impracticability of ending the war by armistice or negotiation. The fighting would cease at once if the British generals could grant the Boers any terms short of unconditional surrender; but as Lord Roberts can only invite them to disperse to their farms and submit as gracefully as possible to British rule, naturally the fighting continues, and it threatens to degenerate from rearguard actions and raiding of railways and convoys into guerilla warfare and sniping. The occupation of Johannesburg has deprived President Krüger of a financial base for conducting the war at the expense of foreign shareholders, and while the Lydenberg district may be well provisioned the Boer refugees are not likely to remain long in hiding. They lack both the endurance of Cuban patriots and the malice of Malay snipers in the Philippines.

Some military men assert that the war will end as soon as President Krüger's railway car is set in motion for Komatipoort, and that Lord Roberts's best plan is to order French and Hamilton eastward beyond Middleburg, while General Buller is instructed to hunt down Mr. Steyn; but President catching is not the chief aim of soldiers of the Roberts school.

The social season is halting and promising to end before it has fairly begun. The Ascot races were lightly attended, and many of the most famous beauties were absent. The diplomatists were there in force, to exchange snatches of talk with the Ministers and find out what was going on in China. The weather was changeable, and the racing fraught with surprises. The spectacle lacked its usual glitter and color. Society has returned to London to find engagements for parties and balls fewer in number than for many years, and several great houses closed. War charities and the opera are in progress, and a state concert at Buckingham Palace has been announced for the first week in July.

Apart from Irving's enthusiastic welcome at the Lyceum Theatre to-night, where he appears as Dr. Primrose, the production of "The School for Scandal" at the Haymarket and the revival of "The Liars" at Wyndham's Theatre, there are no changes of programme at the theatres, and the jaded public is weary of war songs and pictures in the music halls. The Handel festival at Crystal Palace is drawing a great holiday assemblage of music lovers to Sydenham to-day. The smart sets have as little zest for their usual recreations as the sporting world has for racing and cricket. This season of wearisome war, with mourning in thousands of households, has transformed Merry England.

The chief banquet to-night is at the Whitehall Rooms, with the Crown Prince of Siam as the guest of honor. The Khedive of Egypt will arrive on Thursday and will be entertained during the course of the week by the Queen at Windsor, the Prince of Wales at Marlborough House, Lord Salisbury at Hatfield House and Arlington-st., the Lord Mayor at the Guildhall, Lord Rothschild, the Duke of Cambridge and other great personages. Lady Jersey has secured his attendance as the chief lion for her garden party at Osterley Park. The Shah of Persia is not due in London until the end of July. The Prince of Wales is laying cornerstones, opening buildings and distributing prizes with exceptional vigor for a fortnight.

The galleries of the House of Lords will be filled on Monday, when Lord Salisbury will make his explanation of the Chinese policy of the Government. Mr. Chamberlain will speak at St. George's Hall during the week on the political situation.

Fragonards are again drawing art lovers to the Agnew Galleries, and there are numerous minor art shows. The great art event of the year will be the opening of the Wallace collections at the end of the week. Hertford House has been thoroughly renovated and repaired, and the famous art treasures have been catalogued and placed where they can be seen to best advantage. These collections, which are owned by the nation, will fill out the deficiencies of the National Gallery in French art. Practical measures have already been taken to secure property adjoining the National Gallery, so that a building with priceless works of art can be isolated and protected against fire. The recent warning from a fire in that dangerous quarter has alarmed the officials and compelled them to bestir themselves.

There has been no contradiction of the published reports that the marriage of Lady Randolph Churchill and Mr. George Cornwallis West will take place during July. The bridegroom is a year younger than Mr. Winston Churchill. This marriage makes almost as much talk as the withdrawal of a current novel from circulation under threat of a suit against the publisher, Mr. Grant Richards, by a well known society woman, on the ground that she was personally attacked and libelled in one of the principal characters.

Mr. George H. Putnam returns to America by the St. Paul to-day, after a short campaign in the publishing trade here. Minister Irwin, from Lisbon, is also on the same vessel. Richard Croker is booked for the Lucania to-day; he has attended the races to the last moment, and has declined to talk about anything except horses. When asked about the Ice Trust, his mouth opens like a hole in a wall, but he says nothing. Bishop Doane has preached twice this week in St. Paul's, and will be heard at the Abbey to-morrow evening. Bishop Dudley, of Kentucky, is also preaching at St. Paul's and elsewhere.

London has clearly heard of the welcome extended to Sir Henry Irving in America and is unwilling to be outdone. Both Irving and Ellen Terry were cheered for five minutes when they appeared on the Lyceum stage to-night as Dr. Primrose and Olivia, and the applause was tumultuous throughout the evening. Irving's finest effect was produced at the close of the second act, when the Vicar of Wakefield was angry and heartbroken over the loss of his daughter. The audience was deeply moved with the pathos of the situation and thrilled with the fire of the acting. Eleanora Duse, who was in a box, stood and clapped her hands for three or four minutes. Mark Twain, who was in a box opposite, retired to a dark corner to wipe away his tears. Irving has seldom acted with greater naturalism, vigor and emotion.

I. N. F.

PARIS.

THE FRENCH WHEAT CROP LIKELY TO BE SHORT.

INTEREST IN AMERICAN CORN—ELECTRIC FETE AT THE EXPOSITION—SOCIAL NOTES.

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[BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Paris, June 16.—The latest returns received at the Ministry of Agriculture indicate that the French wheat crop has suffered from various causes and will undoubtedly be short. Estimates of the final yield are from 273,000,000 to 298,000,000 bushels, and these estimates have been carefully studied by a Chicago expert now in Paris. He has just returned from a visit to the French wheat regions, and expresses his conviction that, under the most favorable circumstances, the final total yield of French wheat cannot exceed 284,000,000 bushels. The weather during the last few days has been wet and bad for the crop, and too much rain from now on would be very disastrous.

The annual consumption of wheat in France is 340,000,000 bushels, and, making allowance for a surplus of 27,000,000 bushels on hand, left over from last year's crop, the best authorities agree that France will be obliged to buy foreign wheat. The "Temps," after reviewing the wheat outlook, publishes an exhaustive article written by M. Henri de Varigny, a well known economist, who calls attention to the national object lesson furnished by the American Corn Kitchen in the agricultural section of the United States exhibit, organized by Mr. Clark E. Carr, of Galesburg, Ill., late Minister to Denmark. M. De Varigny urges the French Government to appoint a commission to visit the United States to ascertain the best means of introducing corn into France, and especially of planting it here. The "Temps" indorses M. De Varigny's conclusions that corn food as presented at the American Corn Kitchen contains a larger proportion of hydro carbons than wheat or other grain products, and consequently is superior to wheat as nutriment for human beings. M. De Varigny predicts that before long corn food will become as general and as popular in France, and be attended with as important economic consequences, as was the case with the introduction during the last century of the American potato, the American tomato and American tobacco.

The subject has already been taken up by the country newspapers, and, singularly enough, the Customs Commission of the Chamber of Deputies has prepared a bill providing for doubling the present duty on foreign corn.

It is noted with pride by American agriculturists that nothing in the American exhibit is so carefully studied by the French public as the agricultural implements, ploughs, reapers, etc., which are presented by two leading American firms, the Deerings and the McCormicks, with a perfection and completeness never before seen in France.

Not until last night, the sixty-second day since the opening of the Exposition, was the electric plant in sufficiently advanced condition to permit the display of the luminous fountains, the cascades of the Château d'Eau and the Palace of Electricity. It was the first of the series of Friday evening fêtes and illuminations set apart for the "fashionable world," upon which occasions four tickets a head instead of one ticket are required for admission after 6 o'clock in the afternoon, which at the present ticket quotations makes the price equivalent to 2 francs 20 centimes, or 44 cents. The illumination of the façade of the Palace of Electricity was certainly superb, presenting the effect of a gigantic diadem of pearls and rubies, and when in addition to this at 9:30 o'clock the fountains and basins of still and running water were illuminated with constantly changing colors, with here and there a picturesque tree or minaret brought into prominence by means of concentrated rays of the searchlights, the crowds stood up on their iron chairs and burst into shouts of admiration.

The "Eclair" and other Paris papers this morning nevertheless pronounce the illuminations inferior to those of the Exposition of 1889 so far as the precision of the changes in working the electric lamps is concerned. It is needless to say that Americans turned out in full force at the illuminations, many dinner parties having been planned for the evening at half a dozen of the restaurants in the Exposition which have become favorite resorts of well known Americans. Among them were Mrs. Potter Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Binney, Mrs. Griswold Gray and her niece, Miss Irving; Mr. and Mrs. Diaz Albertini, Mrs. Adolph Ladenburg, Mr. and Mrs. Milward Adams, Mrs. George Pullman, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Walsh, Mr. Melville Ingalls, Mr. Albert Bostwick, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Singer, Mr. and Mrs. Harjes, Mrs. William Moore, Mr. Caleb Curtis, the Misses Curtis, Mr. and Mrs. Watson Blair, Mr. and Mrs. Clarkson Potter, Mrs. Caton, Mrs. Eddy, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Drake, Mrs. Coleman, Miss Coleman and Mrs. Pendleton Bowler.

Among the most agreeable social functions of the week must be mentioned a dinner of fifty-four, followed by a dance, given by Mrs. John Munroe on Thursday for Mrs. Munroe's daughter, Miss Hunt. Among the guests were General and Mrs. Draper, Mrs. Astor, Mrs. Richard Gambrill, Mrs. Irving, Mrs. Iselin and Miss Iselin. Mr. Joseph Sampson Stevens, formerly of the Rough Riders, and son of the Duc de Dino, and Mrs. Stevens, gave to-night at the Pavilion d'Armenonville a big open air dinner, followed by a reception, at which the dancing contingent was particularly well represented. A very smart dinner was also given by Mr. James Deering at his apartment, in the Rue Edmond Valentine. Among those present were Miss Draper, now fully recovered from a slight burn on her arm, due to her marvellous escape from an accident at the Grand Prix de Paris, already described in The Tribune. Other guests were Miss Perkins, Miss Sheffield, Miss Archibald, Major Mott, Mr. Samuel Bates, Mr. Francis Welch and Mr. Frank Rodgers. The dinner was followed by music, including some selections sung by Mr. Frank Rodgers, whose barytone voice is much appreciated by the American colony here. At the Hôtel Ritz, Mr. Stanley McCormick gave a dinner, at which were present Mrs. Cyrus McCormick, Miss Elsie Porter, Miss Barnay, Mr. Francis Knott, the miniature painter, who is completing a portrait of Mrs. Francis Carolan, daughter of the late George M. Pullman; he has also just finished a portrait of Miss Katherine Dexter, daughter of Mrs. Wirt Dexter, of Boston.

Mr. Potter Palmer, jr., and a few companions intend to start next week on a cycling trip through Switzerland, thence to the Black Forest and the Harz Mountains, and will return on their wheels to Paris.

Among the passengers on the St. Paul from Cherbourg are Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ayer, Mrs. A. R. Brewer, Mrs. Francis Boyd, Mrs. Samuel Crawford and family, Mrs. Walter Carey, Miss Margaret Carey, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Cheever, Miss Julia Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Duane, Mrs. A. M. Fish and family, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Gregory, Lady Harmley, Mrs. Thomas Hitchcock, Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Norton, General Robert Patterson, Mrs. Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Russell, jr., the Rev. H. Rudd, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Thaw and family, Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Williamson, John Irwin, United States Minister to Portugal, Mrs. Irwin and family, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Livingston, the Misses Livingston, Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Warden, Mr. Walter Clarke, Mr. Ogden Mills Reid, Mr. Cartwright Eustis, Mr. G. H. Putnam, the Hon. H. G. Stouve, Mrs. A. H. Trenholm, Miss Sarah and Miss Lucetta Rathbone, Miss Ruth Perkins, Mrs. H. C. Whipple, Miss Whipple, Mrs. A. H. Wilder and Mr. W. G. White.

Passengers on L'Aquitaine from Havre include Mr. and Mrs. C. Bailey, Mrs. W. B. Thomson, Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Baudry and M. Thiébaut, secretary of the French Embassy at Washington.

Passengers on the Fürst Bismarck from Cherbourg include Mrs. S. A. Allen, Miss Allen, Miss Jane Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Lombard, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Dick and family, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Ostheimer and family, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hitchcock, Mr. and Mrs. John Buehler, Mr. William H. Perkins, jr., Mr. R. Terry, jr., and Mr. Robert De Peyster Tytus.

These passengers left Paris to sail on the Lucania: Mrs. Ogden Goelet, Miss Goelet, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Sargent, Mrs. E. F. Dunbar, Miss Alice Dunbar, Mr. W. J. Pullman and Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Riche.

Among the passengers booked at Paris to sail on Wednesday on the Majestic are the wife of Admiral Baldwin, Miss A. G. Morgan, Mrs. Charles Watts, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Bell, Mr. and Mrs. H. Sayre, Mr. Robert Sayre, Mrs. A. H. Winton and Miss Winton.

Passengers booked to sail on the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse from Cherbourg on Wednesday: Mr. and Mrs. William Burnham, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bell, Mrs. Sumner Clark, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Carr, Mrs. J. H. Dwight, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Burden, Mr. and Mrs. George A. Draper, Miss Helen Draper, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper Hewitt, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Davis, Miss Edith Esterbrook, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Eberly, Miss Lucy Fay, Mrs. Richard Irwin, Captain J. S. B. Mott, Mrs. Mott, Mr. Charles McCreery, Colonel Royce, Mrs. Royce, General T. R. Tryon, Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Saltus, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Spence, Dr. and Mrs. William Seward Webb and family, Mr. and Mrs. John Woodruff, Miss May Woodruff, Mr. and Mrs. William Wallace, Mr. Henry Scott, Miss Louise B. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Adams Thayer, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Wark and Mrs. E. A. Stevens.

C. I. B.

PARISIAN POINTS OF VIEW.

Paris, June 16.

CONFIDENCE SHARPS BUSY.—Confidence sharps have found Paris a fertile field for their operations, and the cases of this sort with which the public become acquainted is probably only a small proportion of those which actually occur. The sharpers are Americans, and are working among their own countrymen. Their scheme is one which only a stranger in a strange land unfamiliar with the language and longing to find speakers of his native tongue can appreciate. They approach their victim asking if he does not speak English, and express delight at finding some one with whom they can hold conversation. This leads to an acquaintance, which quickly ripens, and is continued until the robbery is committed. The methods of accomplishing the purpose of the swindlers take the usual diversified forms. In one instance which occurred this week "knockout" drops were used.

The number of Americans seeking assistance at the United States Consulate and Embassy has perceptibly increased in the last few weeks. Many are in serious straits and are appealing to wealthy Americans for aid.

ROYAL TIME OF KING OF SWEDEN.—King Oscar II of Sweden is having a truly royal time in Paris. His Majesty is dined and fêted, but is putting in most of his time at the Exposition. He visited the United States Pavilion at the Exposition to-day, and was received by the American officials and National Commissioners. Being told that a million of his subjects were in the United States, the King replied, "I know that, but you have too many of them." He inspected the building, and, noticing the American flag, said, "We all respect that."

SHAH OF PERSIA IN FRANCE.—A second royal visitor to French soil in connection with the Exposition is the Shah of Persia, who has arrived at Contrexeville, travelling by way of Russia. He intends to take a course of the waters before coming to Paris, at the beginning of July, when he will open the Persian National Pavilion. He forms the topic of daily articles in the French press, which discuss his mode of living and the day's doings. With Oriental disregard of time, he kept the official world at Contrexeville waiting three days after the official date before he arrived. The papers record that the Shah creates wonderment by having all the courses of his meals served before him at the same time, and by dipping into them irregularly, in utter defiance of gastronomic rules. His general demeanor, however, and his kindly actions have made a most favorable impression.

THE AUTOMOBILE RACE.—The victory of the French contestant in the automobile race appears to be due as much to American ill luck as to French superiority. Mr. Winton was only three seconds behind the winning autocar, and was gaining, when, owing to a bad light, he miscalculated his speed in rounding an awkward corner, with the result that one of his front wheels struck an embankment and the axle was badly bent. Mr. Winton struggled on, but eventually, seeing that his efforts were hopeless, he abandoned the race. He has no complaint whatever against the management or the conditions of the race, and is conndent that but for the accident he would have finished well. He is not discouraged and will make another attempt when the opportunity offers. He has already started for home.

SYNDICATE TO TAKE MOULIN ROUGE.—The world famous Moulin Rouge dancing hall, situated on the historic heights of gay Montmartre, the Mecca of every pleasure seeking foreigner, is likely to fall into the control of an American syndicate, headed by a wealthy brewer. Eight hundred thousand dollars has been offered for the property as it stands, and the deal will probably be consummated. The idea of the syndicate is to Americanize the resort, making elaborate improvements and eliminating certain French features which attracted men unaccompanied by their wives.

VIEWS OF CONSUL BOYLE.—James Boyle, United States Consul at Liverpool, is doing the Exposition, after having made a trip through Northern Europe, the most striking feature of which, he says, and the one that caused him the greatest astonishment he experienced was the progress Germany has made in recent years. He said:

"A new Germany has been born, vigorous in every commercial industry and confident of its own power. Factories are being built up, everywhere, business life is full of energy, and there is lively competition. America and England must learn to realize Germany's wonderful progress and commercial ability if they do not desire to be in error of judgment."

Samuel Morrill, third secretary of the American Embassy, sails to-morrow for home on a trip for the benefit of his health.

VIEWS OF DREYFUS ON HIS CASE.—Ex-Captain Dreyfus wants the political agitation in his case to end. This is the gist of an interview had with him at Geneva this week: "I do not want a revisionist campaign after the Exposition. Such a campaign might interest politicians, but it would not be in my interest. I need exactly the contrary—that all agitation under my name should cease. When that is done the triumph of the truth will be assured. I shall renew my request for revision in a purely legal province. My request will be based upon proofs which are a thousand leagues removed from politics. I shall apply to the magistrature, not to politicians; and you will see that the whole of France will chivalrously restore me my honor."

ITALIAN LEGISLATURE OPENED.

KING HUMBERT MAKES THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Rome, June 16.—In the Senate to-day the XXIst Legislature was opened in the presence of King Humbert, Queen Margaret, the Duke of Aosta, the Duke of Genoa, the Count of Turin and many Senators and Deputies. King Humbert was warmly applauded during the reading of the Speech from the Throne.

He explained the reasons for the appeal being made to the electors, and said he had confidence that the wisdom and patriotism of the new Parliament would furnish him with the necessary means for fulfilling his important duties. The excellent relations between all the Powers, he added, assured the country that the national interests would be guaranteed at all times. Italy, the King pointed out, owed the great progress she had made during the second half of the last century to her free institutions. But it was necessary to do much more before she attained the high position she ought to hold among the most civilized nations.

The new Parliament, King Humbert further asserted, intended to devote its attention to bettering the condition of the working classes, to the protection of manufacturers, agriculturists and emigrants, to the reduction of the tributary taxes within the limits agreed on by the Budget, to education, and to legal and administrative reforms. In order to attain the objects in view the King appealed to all to aid the regular work of Parliament.

ESCAPED CONVICTS AT TRINIDAD.

CAPTURED AND HELD FOR THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

Kingston, Jamaica, June 16.—A large number of European convicts escaped from Cayenne, the French penal settlement, recently, and landed at Trinidad, British West Indies, a fortnight ago. Being a menace to law and order, the convicts were arrested by the Trinidad police after a desperate resistance. The French Government was informed of their capture, and the French gunboat Jouffroy is now on her way to Trinidad in order to convey the convicts back to Cayenne.

STRIKE IN KOOTENAI GOLD FIELDS.

TWO THOUSAND MUCKERS DEMAND THREE DOLLARS A DAY.

Vancouver, B. C., June 16.—Another strike throughout the Kootenai mining district is imminent, and unless all signs fail two thousand muckers will stop work to-night and refuse to resume on Monday morning.

J. Roderick Robertson, of Nelson, president of the South Kootenai Board of Trade, and managing director of the British Columbia gold fields, says he would not be surprised if work was stopped in a number of the mines in a few days, if the present difficulties were not settled in negotiations now under way.

The difficulty arises over a question of wages and has been brewing for several months. In about three-quarters of the mines the muckers, who are the principal workers underground, are paid from $2 50 to $2 60 a day. In a small minority of the mines they get $3 a day. It is to make the $3 rule uniform in all the mines that the strike is being organized.

WHAT LONDON TALKS OF

BRITAIN'S MANY DIFFICULTIES.—The serious condition of affairs in China is daily becoming the most absorbing topic in Great Britain. Peking is heard of now almost as much as Pretoria, while countless correspondents and amateur diplomats write and talk learnedly upon the perils presented by the Far Eastern crisis.

In view of the general public's concern and the dispatches from China, it is rather remarkable to learn that the Boxers appear to have but little affected the great volume of business between China and England. The largest houses in London trading with the Far East—corporations, insurance companies, banks and merchants—are fairly unanimous in saying their operations are not interfered with. The manager of a leading bank, with branches at Tien-Tsin and other places in China, said:

We get telegrams daily from our representatives. They seldom even mention the rising.

However, this section of the business world and those whose capital they represent are naturally awaiting the outcome of the crisis with anxiety. They are apparently more disturbed over the possibility of the Powers falling out among themselves after the Boxers receive their quietus than over the amount of damage the Boxers will wreak prior to that event.

Secretary Hay's attitude is watched in England with the greatest interest, but it is pretty generally recognized that the United States has no intention of pulling any chestnuts out of the fire.

There is such a plethora of crises the world over in which British interests are virtually concerned that the average reader of English newspapers finds it hard to keep track of them or place them in their positions of relative importance. China appeals only vaguely to the masses, which still maintain acute interest in the doings of Lord Roberts and his men. Nor are the doings of the British force in Ashantee, repulsed by an overwhelming horde of natives, forgotten. The Liverpool merchants, who practically monopolize the trade with the West Coast of Africa, are loud in their protestations against the Government's tardiness in sending reinforcements, while even the Conservative weeklies admit the usual mistake has been made of underestimating the strength of the enemy. The news of the rising in the nearby colony of Gambia adds no little to the strain, which affairs on the West Coast of Africa have imposed on the resources of the military organization, whose normal complement has its hands full at the other end of the Dark Continent.

But perhaps more important than any of these is the political crisis at the Cape. It is dawning on Great Britain that unless this is tactfully and satisfactorily set straight the pacification of South Africa may be indefinitely delayed. The putting down of a possible anti-British agitation in Cape Colony, similar to that which has existed for a century in Ireland, but without the physical force element, is recognized as being a far more serious task than outflanking and disarming the Boers.

A prominent Free Stater with British sympathies, but with many relatives on the Boer and Bond side, said to a representative of The Associated Press that he believes the Bond party would break out into armed revolt to-day were rifles as easily obtained as they were before the beginning of the war. He has only just come to England from the Cape, and, though opposed to the Bondites, is respected and trusted by them. The gravity of the issues depending on a solution of the situation caused by Mr. Schreiner's resignation of the Premiership of Cape Colony, can perhaps be better gauged by this Free Stater's candid opinion than by any censored statement from Cape Town. The English papers devote many editorials to the question. Those which are inspired show no desire to have Sir John Gordon Sprigg in sole power and Mr. Schreiner in the Opposition ranks, for, apart from the fact that it is doubtful if he can maintain his majority, the opinion prevails at the Colonial Office and is expressed by almost everybody coming from the Cape, regardless of political faith, that Sprigg is utterly unfitted in point of ability to steer the colony out of the present crisis. Some of the other English papers, which are not inspired, notably "The Globe," bitterly deprecate begging Mr. Schreiner to continue in office or even to help out in the dilemma, drawing scathing parallels between his utterances and actions before and after the issue of the war was assured. Those who know Cape politics thoroughly say that if Cecil Rhodes could reassert his former influence over Mr. Schreiner all would be well. But Mr. Rhodes is in Rhodesia, and Mr. Schreiner has recently expressed himself as being as bitterly vindictive as ever over what he considers to be Mr. Rhodes's breach of faith with the Bond party.

PAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE.—July will witness the Pan-African Conference in London, with the object of securing increased recognition of the rights of Great Britain's colored subjects. The idea originated with H. S. Williams, a native of Trinidad, whose appeal met with an enthusiastic response, and Southwest Africa, the West Indies, Abyssinia and, it is said, the United States, will send representatives, with the view of looking after the general interests of the colored race. The demands will include a thorough system of education and representation and peasant proprietorship, with especial reference to South Africa and the West Indies.

NO COLOR LINE IN CRICKET.—The arrival in England of the West Indian cricket team, composed of white and colored men, is greeted as another sign of imperial unity. The games this week attracted large crowds, but the visitors were badly beaten. They have no chance against the first class teams.

DOMESTIC POLITICS.—The resumption of Parliament after the Whitsuntide recess was not marked by any noticeable feature.

In preparation for the general election the Liberals have put in circulation a pamphlet entitled "Five Years of Tory Government," in which the failure of the Conservatives to fulfil their promises in the introduction of domestic measures, regarding education, old age pensions, temperance and overcrowding, is scathingly put forward. Augustine Birrell, member for the West Division of Fife, in writing the preface remarks that the claims of forty millions of people here at home to be well governed fairly taxed, properly housed and wisely educated, are paramount claims, nor will "Lord Salisbury's Swiss policy of putting a rifle range within the reach of every poor man's cottage in order that its occupant may learn how to defend his hired and insanitary homestead from the combined fury of Europe long survive the political occasion that begat it."

QUEENSLAND BALKS.—More trouble is looming up for Joseph Chamberlain, as Queensland refuses to abide by the Federation compromise made by the Australian delegates in London. There now seems a possibility that the bill will be withdrawn by the Imperial Government and referred back to Australia.

MRS. GLADSTONE.—On all sides the death of Mrs. Gladstone has called forth genuine expressions of sympathy and admiration, such as would scarcely have been written about any other woman in the kingdom. The trend of them all is that she was the ideal wife. Her coffin is exactly similar to Mr. Gladstone's. Both the private services at Hawarden and the public ceremony at Westminster will be as simple as possible, in accordance with her own ideas and those of the great commoner. Though their grandson comes into possession of Hawarden, it will remain a kind of family house, Herbert Gladstone and his sisters being as free to come and go as they were during the lifetime of their parents. The young master of Hawarden, who is not yet of age, is a pleasant, merry looking youth, who leaves Eton this year and then goes to Oxford.

DOCK STRIKE.—The London dock strike, involving ten thousand men, will probably be amicably settled by the London Chamber of Commerce, whose offer to arbitrate has been accepted by the strikers. They demand full recognition of their trades union and increased wages. The strike is not yet old enough to have its effect seriously felt, and public interest is so engaged in affairs abroad that it has scarcely caused comment.

DANGEROUS SIGNS.—The London County Council has passed a resolution giving it power to pull down every illuminated sign shown on the streets. Over half the brilliant devices which now make London gay at night will probably be condemned on the ground that the flashing lights frighten horses and endanger lives. Several firms have from $40,000 to $50,000 invested in these devices.

MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM.—The London streets are being torn up by the laying of the wires of the new telephone system, to be run by the Government. Continual complaints of overcharging and inefficiency of the monopoly led the postoffice to take this important step. Preparations are making for forty thousand subscribers. It is hoped to begin to operate in a year. The cost will be over $5,000,000, and the rates will be so low that the smallest store will be able to have a telephone.

TEMPERANCE CONGRESS.—The temperance congress attracted general comment. It is believed to have accomplished much for the cause. Speaking at a large meeting in Chelsea, Bijirr Chaudri Pal, a representative from Bengal, who recently made a tour of the United States, favorably compared his treatment in that country with that he received in this. "Only once," said he, "in America was I insulted by being offered wine. This was at a banquet in Chicago."

When asked if he had never been drunk, he replied:

"When we were barbarians we used to eat meat and drink wine."

MR. SHELDON.—The Rev. C. M. Sheldon, of Topeka, Kan., has received a hearty welcome in England. He was the guest at Liverpool of the Rev. C. T. Aked, who has lectured in America. Large crowds heard Mr. Sheldon recount his experiences at Topeka which led up to his writing "In His Steps."

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THE AMERICAN JOCKEYS.—The total value of the seventeen events secured by five American jockeys at Ascot is £23,944, while the English jockeys won only £13,085. Altogether the eight Americans who rode had sixty-nine mounts in twenty-six races, getting places forty times. Sloan out of nineteen mounts had six firsts, four seconds and five thirds; L. Reiff out of fourteen mounts had four firsts and two thirds.

Reviewing the racing of the week in "The Sporting Times," John Corlett writes:

Again the great feature was the extraordinary success of the American jockeys, which amounts to the revelation that our own jockeys have, with few exceptions, become utterly deteriorated. We were already well aware of this, but did not think the case was so bad as it proves to be. There is no fad of fashion in the employment of Americans. On the other hand, they had to fight prejudice and overcome ridicule. The position they have won has been gained by sheer merit. On Cup Day especially their successes were most remarkable. They ride with their heads as well as with their hands. If a horse has it in him they bring it out.

Mr. Drake, the owner of Royal Flush, although he did not name his horse, is one of the greatest poker players in the world. When the celebrated game was played on the train from Chicago by the wheat corneers, Drake and Leiter were among the players, and it is said that hundreds of thousands changed hands.

A "RUMMY" WAR.—"The Boer war," General Kelly-Kenny said to General Tucker a few weeks ago, is "the rummiest I have ever seen. If we," referring to the division commanders, "do things wrong, we are sent home in disgrace. If we do them right, Roberts gets all the credit."

And the war is "rummier" than even General Kelly-Kenny had any idea of. The spectacle presented this week of a victorious British General, in command of the greatest army his country ever put under one man, shut off from all communication with the outer world, while units of his forces, to the number of some seven hundred men, were annihilated by a supposedly pacified enemy, whose territory was annexed, stands almost unique in military history. While Lord Roberts is not blamed for these disasters, there is a strong feeling among the leading South Africans in London that he or some one blundered at Pretoria. Those who know every inch around the Transvaal capital say Lord Roberts took the most arduous side to approach it, whereas with easier means of access he might have gone eastward and shut off all possibility of General Botha's retreat. As it is the capture of Pretoria was practically an empty triumph, except for its moral effect. What old South African campaigners are asking is "Why did Roberts not get Botha and his men, and take Pretoria afterward, instead of occupying a deserted town and letting the Boers calmly walk away under the nose of his overwhelming force?" Yet, while this question is frequently heard, there is such genuine admiration for Lord Roberts and belief in the efficacy of his tactics that even those who ask it are loath to criticise him until they know all the details.

FOLLY AT ALDERSHOT.—The patent errors of the generals fighting at the front have caused endless criticism since the war began, but scarcely any blunder in South Africa has drawn upon it so much condemnation as the recent Aldershot manuœvres, when thirty thousand troops engaged in a sham battle on the hottest day of the year. The inquest upon four of the enlisted men who died from heat prostration records the fact that the troops started early in the morning without an adequate meal, and that the forage caps they wore were utterly insufficient to protect their heads from the sun. A more damning indictment of military equipment was scarcely ever so quickly and efficiently secured than by this simple verdict of a coroner's jury. Besides the men who died, some four hundred had to go to the hospitals. The result is that the obnoxious forage cap is likely to be done away with.

A BASHFUL DUKE.—The death of the third Duke of Wellington removes one of the shyest and least known peers in England. He was a pronounced valetudinarian, and also suffered from a keen appreciation of his own position. Once and only once he made an attempt to speak in public. It was on the vagrancy question, in which he was greatly interested. A profusion of notes lay before him as he sat in the House of Lords. He caught the Lord Chancellor's eye, solemly rose up, arranged his notes, cleared his throat and sat down without even uttering a syllable. He never tried again.

AN ORIENTAL PRESENT.—A curious story is printed regarding the Duke of York. It avers that in January a bevy of four beautiful Oriental maidens arrived at York House and announced themselves as a present from a certain dusky potentate. The Prince of Wales's son did not desire to offend the giver, yet he could scarcely accept, so, in some way or another, the maidens were returned and there was no offence.

THEATRICAL INCIDENTS.—Not only theatrical circles but the whole of London is amused and interested by the exciting controversy between W. S. Gilbert and Janette Steer, the American actress. Just before the latter produced two of Gilbert's plays at the Comedy Theatre last week Mr. Gilbert retired from the stage management and in a letter repudiated all responsibility for the forthcoming production. The plays, however, were produced on June 14 and proved most successful, but Gilbert does not feel disposed to let the matter rest, and wrote Miss Steer as follows:

Madam: I further understand that last night you materially altered the business as arranged by me, and as it was played under my direction by Mrs. Kendal, Miss Anderson, Miss Rose Leclercq and, indeed, by every other lady who has played Galatea under my stage management during the last twenty-eight years. I must ask you to advance and kneel in front of Cynisca from her left, not from her right; to throw yourself on your knees in front of her, without any exclamation; to fall at Cynisca's feet, and not on any account to cross Pygmalion, or, indeed, do any business not arranged at rehearsal. If you do not comply with my wishes in these respects I will apply for an injunction to prevent your playing the piece, or otherwise, as I may be advised.

The next day Mr. Gilbert wrote again:

I understand you interpolated several exclamations last night while Miss Repton was delivering her important speech at the end of the second act of "Pygmalion and Galatea," thereby greatly impairing the effect of that speech and causing it to be indistinct and confused. As this was not done at rehearsal I had no clew to your intention or I should have cautioned you before this. As it is, I must direct your attention to the necessity of keeping silence during the delivery of the important speech in question. As, unfortunately, experience has taught me that a mere request of mine is not likely to receive much consideration at your hands, I have instructed Miss Repton how to deal with the difficulty should it arise again. My instructions to her are to stop short at the first interruption, remain silent until the interruption ceases and then begin again. Should the interruption be repeated she is again to stop until the annoyance ceases altogether.

Miss Steer writes that the real difference of opinion resulting in Mr. Gilbert's ebullition arose from quite another matter. She says:

When arranging with Mr. Gilbert for the production of the two plays a question which he made an imperative condition was that I should engage Miss Repton, who, apparently, is a protégé, for the part of Cynisca. On Wednesday evening I requested her to wear the wig provided for the part, and she curtly refused, whereupon Mr. Gilbert interfered and vehemently stated he would not allow her to disfigure herself by wearing a wig. After some emphatic expressions of opinion Mr. Gilbert left the theatre.

Aside from this theatrical matters have been dull and the managers are already talking of closing.

The Princess of Wales, who is a regular attendant at Covent Garden, summoned Maurice Grau on Tuesday and congratulated him on the success of the opera season.

FAILURE OF NEPTUNE BLOOD.

London, June 16.—On the Stock Exchange this morning the failure was announced of Neptune Blood, a brother of Lady Colin Campbell. It is understood he had a large bear commitment open in "Westralians."

As announced in a dispatch from London to The Associated Press on June 12, Mrs. Constance Blood obtained a divorce that day from her husband, Neptune Blood. He had figured prominently in the Perot abduction case, when he assisted Mrs. Perot to abduct her daughter from the residence of the child's grandfather, a Baltimore millionaire.

BOMB-THROWING IN BRIDGETOWN.

Kingston, Jamaica, June 16.—A bomb, supposed to have been loaded with gun cotton, was thrown during the night of June 10 in the principal street of Bridgetown, Barbadoes. The buildings in the immediate neighborhood were damaged, and a number of people were seriously injured. One man's eyes were blown out. A panic ensued. The perpetrator of the outrage was not discovered.

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TIMELY TOPICS IN BERLIN.

Berlin, June 16.

THE ELBE-TRAVE CANAL.—The opening today of the Elbe-Trave Canal, with great ceremony, in the presence of the Emperor and Cabinet and delegates from cities throughout Germany, is another step forward. The canal has a length of 41 miles a width of 32 metres, a depth of from 2 to 2½ metres, and cost 25,000,000 marks, of which Lubeck pays 17,500,000 marks and Prussia 7,500,000 marks. Vessels of eight hundred tons, such as, for bulk, the Elbe vess