206; 1901, 3,458,024; 1905, above 4,000,000.

The causes of this emigration, larger than from any other country save Ireland, are complex and various. Senator Mosso finds the roots of it back in ancient Roman times and it is recognized in religious customs. Rome has ever been "a vortex about which human currents are drawn by a mysterious power in the continuous renewal of civilization." In many languages *romeo* became a synonym of 'pilgrim'.

The migration of peoples, though influenced by other causes, is "as natural as atmospheric currents. The demand for labor of a certain kind draws from those regions which are oversupplied with vigorous workmen. Travel has convinced this writer that in spite of the Italians' reputation for impulsiveness and hot blood, it is precisely in northern climes that their sobriety is appreciated. Among Italians there is less separation between rich and poor than elsewhere in Europe, their sociability is greater, and the workmen have more solidarity and cooperation. Vivacity of language and gesture are merely superficial, covering a solid base. He continues:

Emigration is an inevitable need and a

form of modern life for the Italians, because it conforms to their character. The state should guide the emigrants. No intimidation, no social consideration, should check our diffusion into foreign countries. Emigration is for us not a blood letting, but a strengthening remedy; not a dangerous crisis but a growing fever, like that which comes to youth, and from which the body issues stronger and better formed.

Poverty may determine emigration, but alone is not sufficient to produce it, he says. Sardinia, far poorer than Upper Italy, has no emigration, while the women of rich Lombardy go to Lyons silk mills because their dexterity is in demand.

The emigrant is often a poor person discontented with his state, and a member of the proletariat nobler than the others. His mind is stronger, making him carry through his resolutions, dominate circumstances, launching himself into the vortex of the unknown.

Senator Mosso touches on measures taken to limit or repress Italian immigration into European countries, especially France, where even violence has been resorted to, but this subject is more extensively treated in an article on "Italians in Foreign Countries" by Giuseppe Prato, and "A Piedmontese" on "The Future of Italians in the United States of America."

Signor Prato shows that owing to the density of population in Italy and the lack of capital for productive industry, it is necessary that from two hundred thousand to three hundred thousand leave Italy each year. The last census gives Italy an average of 113 inhabitants per square kilometer, while Germany has 27, Austria

80, and France 72, although the latter countries have more tillable soil, and fewer malaria infected districts. He mentions the achievements of Italians in other countries, the fine buildings of Buenos Ayres, the flourishing colonies of Brazil, which has 1,100,000, Italians, the Asti colony in California, the model fruit farms of Louisiana and of Australia, the great building enterprises of Cairo and Alexandria and, the solid commercial houses in Smyrna and Constantinople, the cafes, restaurants and hotels of London and Barcelona, and the thousands of farms of Sicilian peasants in Tunis, where there are three Italians to one Frenchman. In spite of these there is a growing hostility to the Italian and to the foreign workmen. The trade unions have excluded them from almost all British shops and factories. The Australian Commonwealth, South Africa, New Zealand, British Columbia, have passed strict laws against immigration and contract labor. "But", says Signor Prato, "it is the United States that represents for us the most unquieting uncertainty," and he quotes the rather florid language of Congressman Sherman, now consul at Liverpool, in proof of the feeling here that we should cease to be "foster mother for the oppressed," and should "choose our collaborators in keeping this the greatest nation in the world." Whether proposed legislation takes the form of excluding the illiterates (among Italians 48 per cent) or limiting the number from any country to 60,000 or 80,000, Signor Prato says it would be foolish to shut one's eyes to the near possibility that "the door to fruitful industry and eventual fortune" may be partly closed. The writer signing him-

self "A Piedmontese," after commenting on the complex racial characteristics of the American, he finds it strange that the Germans and the Irish are considered as forming part of American life, while the Italians are considered intruders, and meet with opposition and discouragement. He says Italians have done for America more than the sons of any other country. Columbus discovered it; Amerigo Vespucci gave its name; Sebastian Cabot, Venetian, discovered much of it, Enrico Toatti shared in the discoveries of La Salle; Antonio Meucci he terms the true inventor of the telephone, and General di Cesnola and Marconi are cited as recent benefactors of Italian race. The reasons for oppression he thus sums up:

1. Many suppose, erroneously, that Italian immigrants are like swallows that have no fixed residence, that they put aside vast sums of money and give little profit to American commerce.
2. Others say that our immigrants are the "scum of Italy," and a mass of poor people worse than the Chinese or the negroes, who take up the vilest trades.
3. The Italians are quick in anger, and know how to use the knife and the dagger; by many they are considered as anarchists, mafia members and camorristi of the first order, and a race of ignoramuses.
4. The Protestants opposed to Italians because they are Roman Catholics and come to America to swell the army of the Catholic Church.
5. The American clergy neglect our immigrants because they contribute little, if any to the welfare of the local parish, and because the priests do not know Italian.



The British and French Navies.

A STUDY of the international significance of the visit made by the British fleet to Brest and the exchange visit of the French fleet to Portsmouth is presented by Arnold White. This writer points out the peculiar appropriateness of Brest as a meeting place, since "the very names of the streets in this French town speak of the long struggle of the five great wars with England." Mr. White is enthusiastic over the effect on the world's peace of this drawing together of England and France. He believes it will neutralize the influence of Germany, which he regards as decidedly opposed to peace. The visit of the English fleet to Brest, he declares, "marks the shifting of the centre of gravity in international affairs throughout the world." There was no rhetorical exuberance of speechmaking, but one after another, Frenchman succeeding Englishman, the naval officers "expressed in almost identical language the desire that the home life of France and England may be maintained intact, and that the power of the two navies might be used for maintaining the peace of the world."

Shrewd men these, firm supporters of law and order, hostile to marauders and hooligans, more especially to imperial wrongdoers. The one cry of these honest men was that between France and England there was no cause of quarrel, and that there were many interests in common, and that the guardianship of the Narrow Seas should be exercised strictly in the interest of universal peace. There is no occasion to put the dots on the "if's" but these honest mariners, bred in storms, did not refrain from indicating the quarter in

which dirty weather might be expected.

Mr. White refers to a number of fine points in the French naval equipment which it would be well for England to study. The French have much to learn from the English in naval matters, he declares, but on the other hand Britons may learn a great deal from the French. "It is commonplace to remember the fact that in material our neighbors have always led the van. In the days of wooden ships, French naval constructors furnished the models which were afterwards imitated in the British navy." In many other points, such as in the good cooking of food, in holding the loyalty of the men and listening to any complaints they wish to make, in emphasizing the fact that the French sailors are citizens before they are sailors, and in other points, the navy of the republic deserves close study by Britons.

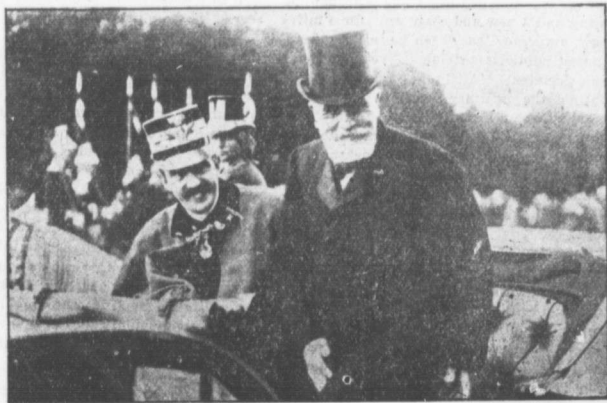
M. Edouard Lockroy, late French minister of marine, has a study of the French navy which presents in brief form some interesting data. He points out the fact that the French navy is one of the oldest in Europe, and that it is yet governed by regulations which date back to Richelieu and Colbert. As regards officers, he declares they are among the most highly trained men in Europe. Emphasizing the fact that the French navy by the number of its battleships and the high standard of its men is the second in Europe and the first on the Continent, M. Lockroy proceeds to a detailed study of the elements in France's naval forces. As a whole, he declares, the distinctive element, that of "protection" is much greater, in proportion to

the size of the entire navy, than in other countries.

The necessity of protecting maritime frontiers, to put the country under the protection of disembarkations, and to prevent the blockade of dockyards, has dominated the minds of the general staff and the Chambers. No nation has constructed more destroyers, torpedo boats, and submarines: and it is perhaps in these last named vessels that the skill of our ship-builders is most conspicuously apparent. France was the first to make use of submarines. Among these vessels the most remarkable type would seem to be that named the "submersible." It can be navigated on the surface as easily as a destroyer, which in its elegant shape it resembles; and it can dive down in a very few minutes; its speed is considerable; its sphere of action relatively extended; and the latest experiments made at Cherbourg have shown that in time of war it could take the offensive and be a formidable opponent.

France constructs very large vessels successfully, he reminds us, although these are not homogenous enough in plan and are very expensive to build. One great fault he points out is that certain ships are not sufficiently provided with guns.

This defect has been remedied in the latest type of warships, which will be abundantly provided with guns. At the same time it should be stated that if the quantity of guns is not always what it should be, the quality is absolutely of the highest. The artillery of the French navy may claim, with justice, to be one of the best in Europe. Considerable progress has been made, not only in the construction of the guns and in the making of powder, but in the rapidity of firing. The guns of larger calibre which have already been made rapid firers are soon to be on the new ships, absolute quick firers. In actual warfare this will be a great advantage and will make up for other defects.



The King of Italy and President Loubet.

Lord Curzon and England's New Indian Policy.

ONE principle of Anglo Saxon government has always been that the King, President, or State Governor carries the sword, and commands the fighting forces of his dominion. Hitherto in India the Viceroy and his council have directed the distribution of the Indian army, and controlled its movements. The Balfour Ministry has changed this and made Lord Kitchener head of the army while the Viceroy is merely a civil governor. Lord Curzon, one of the ablest and most progressive rulers that India has ever had, resented the loss of power, independence and prestige entailed on him by Balfour's unprecedented action, and has resigned his office. His retirement is considered to be a heavy blow to the province he so judiciously administered, while the changes made in the administration are revolutionary. According to the Indian Review, Madras, "The old order has suddenly and somewhat rudely been shaken. The effectual safeguards of the past have been swept away and a new and easy way for a military autocracy has been paved;" and an Indian publicist writing in the same journal, declares: "All India, European and native—the military sections excepted—view with consternation and dismay the probable mischievous consequences to the country of the new fangled measure of military administration—a measure as revolutionary as it is disastrous to the best interests of the State in the immediate future."

Referring to the official labors of Lord Curzon in India the London Times summarizes them as "what must rank among the most brilliant and strenuous pieces of work accomplished for the Empire in our times." Speaking of his dispute with Lord Kitchener and subsequent resignation The Standard observes:

"The point raised by the Viceroy was one on which it was impossible for the government to give way. But no attempt was made to press him unduly. . . . Presently it became obvious that the Cabinet must choose between the Viceroy and the Commander in Chief. The dilemma was none of their making. It was forced upon them by Lord Curzon himself and he is the only sufferer."

On the same subject The Morning Post styles the quarrel between the statesman and the soldier, complicated by the indecision of a tottering Cabinet, "a pitiful muddle," and adds:

"We cannot leave the matter without pointing out that in this, as in so many of its actions, Mr. Balfour's government has made difficult situations still more embarrassing by a lack of simple directness and firm adhesion to lines of policy when they have been once laid down. Strong and decided governments, composed of men of first rate ability, are alone worthy to be served by strong and able men."

The Westminster Gazette, London, thinks that the open and manifest victory of the military over the civil party is a great disaster, which may give an entirely wrong turn to an administrative scheme which might otherwise have worked fairly"; and The Star, London, roundly abuses the Government as follows:

"It is characteristic of this Ministry, which has ever bullied the weak and cringed to the strong, that Lord Curzon's greatest faults in Indian administration have been swallowed, while on one occasion when he appears as the defender of the civilian element in the councils of India against the dominance of a purely militarist regime, they have sacrificed him."

The Immortality of Surnames.

BY the introduction of the expressive if somewhat cumbersome term Marconigram remarks a contemporary, wireless telegraphy has furnished us with another of those words which perpetuate not only the achievements, but the surnames of distinguished men. When the term "boycott" was first used in 1880, in the sense of that exclusive dealing, that "sending to Coventry" which was being practised on Irish loyalists, and on Captain Boycott in particular, few could have foreseen that the word would be adopted in most European tongues, and that a useful verb and noun would be permanently added to the language. The English statesman who was most intimately concerned with this period of Irish history has enriched our speech by the term Gladstone-bag, the first mention of which appears in one of Miss Braddon's novels (1882). The Italian revolutionary patriot Garibaldi has his name commemorated by a kind of jacket; the hero of the Peninsular campaign gave us those high boots called Wellingtons; and his Prussian ally at Waterloo is remembered by another sort of foot gear, Bluchers. A former Earl Spencer gave us the peculiar short coorcoat which bears his name, and every time we don a waterproof we have the opportunity of remembering, or more probably forgetting the inventor, Charles Mackintosh. The "gamp" carried under the same conditions, provide us with a word which is used only colloqually, perhaps because Sairey Gamp was not a desirable person; but the word "tribby" borrowed of course from Du Maurier's celebrated novel, is passing from the region of slang to that of literature or to be quite correct the word

is not quite unacceptable as applied to a hat, but when used humorously of a daintily shaped foot literary English knows it not. We got our word knickerbocker in a more roundabout manner. The pretended author of Washington Irving's fictions "History of New York" was Diedrich Knickerbocker. It happened that in an edition of this work, illustrated by Cruickshank, Dutchmen were represented in short knee breeches, and the name was subsequently transmitted to the garment having a close resemblance. A table near at hand is inlaid with that arrangement of brass and tortoise shell known as Buhl. Boule—the disguised spelling presumably due to German influence—was a noted wood carver of the time of Louis XIV. A sideboard reminds us of grog, and the curious history of that word. Admiral Vernon who flourished in the days of the Young Pretender, wore a coat of the coarse fibrous material named grogann, and was hence familiarly known by the nickname of "Old Grog." Being of a stingy disposition he used to serve his men with rum or spirit diluted with water, and the name was jocosely given to the unappreciated mixture. At any rate, such is the explanation which the careful editors of the New Oxford Dictionary have felt bound to accept. Negus, which is defined as "a liquor made of wine, water, sugar, and sometimes nutmeg and lemon juice." was first prepared by one Colonel Negus, a worthy of the reign of Anne and George I. In the garden we are overwhelmed by the number of proper names. Omitting those of scientific interest only, we mention but two, dahlia, from the Swedish botanist Dahl, and Camellio, from the

Latinized form of the name Kamel, being that of a Moravian missionary who described the botany of Luzon, in the Philippines. A lunch composed of sandwiches is reminiscent of "the fourth Earl of that title, "Jimmy Twitcher," who found this

light diet convenient for appeasing hunger whilst not requiring absence from the gaming tables. The Sally-lunn cakes at tea speak of the lass of Bath, whose buns made the fortune of a baker of that city.



King Edward entering a launch to embark on his yacht.