ART EXHIBITIONS.

The Last Appearance of the Society of American Artists.

A sentimental interest attaches to the exhibition which is now open at the Fine Arts Building. It is the last to be held by the Society of American Artists as an independent organization. That body having joined itself to the National Academy of Design, future exhibitions will be held under the name and style of the older institution. All questions of sentiment apart, the present display makes it plain enough that the "merger" about which there has been so much talk came at the psychological moment. For some time there has been little to choose between the exhibitions of the academy and those of the society. This one might be typical of either the one organization or the other, and from the public point of view, therefore, it is as well that their activities should henceforth be directed toward a common end. The disinterested observer, while gratefully remembering the excellent services rendered by the society years ago, when those services were needed, may otherwise bid it farewell without a pang. Sentiment has its uses, no doubt, but as Whistler used to say, art is art and mathematics is mathematics. The main thing is that our large exhibitions of native art should be good exhibitions, no matter under whose management they are held.

The present show is just good enough to provoke some surprise at its not being better. Since it leaves in general an agreeable impression, one is puzzled, for a little while, over its failure to bear out in detail the good account that it gives of itself as a whole. The explanation seems to lie in the mistaken policy which, for the sake of "a last appearance," has admitted between four and five hundred pieces. When this vast array of work is analyzed, it turns out to be altogether too often the work of amateurish contributors, clever but not possessed of anything particularly important to say. A smaller and a choicer collection of new pictures would have been much more to the point. There are too many facile "bits" in the exhibition, and, conversely, there are too few works which arrest attention on serious grounds. Of the few which do detach themselves from their surroundings in a decisive manner, Mr. Hassam's "June," to which the Carnegie prize of $500 has been awarded, is by all odds the most interesting. It is not a perfect picture. The artist's style has not been raised to the level of his ambition; the composition has rather the air of a small scheme enlarged than of a thing conceived in a broad spirit and executed in that spirit. The nude figures want a more powerful touch, and, finally, the color is excessively sweet. Yet for a certain open air vitality and for technical energy this is head and shoulders above everything else in the show. There are passages in it, notably in the background and in the opalescent sky, which are delightfully delicate, and, best of all, Mr. Hassam suggests that he is really driving at something; though he would appear to see his material, and to handle it, piece by piece rather than as a whole, there is at least some emotional striving after beauty in this work. It is just this that is lacking in too many of the other pictures in this exhibition.

Certainly it is not present in either of the two contributions by Mr. Brush. When this painter abandoned his Indian subjects a long time ago and took to painting group portraits in the manner of Terburg and other Netherlandish masters, he achieved not always, but from time to time, qualities which presently fixed his rank as above the average. Yet it is difficult to see just what separates his portraits in this show from the commonplace. There is no resonance, there is no beauty, in the ones of his "Mother Reading to Children," and though the suave handling in this does not pass into mere sleekness, as it does in his "Portrait" (No. 270), a full length of a small boy in brown, both canvases rest in essence on the same level of nerveless, uninspired craftsmanship. More and more he seems to be treating his sitters as objects of still life; less and less do his portraits reflect sincere human sympathy, or contain felicities of design and tone.

This matter of tone especially is all the time forcing itself upon the spectator. Why is it, he asks, that so few painters get beyond the fact that their art is an art of representation? Why do they so often forget that it is an art of interpretation, of the interpretation of color and texture, as well as of ideas? Mr. Henri goes on producing in portraits like his "Miss Nivison" and his "Young Woman in White and Brown," very creditable arrangements of a few simple tones, but he goes on neglecting to make those tones intrinsically subtle and fine. For one painter who, like Mr. Dewing, in his "Lute Player," extorts charm from mere paint, exquisitely manipulated, there are dozens of whom the best that you can say is that they draw fairly well, and, as regards color also, give their figures a measure of reality. The worst of it is that they do not make their figures in any way beautiful. Take, for example, Mr. F. Luis Mora. We would rejoice if we could praise his big studies of Spanish types, "La Buena Ventura," and his companions, but he gives us nothing more in these painstaking performances than we find in enormous quantities in the ordinary categories of the Salon. There is nought here that is personal, nought that is new. The same empty effect that goes with Mr. Mora's paintings of picturesque models goes with his large modern portrait, the "Brother and Sister." Looking for better things we find promise rather than performance in Mr. Ballin's "Lute Player" and in his "Susanna at the Bath." He shows in both of these the beguiling, romantic sentiment which has been discerned in his work before; he has handsome color, and he gains, when all is said, a richness as of some old tapestry, the value of which is undeniable. But when is he going to make us feel that he knows as much about nature as he knows about studio accessories and the atmosphere of the old masters? When is he going to express his gift in fresh and personal terms? The observer wearied by the little cleverednesses of the growing student, with which our exhibitions brim over, sighs occasionally for just mere academic authority, and when this seems to be developing itself among the younger men, as in the case of Mr. Ballin, or in that of Mr. Andrew Schwartz, it goes against the grain to express dissatisfaction. Still, if these painters revolve in a circle, practising a plausible technique, but not evolving a style or proving that they have anything to say, they can scarcely expect to meet with unqualified approval. They might ruefully retort that the perfect balance between substance and form is rare enough, even among their betters.

Mr. Thayer illustrates this point in the large "Winged Figure," to which the place of honor in the main gallery has been assigned. There is nobility in the figure, there is a tenderness of expression in the face, and part of the background is enriched with some lovely color. At the same time there is much slovenly execution in the painting, and instead of striking the eye as a unit of imagination and of art, it denotes a lofty conception only haltingly realized. In short, all through the exhibition the figure painters, if they begin by interesting you for one reason or another, end by making you wish that they had, in some cases more feeling, in others more executive ability. Mr. Shinn may disclose great aptitude in his theatre interiors, but he throws us back on recollections of Degas, who has done precisely the same thing, and has done it so much better. Mr. Curran paints in his "Flying Kites," which has received a portion of the Shaw Fund, a bright, spirited picture, but it has the thin prettiness of a Christmas card. In "La Cigale" Mr. Barse plays a variation on his old familiar theme; his graceful model is gracefully portrayed, but the work as a whole is brittle. Where Mr. Burroughs should have been impressive to the point of tragedy in "The Sea," with its brawny figures carrying a dead body over the rocks of a sombre coast, he is merely dull and heavy. The landscape in "Ariel Sings," by Mr. Prellwitz, is pleasing, but the figure is so weakly painted that it might better have been omitted. Mr. Lichtenauer in "The Cup of Life" is, like Mr. Ballin, promising, but not exciting. A moment of exhilaration comes with Mr. Weir's firmly yet delicately painted picture, "The Fur Pelisse," but then the level of things subsides again, and we look in vain for temperament associated with unusual proficiency.

If that happy combination is to be found anywhere it is in the field which embraces set portraits and costume studies. Many of these, if not particularly brilliant, are at all events vivacious and accomplished. Mrs. Herter is charming in her decorative "Orange and Lemon"; so is Mr. Peixotto in "The Yellow Gown"; so is Mr. Cushing in "The Black Fan," and so, in fact, are a dozen others who bring taste and deft brushwork to the portrayal of sitters nearly always posed with admirable judgment. The portraits by Miss Ellen Emmet, Mr. Karl Anderson, Miss Mary Foote, Mr. C. W. Hawthorne, Mrs. A. C. Chase, Mr. D. R. Pond, Mr. W. J. Reynolds, Mr. R. G. Gauley, Mr. V. D. Hecht and Mr. S. Kendall are all skilfully hit off; they all reveal intelligence, animation, decorative feeling—in a word, the things that make the ordinary portrait of the day presentable. Are any of them made more than that? With the best will in the world to answer the question in the affirmative, one is, nevertheless, constrained to admit that these works do not have the deeper and more original qualities which make a portrait linger in the memory. Indeed, there are times when all this light hearted cleverness palls, when one tires of the *frou frou* of the average study of a feminine model and turns with a sense of refreshment to the simple straightforwardness and workmanlike qualities of such masculine portraits as Mr. Fowler, Mr. Eakins, Mr. Beckwith, Mr. Frazier and one or two others send to the show.

Of work in the open air, after Mr. Hassam's inspiriting canvas, there are a good many attractive if not momentous illustrations. Sometimes, it is true, the landscape work shows more regard for charm of sentiment than for truth, as witness Mr. Loeb's "Reverie," but in the main the accustomed merit of our school is clearly visible. You find it in Mr. Snell's delicate study of "The Coast Guard Cliffs, Polperro"; in Mr. Foster's rather novel and very poetic "Sunrise from the Top of Mt. Equinox"; in Mr. Groll's breezily painted and vivid "Arizona Clouds"; in Mr. Hoeber's "Back from the Beach," with its good composition and soundly modelled sky; in Mr. Redfield's "The River Delaware," the simple but strong qualities of which have justly won for him the Webb prize, and in Mr. Nettleton's "Midnight and Waning Moon," a picture as robustly painted as it is imaginatively conceived. The list might be extended almost indefinitely, for there are many landscapes or sea pictures which possess individuality, truth and beauty. Mr. Mygatt's "Solitude" and his "June Morning"; Mr. Carlsen's "A Lazy Sea"; Mr. Williams's "May Morning, Great Notch, N. J."; Mr. Granville Smith's "The Old Mill," and Mr. Child's "Entrance to a Marble Quarry," form only a handful out of the quantity of work done from nature on which favorable comment may be made. Lastly, we may note that the little collection of sculpture contains items of interest by Mr. Calder, Mr. Tonetti, Mr. Piccirilli, Mrs. Vonnoh and a few others.

Looking back at the exhibition in its broad relations, we are struck, as we were struck at the beginning, by its generally persuasive accent. To what is this due, since, as we have shown, so many of the pictures are only to be applauded with reservations? It is due to the improvements in technique which have been developed since the society made its first appearance. The schools have raised their standards, and they have turned out, as the saying goes, any number of young men and women capable of handling the brushes with enough aplomb to make the results momentarily acceptable. Picture after picture in this exhibition is, in the rudiments of technique, entirely creditable to the painter, and in consequence any one standing in the middle of either of the big galleries and looking casually around him is bound to think well of the ensemble. But it is a mistake to let the superficial appearance of an exhibition like this cloud the judgment. The society has done good work for American art, and so has the academy, but the lesson for both to draw from the present display is that they carry into their new corporate existence a heavy responsibility. The first exhibition that they hold under the new regime must be better than this one.

MORE OLD PICTURES.

The Ehrich Collection at the Fifth Avenue Art Galleries.

One dealer follows another at the Fifth Avenue Art Galleries. Mr. Edward Brandus having disposed of his pictures there, Mr. Louis R. Ehrich places upon the walls nearly fourscore old pictures, which will be sold at auction to-morrow evening in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria. The collection does no more than its predecessor did to obscure the solid fact that most of the old masters of really high rank are permanently placed in the public galleries of Europe, or in private collections there which so slowly yield up their treasures that only a few indubitable gems get into the market in the course of a year. We recognize none of these gems in the Ehrich collection.

The catalogue, it is true, is full of great names, but catalogues, as the experienced collector well knows, have not exactly the authority of holy writ. For example, this one describes No. 69 as "The Somallini Family," by Gonzales Coques, whom it mentions as having sometimes been called the "Little Van Dyck." This should have suggested to the cataloguer that what he was really looking at was a feeble copy of the great "Lomellini Family," by Van Dyck, which is among the most conspicuous possessions of the National Gallery at Edinburgh. Similarly, it seems a bit odd that, while the compiler of the catalogue was mentioning that Henry Stone, the painter of No. 23, "devoted himself largely to copying the works of Van Dyck," he did not think it worth while to point out that No. 23, "Inigo Jones," was obviously copied from Van Dyck's famous portrait of the Renaissance architect, now, we believe, one of the glories of the Hermitage at St. Petersburg. Then there is the double portrait, "The Duchesse de Chateauroux and the Comtesse de Flavacourt," which the catalogue gives to Nattier. There is no doubt about Nattier's having painted the portraits of the Duchesse de Mazarin's nieces. The curious reader may find out all about it in Lady Dilke's useful work. He may find out there, too, how Nattier signed only the first example of each of his works. "In this way," as the historian says, "we are guarded from accepting as his the numerous repetitions made by his various copyists—Prevost, Coquerel, de la Roche, Hellard and others." We would be glad if we could like the picture in the Ehrich collection. But, somehow, if we had to choose between this and some other portrait of the Duchesse de Chateauroux, we fear we would find ourselves preferring the one, say, by Nattier, in the Museum at Marseilles.

We are inclined to be just as unreasonable about No. 56, catalogued as "The Artist's Sister," and given to Hogarth. We like ever so much better than this cold and dry performance the freely painted living portrait of his sister by Hogarth which we have seen in the National Gallery in London. It is too bad of us, we know, to be so captious, to have such an incurable preference for superb old pictures as distinguished from old pictures that are not superb at all. We encounter, for example, under No. 46, "An Italian Princess," and appended to this there is a portentous document, signed by Mr. Bernhard Berenson, in which that gentleman pontifically assures the world that the picture is genuine and in good condition. To the hesitating purchaser this document must be profoundly reassuring, like the "guarantee" which the catalogue promises to give him with every work that he buys, and, to tell the truth, we do not mind expressing the conviction that Mr. Berenson is right. We believe this to be by Bronzino. But here comes in again our deplorable passion for distinctions. Bronzino and the artists who worked in his studio painted many Italian princes and princesses. Some of the master's portraits are in the grand style. There is one in Rome of a warrior of the House of Colonna, which is so stately a work and gives into the bargain so powerful an impression of a mighty condottiere of the Renaissance, that if we could see it in our own Metropolitan Museum of Art we fear that we should grow really enthusiastic. Perhaps it is because we like Bronzino so much in the vein of that Colonna masterpiece that we are rather bored by the shoals of ordinary portraits—plain journeyman's work—that issued from his studio, and of which Mr. Ehrich's "Italian Princess" seems to us a perfect type.

For this sort of thing we could not be persuaded to blame Mr. Ehrich. We blame the public galleries of Europe and their arrays of the old masters. Thus the eighteenth century French paintings in the Wallace Collection in London and in the Louvre get between us and No. 45, "Le Glouton," attributed to Pater; memories of the golden glow, the deep, rich tones, of certain pictures in Holland, have spoiled us for the cold grays of No. 24, "Family Group," ascribed to Nicolaas Maes; and just because we have seen so many enchanting portraits by Sir Joshua Reynolds in England and elsewhere, No. 53, "Elizabeth Countess of Berkeley" makes us wonder what in the world made him paint that picture so much in the style of a mediocre artist from across the channel. We feel the same astonishment in the presence of No. 50, "A Gentleman of Ravenna," ascribed to Antonio Moro. It is true that this is a rather handsome bit of pedestrian portraiture, and we know that Moro was not always up to the mark of his tremendous "Queen Mary" at Madrid. Only if we must have Moros we would like them a little more like the "Queen Mary."

But let us have done with vain regrets. There are a few pictures in this collection before which we are willing to surrender cruel prepossessions. The brace of portraits by Jan Victoors may be mentioned with some cordiality; there is an ingratiating courtliness about the "Gentleman with a Jewel Box," by Tournieres, and we are altogether captivated by No. 72, "Portrait of a Lady Resembling Mary Queen of Scots," given to Alonzo Sanchez Coello. There is a warmth and there is a certain unctuous touch in this, more suggestive of the school of Pourbus than of the Spanish artist, but the main point is that the portrait is a charming bit of painting.

ARMY AND NAVY NEWS.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, March 19.

CHARGE AGAINST SURGEONS.—The death of Paymaster Howard P. Ash, of the navy, at the naval station at Guantanamo on Saturday, was a great shock to his service associates and the members of his family who live in Washington. The operation to which Ash was subjected was a minor one, and ordinarily entailed no great risk. According to the report received from the naval authorities at Guantanamo, the paymaster died under circumstances which called for an investigation of the work of the naval surgeons on that occasion. The surgeon general of the navy received the complaints to-day, and at once took steps to ascertain whether there had been carelessness in the performance of the operation, and whether all the usual precautions against hemorrhage were taken, it being alleged that the young paymaster bled to death before relief could be given. The friends of Paymaster Ash showed considerable feeling when they heard these reports. The official dispatch was brief, and appeared to sustain the fears of those who were making some sensational charges of professional incompetency. On the other hand, the naval surgeons ask that judgment be withheld until there can be a full inquiry from unprejudiced sources into the circumstances surrounding Paymaster Ash's death.

ORDERS ISSUED.—The following orders have been issued:

ARMY.

Captain DANIEL B. DEVORE, 23d Infantry, to his regiment at Madison Barracks.

Retirement of Colonel JOHN D. HALL, assistant surgeon general, announced.

Captain STEPHEN M. FOOTE, from 4th Battery, field artillery, to unassigned list.

Captain DANIEL T. MOORE, from unassigned list to 4th Battery, field artillery.

Captain HARRY F. JACKSON, artillery corps, from Fort Monroe to office chief of artillery, Washington, relieving Captain DANIEL T. MOORE, artillery corps, who will proceed to 4th Battery, field artillery.

Resignation of Second Lieutenant WILLIAM N. CAMPBELL, 7th Infantry, accepted.

Captain WESTON P. CHAMBERLAIN, assistant surgeon, to Jackson Barracks, relieving First Lieutenant WILLIAM L. LITTLE, assistant surgeon, who will proceed to Fort Sam Houston.

First Lieutenant ROBERT L. CARSWELL, assistant surgeon, to Fort McDowell, relieving First Lieutenant NELSON GAPEN, assistant surgeon, who will proceed to Columbus Barracks.

Captain DAVID B. CASE, commissary, to office of Major Charles R. Krauthoff, purchasing commissary, San Francisco.

NAVY.

Captain J. B. COLLINS and Commander E. LLOYD, Jr., commissioned.

Assistant Surgeon W. J. ZALESKY, detached the Yankee; to the Newport.

Assistant Surgeon F. E. CAMPBELL, detached the Newport; home and await orders.

Pay Inspector L. HUNT, detached Navy Pay Office, Washington; await orders.

Pay Inspector F. T. ARMS, to Navy Pay Office, Washington.

Paymaster H. P. ASH died at Guantanamo, Cuba, March 17.

MOVEMENTS OF WARSHIPS.—The following movements of vessels have been reported to the Navy Department:

ARRIVED.

March 17—The Hopkins, the Worden, the Truxtun, the MacDonough and the Stewart at Kingston.

March 18—The Scorpion at Pensacola; the Callao at Canton; the Yankee at Monte Cristi; the Denver at Hampton Roads; the Tacoma at Alexandria.

SAILED.

March 17—The Columbia from Hampton Roads for Newport; the Scorpion from New Orleans for Pensacola; the Callao from Hong Kong for Canton; the Yankee from Guantanamo for Monte Cristi.

March 18—The Don Juan de Austria from Monte Cristi for Guantanamo; the Newport from St. Thomas for San Juan; the Glacier, the Brutus, the Cesar and the Potomac from Las Palmas for Port Said.

MAJOR PRICE ON TRIAL.

Artillery Officer Before Court Martial on Intoxication Charge.

Major David Price, Artillery Corps, was arraigned before a court martial in the Army Building yesterday. He is charged with conduct unbecoming an officer, intoxication and the violation of a pledge of total abstinence. Several witnesses were brought from Syracuse for the prosecution, but the judge advocate, Major David C. Shanks, 4th Infantry, failed to prove that Major Price had been intoxicated or had been taking an alcoholic drink.

Robert J. Wood, night clerk at the Yates Hotel, in Rochester, said that Major Price had been brought into the lobby of the hotel by a policeman on the morning of February 9. He would not say whether the officer was drunk or sober, but that he appeared "doped." Although he did not know with what Major Price was charged, Wood gave $50 bail for him. At 9 o'clock he found the major in a near-by saloon and took him to the police station.

Charles Meehan, the bartender in the saloon to which Wood referred, said that Major Price had entered the saloon complaining of being ill, and that some "rye" had been given to him.

"You mean whiskey, don't you?" asked the judge advocate.

"We call it whiskey, but it ain't," explained the bartender. "We generally fix up some bottles for Saturday night. We mix it up with Jamaica ginger and ginger ale. I gave some of it to Major Price."

The witness said that he had never seen Major Price drink anything else, nor had he ever seen him intoxicated.

The first witness called, Dr. Edward L. Mooney, of Syracuse, said that he had examined Major Price on February 18. While at first inclined to believe that his nervous state was the result of prolonged intoxication, he finally decided that it was due to other causes. He found no actual evidence of the use of intoxicants. The other witness, a travelling salesman, testified to the major's sobriety while he was in the hotel.

The trial will be continued to-day. The charges against Major Price grew out of his disapearance last February, when he was detailed to inspect some militia organizations in Syracuse, Albany and Troy. Major Price pleaded guilty yesterday to not making the inspections, but entered a plea of not guilty to the other charges.

The disappearance of Major Price caused some anxiety to Major General Grant, and several officers were detailed to search for him. He was found finally in Syracuse by Captain Albert J. Bowley on February 16.

RADIUM TREATMENT GIVES RELIEF.

Cancer and Tumor Patients Getting Help at Presbyterian Hospital.

It is reported that radium is being used to good effect at the Presbyterian Hospital by Dr. Robert Abbe to cure cancers and tumors. At the hospital last night it was said that radium was being used, but ignorance of its effect thus far and the number of cases in which it was being used was professed.

One case in which radium has been used with some success is that of Mrs. Laura Hesselnberg, of No. 53 West 125th street. For fifteen years she has had a tumorous growth in her neck, which recently encroached so much on the thorax and alimentary canal that she was threatened with strangulation. Two weeks ago Dr. Abbe began to treat the growth with radium. An incision about two inches deep was made in the tumor, and a capsule containing radium inserted. Six hours later it was removed. Mrs. Hesselnberg says that, while she felt the capsule distinctly, there was no pain.

Measurements taken three days later showed that the tumor had diminished to an appreciable extent. A week later the operation was repeated, this time with even more marked improvement, giving ground for a belief in an ultimate cure.

WOULD PUNISH REVOLVER CARRIERS.

Judge Foster Holds Girl, Acquitted of Assault, for Having Weapon.

Judge Foster, in General Sessions, went on record yesterday as strongly opposed to persons carrying revolvers without a license, and announced that he would severely punish any one shown to have carried a revolver unlawfully, even if he or she was on trial for another offence. His statement was brought out in the trial of Josephine Garfolo, an Italian girl, who was acquitted of assault in the first degree. He held her in $500 bail on a charge of carrying a revolver without a license.

After criticising the Italian race for its "ready use of weapons," Judge Foster said: "I believe we can stop a great deal of crime if we can stop the carrying of these weapons. I only regret that the persons selling the revolvers are not brought before me."

WITTE READY TO RESIGN

DIVISION IN CABINET.

Rumor That M. Kokovsoff Will Succeed Count as Premier.

St. Petersburg, March 20.—Count Witte has decided to retire from the premiership, according to a rumor current in high circles late last night. This report cannot be confirmed as Count Witte had retired and the chancellery was closed when a correspondent called there shortly after midnight. From an absolutely authentic source, however, it is learned that Count Witte, at a session of the Council of the Empire yesterday afternoon, made an enigmatical statement, which is interpreted by many members of the council as a virtual declaration that his career as Premier is ended, and that he will be succeeded by Privy Counsellor M. Kokovsoff, former Minister of Finance.

A scheme to solve the agrarian problem by the purchase of lands from the nobles and other large proprietors through the peasant banks, and the resale of the lands to peasants on long term instalment payments, was under discussion. As the treasury is in no condition to advance the money to the banks for this purpose, Count Witte advocated a scheme under which the banks should purchase the land with fifteen years' credit bonds instead of cash. A marked division of the Cabinet developed. The Minister of Finance, M. Shipoff, opposed the Premier. M. Kokovsoff earnestly advocated Count Witte's views. When he had concluded Count Witte closed the debate in a few words, rather apologizing for his seeming indifference and thanking M. Kokovsoff for his support, adding: "I also might have made a better defence had I been as much interested in the future as Alexander Nicholaievitch," meaning M. Kokovsoff.

On what is apparently trustworthy authority, it is said that the condition of Count Witte's health is unsatisfactory. It is reported that he had a rather alarming attack of heart trouble a few days ago. His physician advised him some time ago to give up work. It is known that Count Witte, believing that he had weathered the political storm, had decided to relinquish the Premiership upon the meeting of the national Assembly. Recently, however, the strength of the reactionary party increased, and the Premier was obliged to keep up the fight against heavy odds. It may be that his endurance was thus exhausted, and that, feeling that his health was declining, he has reached the decision to retire immediately.

RUSSIANS FEAR TO VOTE.

Intimidations at Polls—The Working Classes Excluded.

St. Petersburg, March 19.—There is more and more evidence of the virtual exclusion of the radical elements of the population from the elections. The preliminary stages will rob the National Assembly of much of its national character. Its authority to speak will be absolutely denied by the proletariat organizations which bore the brunt of the fight for liberty. Complaints of interference and duress in the country districts are increasing. Many flagrant instances are cited of local officials preventing a free expression of the wishes of the peasants and often practically compelling the selection of priests and village elders. The seeming apathy of the small landowners' assemblies, which had an average attendance of only 10 per cent of the voters, is explainable by the feeling that they were not free to choose.

The most serious phase of the situation, however, is the attitude of the workmen in the cities, who constitute politically the most developed and most radical faction of the masses of the population. In spite of repression, wholesale arrests and frequently the exile of their leaders, many workmen are inclined to reject the advice of the socialists to boycott the elections. The authorities, instead of taking advantage of this sentiment, have openly discouraged participation where the radical elements are in the majority, thus deliberately playing the game of the boycotters and driving the whole working class into revolt.

This was apparent at the workmen's elections in St. Petersburg yesterday. Carefully collected information from the outlying industrial districts to-day shows that the elections were a farce. Nominally eleven out of the thirty-nine working groups entitled to vote elected twenty out of fifty-seven delegates to the convention, which will select eighteen representatives for the city to the convention, which in turn will elect for St. Petersburg six members of the National Assembly. Where the elections were ostensibly held only 569 out of 21,780 workmen voted, and they almost invariably chose reactionary delegates. At the Nevsky works 100 voters out of 6,000 elected five members of the League of the Russian People and three men belonging to the Party of Law and Order, two prominent reactionary organizations.

DISPLAY OF TROOPS AT POLLS.

There was an overwhelming display of troops and police in the districts and places where the men assembled. Some of the men held meetings and discussed the advisability of voting, but the great mass simply withdrew, saying that in the present reign of terror the designation of their real choice was equivalent to turning over the men to the police. In the big Okhta and Moscow districts not a single man has been elected. The railroad employes unanimously refused to vote until the imprisoned members of their organization were released.

At the Narva works, the men employed in forty-four shops boycotted the elections, saying that their candidates who were not in jail had been dismissed on Saturday. Professor Milukoff, Editor of the "Rech," organ of the Constitutional Democrats, addressed a large meeting of workmen, urging them to vote. He made a good impression, but the moment he pronounced the word opposition the police closed the meeting and the workmen left in disgust.

At the Kolpino works the men were hotly discussing the question of participation in the election when they were surrounded and dispersed by troops, who mortally wounded a workman.

At Moscow yesterday, where the workmen delegates met for the second election stage, to choose representatives to the city congress, the greatest confusion prevailed and no result was attained. There were 182 candidates, although only eighteen qualified for election.

In the mean time, the leaders of the real parties in the fight for supremacy in the National Assembly are preparing for a struggle in the provincial and city conventions, which choose the actual members of the National Assembly. Little attention is paid by the Liberals to the new Council of the Empire, which is foredoomed to be controlled by the government.

COMPOSITION OF ASSEMBLY.

It is becoming apparent that the Progressive and Liberal elements, with chances of representation, are uniting with the Constitutional Democrats. They have already made a good showing, capturing twenty delegates, of whom Professor Manuiloff, rector of the Moscow University is one, out of fifty-two small land owners of Moscow Province. Their candidates for the national Assembly, for which full tickets are in the field, have already come forward for election to the conventions to which they must be elected in order to insure them eligibility for election to the national Assembly. Ivan Petrunkevitch, their choice for President of the national Assembly, is a candidate at Tver; M. Roditcheff, M. Hessen, M. Feodoroff and others are candidates here, and M. Kokoshkine, Prince Paul Dolgoroukoff and M. Teslinko are candidates at Moscow.

The conservative middle party, represented by the League of October 30 and the Party of Law and Order, have full lists in the field under the leadership of M. Guchkoff, Dmitri Shipoff and M. Plevoko at Moscow and Baron Serge Alexander Korff, M. Krosovsky and Count Heyden in St. Petersburg.

The Reactionists also have tickets, headed by Vladimir Gringmuth, M. Schmakoff and Prince Tcherbatoff at Moscow, and Professor Nocholsky and M. Kamaroff in St. Petersburg. M. Kroushevan, Editor of the "Droug," the noted anti-Semite, is a candidate at Kishineff, but he is not considered to have a chance of election.

The Party of Trade and Industry will undoubtly elect some members, and will be a conservative factor.

The present indications are that the Constitutional Democrats will constitute the left, with not over one-third of the membership. The majority will consist of the Centre party and Conservatives, with their position not sharply defined, and a few extreme reactionists. The Constitutional Democrats believe that with political development they may draw enough strength from the Centre to enable them to obtain control, especially if the government shows a reactionary disposition.

LIEUTENANT SCHMIDT EXECUTED.

Leader of Sebastopol Mutiny Shot with Three of His Sailors.

St. Petersburg, March 19.—Former Lieutenant Schmidt, who commanded the vessels of the Black Sea fleet, which mutinied in November of last year, was shot to-day at Otchakoff with three of his sailors.

A mutiny of four thousand soldiers at Sebastopol, complicated with a general strike of employes of the post and telegraph services, broke out on November 25, 1905. Schmidt, who had been dismissed from the navy because of his revolutionary opinions, went on board the cruiser Otchakoff and assumed command of the vessel and of the other mutinous ships. On November 27 the Otchakoff and nine other vessels of the Black Sea fleet and a regiment of infantry attempted to seize the city. The ships opened fire on the forts, which replied, sinking the cruisers Otchakoff and Dnieper and a transport. Schmidt was captured. The seven remaining ships surrendered to the loyal warships of Admiral Chouknin, and on November 30 the regiment which had revolted was forced to surrender. The casualties were estimated at 5,000.

FOREIGNERS' LOSSES IN CAUCASUS.

Tiflis, March 19.—The Viceroy has issued a proclamation to foreigners who suffered losses in the rebellion, saying that he cannot indemnify them, but pointing out that they can bring proceedings in the local courts against officials who have neglected their duties.

FAILURE FOR $13,500,000.

Great Firm of Moscow Tea Merchants Reported Insolvent.

Moscow, March 19.—Rasstorgoueff Brothers, the largest firm of tea merchants in Russia, have failed for $13,500,000.

MORENGO ELUDES GERMAN TROOPS.

Surrounding Movement Fails—Cost of Rebellion to Germany, $150,000,000.

Berlin, March 19.—Official dispatches received from German Southwest Africa to-day announce the failure of the surrounding movement undertaken by the German troops against Jacob Morengo, the last and most active of the native leaders of the rebels. The movement had been going on for weeks, and six large detachments, with fifteen field and machine guns, took part in it.

The Reichstag to-day passed the fourth supplementary African budget of $7,500,000. The total cost of the insurrection up to date is about $150,000,000.

MANY TROOPS ARRIVE AT LENS.

Forty-six Thousand Miners on Strike—Minor Affrays.

Lens, March 19.—Many detachments of troops, including artillery and dragoons, have arrived here as a result of the miners' strike. About forty-six thousand men have quit work and are parading the towns, carrying red flags. Several minor collisions have occurred. The Miners' Federation will meet to-morrow to consider the question of declaring a general strike.

FRENCH OFFICERS SENT TO PRISON.

Three Sentenced for Refusal to Aid in Carrying Out Separation Law.

Rennes, March 19.—A council of war held here has sentenced Major Henry to a year's imprisonment, and Captains Cleret and Spiral each to a day's imprisonment for refusing to order their troops to enter a local church and assist in taking an inventory. The trial aroused widespread attention in army circles, as it was considered to be a test case. The defence set forth that the execution of civilian proceedings was not part of the duties of the army.

PRINCE OF WALES SAILS FOR EGYPT.

Kurrachee, India, March 19.—The Prince and Princess of Wales, having completed a five months' trip in India, sailed to-day on board the British battleship Renown for Egypt, where they will spend a week. Thence they will go to Athens to meet King Edward and Queen Alexandra. Before their departure the Prince of Wales held an investiture. Among the honors conferred was that of Companion of the Indian Empire upon Major Colin F. Campbell, husband of the former Miss Nancy Leiter.

HALF ROUND WORLD TO AID PATRICK.

Corporal Stanbery, Who Was Once Rice's Valet, Comes from the Philippines.

Word has been received by W. M. K. Olcott that Corporal Alexander B. Stanbery, who is coming half way round the world to testify in behalf of Albert T. Patrick, has arrived in this country.

Stanbery was the predecessor of Charles F. Jones as valet of William Marsh Rice, and was with him in Texas after the death of Rice. He makes affidavit that Jones told him he had lied at the Patrick trial, and that in reality Mr. Rice had died a natural death.

Stanbery, who is now a corporal in Company G, 13th United States Infantry, stationed in the Philippines, was ordered to come here for the hearing before Recorder Goff. On his arrival in San Francisco last Friday he was directed to proceed to Fort Jay, in New York Harbor.

DARTMOUTH GRADUATE DISAPPEARS.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Portland, Me., March 19.—The whole city of Portland is on the lookout for Albert L. True, a Dartmouth graduate and civil engineer of the United States Engineers' Department, who disappeared a week ago and, it is feared, has wandered away and been frozen to death or committed suicide. Colonel Stewart, commander of this military district of coast artillery, will have his troops scour the woods to-morrow, and the harbor will be dragged.

PARKHURST PLOTTER INDICTED.

Larry Rogers, the former police stool pigeon who helped concoct the alleged plot to sandbag Dr. Parkhurst, was indicted by the grand jury yesterday. He will be arraigned before Judge O'Sullivan in Part I to-day.

IMPORTANT DECISION.

President John H. Patterson of the National Cash Register Company Gains Decided Victory in Prosecution Suits Against Hallwood Cash Register Company and Others.

(Special to The Tribune.)

Dayton, Ohio, March 19.—An important decision was rendered by Judge E. T. Snedeker, of the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County, Ohio, in certain prosecution cases brought by John H. Patterson, president of the National Cash Register Company, and others against the Hallwood Cash Register Company, Henry S. Hallwood, Cyrus H. Huling, R. C. Anderson, George W. Sinks and others. In these cases Mr. Patterson and others claim damages aggregating $200,000 arising from prosecutions instituted by the Hallwood Cash Register Company, Henry S. Hallwood and others, which Mr. Patterson claims to have been maliciously instituted. In this decision the court overruled demurrers to the petitions, holding the same to be good and sufficient in law. The Hallwood Cash Register Company and other defendants must now answer and stand trial.

MOROCCAN COMPROMISE.

TERMS REPORTED MADE.

Agreement Expected To Be Announced at Next Session.

Algeciras, March 19.—The opinion has gained ground all day that a settlement of the Franco-German controversy before the Conference on Moroccan Reforms is merely a matter of hours. It was currently reported this evening that the terms of a compromise had been practically arranged, and that announcement of a settlement probably would be made at the next plenary sitting of the conference, which is expected to be held either to-morrow or Wednesday.

Details of the compromise are not obtainable, but it is said that the concessions relate to both the police and the bank questions. It is understood that the forward move is the result of pressure from the representatives of the neutral powers, who have displayed considerable impatience over the delay, and have urged that increased efforts be made by the French and German delegates toward a solution of the difficulties.

London, March 19.—The clouds which have been hanging over Algeciras for the last week have practically disappeared, and in the opinion of the Foreign Office the basis of an agreement on the Moroccan question will be reached at to-morrow's session of the conference. This agreement will be based on a modification of the German demands with respect to the police, while France will concede part of what she has been asking in regard to the Moroccan Bank. The details will not be published until the meeting of the delegates—in fact, France will not state what she is willing to concede until Germany has placed her cards on the table.

The committee meetings at Algeciras have been so harmonious that the Foreign Office here does not believe that a hitch is possible. Every detail has been discussed between Great Britain and France. The French Ambassador, Paul Cambon, has visited the Foreign Office every afternoon in the last ten days.

THE FRENCH POSITION.

Firm Objection to International Control of Police.

Paris, March 19.—Officials here say that France's position is absolute and final against placing Casablanca under international command. It is maintained that this is not a question of detail, but one that involves the entire Franco-German controversy over international control of the police. After exchanges at the various capitals, officials say, a vote will show that France is supported by Great Britain, Spain, Portugal and Russia, with Austria doubtful and Italy and the United States abstaining. Vienna is said to be wavering in regard to support of Germany. The current opinion in official circles is that Germany intends to recede from her position. The semi-official "Temps" says:

We await Germany's final concessions. If we wait in vain let Germany say so, and let the conference record a failure for which German diplomacy must bear the responsibility before the world.

Statements in the semi-official press, however, are sometimes designed to satisfy public opinion, and the indications are that the Foreign Minister, M. Bourgeois, is adopting a less peremptory tone.

M. Bourgeois in the Chamber of Deputies to-day requested a postponement of the interpellation of M. Millerand, former Minister of Commerce, which asked for an explanation of the situation at Algeciras. M. Bourgeois said that the question was inopportune at the present stage. Later, when the Moroccan conference had closed, he hoped to be able to go into details, but at present he could only say that the Cabinet intended to continue the pacific policy of its predecessor.

M. Millerand withdrew his interpellation, saying that he noted the fact that the ministers had declared themselves in favor of a pacific policy.

Berlin, March 19.—The German attitude at Algeciras is a passive one. She is ready to consider in a friendly spirit any proposal for the supervision of the Moroccan police embracing the international principle, but beyond that Germany will not go. She would prefer to have the conference adjourn without an agreement rather than give up the international idea.

PREACHERS SAY POLICE ARE LAX.

Methodist Ministers Deplore "State of Affairs in the Underworld."

The Methodist Preachers' Meeting adopted a series of resolutions yesterday deploring the "state of affairs in the underworld," as revealed in the recent exposures of the negro Spriggs and his vice syndicate.