

FRANCE BENT ON THE CONQUEST OF THE AIR

All Sorts of Subscriptions Being Taken Up to Buy Army Aeroplanes.

NEW TYPE OF LADY KILLER

Mme. Maeterlinck's Observations on America—Dressmaker Curing Disease in Her Sleep.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. PARIS, Feb. 24.—France coined a new watchword this week, namely, "Our future is in the air."

From all quarters there come practical demonstrations of the enthusiasm which has been aroused. Wherever in the country an aviation meeting is held somebody is quite apt to take a hat around among the spectators asking for small aids for the local army aeroplane fund.

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Mme. Maeterlinck has been interviewed a great number of times since her return from America. She does not dwell so much on the success she obtained as she does upon the pleasing revelations due to her first visit to the United States.

Mme. Maeterlinck's dearest among her many ambitions is to create a Maeterlinck season in Paris. She now intimates that thanks to her generous and well as well as lettered Boston friend the plan has been enlarged so as to give such seasons in Paris, Boston and New York.

When M. Nozière determined to make a play out of De Maupassant's "Bel Ami" which was produced in vaudeville this week, he soon realized that he was compelled to bring the action of the work up to date, because the type of lady killer has changed so radically since 1885, when the story was first published.

A credit of 10,000 francs has been entered in the budget of the Minister of the Interior for France's participation in the coming Olympic games at Stockholm, this being double the amount of money voted for the last Olympic meeting in London.

The last lottery was drawn in France this week when a will to do retired engineer became a millionaire at the cost of twenty francs. M. Clemenceau during his Premiership began the abolition of the lotteries owing to the abuses which marked the management of them.

According to the *Matin* a humble dressmaker aged 38 years has worked over forty miracles in the last two months. Hopeless cases of asthma, blindness and paralysis have yielded to her power.

Miss Camus, like Anthony, refuses to receive any pay for her services. In an interview with the *Matin* reporter she said the cures she effected were very simple. "When a sick person comes to me I ask him to think of Anthony. I think of Anthony also. Then I go to sleep, when I am able to read the ailment of the person like an open book."

SUTRO'S NEW PLAY.

"The Fire Screen" is a Winning Man of the World. Alfred Sutro seems to have abandoned the effort to draw a moral from his dramas ever since "The Walk of Jericho" and in his later plays is quite satisfied if he can be amusing. To accomplish that successfully should be sufficient consolation to any playwright. The world abounds in



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PLAN OF FORTRESS ON SWEETHEART'S BACK

German Officer's Method of Raising Money for Marriage Is Found Out.

RUSSIA PAID \$25,000 FOR IT

Young Couple Will Suffer Severe Penalties as Result of Their Unwise Attempt to Secure a Fortune.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—In sentencing a German spy to three years imprisonment the other day Judge Darling remarked: "The practice of spying with the intent of discovering secrets which another nation thinks essential to keep to itself, can but create and inflame hostile feeling." The obiter dicta of Judges are not likely to carry much weight with diplomatists and the secret service of every European country is a well established institution. The German Imperial Parliament votes a minimum sum of \$3,000,000 every year for its secret service, while the annual British vote is anything from \$100,000 to \$250,000. There was time when the British secret service was much more costly. At the beginning of the nineteenth century \$500,000 was spent on the naval secret service alone. At the time of the Napoleonic wars the secret service votes were very heavy. In both 1814 and 1815 the sum set apart for this work was no less than \$875,000. With the disappearance of Bonaparte the amount at once fell to \$250,000, and this sum has seldom been exceeded since and has only once been so much in the last twelve years when in 1903 it was \$253,515.

The vote for the military secret service in France averages \$940,000 a year. Austria also spends large sums in this way. What Russia spends on her secret service is unknown and impossible to guess. No accounts of any kind are open to the public. But the Russian system is generally supposed to be the nearest perfect in the world excepting that of Japan, and as it is probably the most extensive the cost must be very great.

With the approach of the time set for the trial of Lieut. Schorveder of the German garrison at Posen and his sweetheart, Ida Müllerthal, on the charge of high treason, stories are coming out which profess to contain details of one of the most remarkable espionage cases in history. The case against the brilliant young officer for his so described, and the girl who is accused of having aided him in a plot to sell German military secrets to Russia is to be tried before a military tribunal at Posen. A detailed account of the circumstances connected with the charge has appeared in the *Budapester Presse*, and the following translation of it is given in the *Daily Telegraph*:

"Attached to the garrison at Posen was a young and brilliant officer named Lieut. Schorveder, who had the misfortune to be poor as the proverbial church mouse. He was deeply in love with a young lady named Ida Müllerthal, but owing to his poverty the prospect of their becoming united in wedlock was very remote. The despair of the young lovers was well known to a Russian secret agent, who approached Lieut. Schorveder and offered him a chance of making a large sum of money. Without any beating about the bush the agent explained precisely what the business was. 'I will give you,' he said to the young officer, 'a small fortune, \$5,000, for a plan of the fortress of Posen.'

"Dazzled by the offer, the lieutenant agreed to the proposal, but he found it very difficult to carry out the task. His circumstances were common knowledge in the garrison, and he was unable to watch. It was impossible for him to plan a plan of the fortress and despatch it to Russia, and after he had exhausted his ingenuity without being able to find a suitable scheme for earning the tempting reward he took counsel with his intended bride. Her woman's wit suggested a way out of the difficulty. 'You shall tattoo the plan of the fortress on my back,' she said to him, 'and I shall easily be able to travel to Russia with it without being discovered.'

"Schorveder accepted the fantastic and heroic suggestion. That same night, with the help of a needle and some India ink, he began to tattoo an accurate plan of the fortress on the fair shoulders of Ida Müllerthal. The painful operation lasted several nights. Sometimes the torture was so severe that the young woman had to beg for mercy, and was allowed a little rest. But finally the work was completed, and Ida Müllerthal could travel to Russia, carrying the plan with her in a place where it was hardly likely to be discovered.

"The Russian agent had informed the military authorities of the fact that a young lady was bringing some important information, and Fräulein Müllerthal was received very kindly by the Governor of Warsaw. Removing her coat and blouse she turned her back to the Governor, saying, 'Here is the plan.' The experienced eye of the General took in all the details at a glance; a copy of the plan was made, and without a moment's hesitation the stipulated sum was handed to the daring young woman who for the sake of her lover had endured so much pain and undertaken such a daring mission.

"But the very secrecy with which Schorveder had carried out his task had attracted suspicion. He had been seen, moreover, in the company of the Russian agent, who was well known in Posen. The silly extravagance in which the young couple indulged when Ida Müllerthal returned from Warsaw confirmed the suspicion, which had been aroused. Her dwelling was searched, but without any result, and finally she was arrested, although there was no proof that she had done anything wrong.

"But the proof was soon forthcoming. In accordance with the prison regulations, she had to be measured and inspected for purposes of identification. The game was up. The incriminating plan was found on her shoulders. This was the key to the mysterious journey to Russia and the sudden wealth. Lieut. Schorveder was arrested, and the pair will, as already stated, shortly be placed on trial for high treason."

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The newspaper play has reached Paris and Alfred Capus's drama "Favorites" is concerned with the office of a very Parisian newspaper called by the stirring title "Heaven and Hell." Of course there are in this office women and one of them is the favorite of the proprietor. She is his chief editorial writer. It is a visit of his wife to the office of this important politician and editor that reveals to her the relations between her husband and the writer. In the office she sees on the proofs an advance notice of a lecture which is to be given by this woman writer for the wife is not too modest to learn as many secrets of the newspaper office as possibly she can. On the proof she sees that her husband has in his own handwriting substituted in the notice the word "genius" for "talent."

This arouses her suspicions and when she continues her way further through this very Parisian newspaper and in the office of one of the sub-editors finds her husband embracing his leading writer her suspicions are confirmed. She departs and the husband for two weeks sulks. He does not know whether or not his wife has discovered his secret. But it is not necessary to take any such drastic steps as the devotion of his ambitious wife shows.

It turns out that the editor and politician could not have done better than keep in the hotel to which he retired in a fit of peevishness after his wife found him embracing the lady journalist. His wife discovers his whereabouts and comes with good news. She has just dined with the Prime Minister of France. He is to resign. The other politicians who know of the fact have been fluttering about him. It is the great fact of the newspaper editor and Minister of Public Instruction in keeping away during this critical period that has led the Prime Minister to arrange that he shall be named as his successor. This is the accidental reward for his retirement from the world to ponder as to what his future course shall be.

His wife tells him this secret. He tells his lady favorite the evening news as he is under the circumstances willing to resign him to his old wife and the sanctity of the family is under such conditions to be preserved. He will be Prime Minister and she will be known as his favorite and that will be enough to insure success to the lady editorial writer in Paris. Thus ends this essentially Parisian play, which comes from the pen of a man who knows his milieu thoroughly. There are some other excellent French characteristics to the play such as the South African millionaire, who has been imported for dramatic purposes from London. He is supposed to own the newspaper. The chief lesson of the "Favorites" seems to be that a French play of newspaper life may be even more grotesque than those on the same theme in this country.