TID-BITS FROM HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

THE $500,000 PICTURE

Raphael's famous Madonna of St. Anthony of Padua, recently purchased by Pierpont Morgan for this sensational sum, and now on exhibition at Burlington House. In 1887 the British government gave orders for it to be purchased at any price, but the negotiations fell through, and after many wanderings it is now destined to find a resting place in the home of the American million-aire.—London Mail.

A CARFUL OF UNIFORMS

EMPEROR WILLIAM'S EXTENSIVE TRAVELING WARDROBE

Modern Society.

Kaiser Wilhelm, as is well known, is the honorary commander of a dozen different regiments in his own army and as many more in the other armies of Europe. He holds several actual and honorary commissions in different fleets; belongs to numerous orders of military and civil distinction, and to other organizations which have regalias that must be worn on ceremonial occasions. Hence, when he visits a foreign country, or is traveling about his own domains, he never knows what uniform and regalia he may need, and therefore must carry a large quantity of baggage. He has two complete outfits of everything, one of which is usually kept on the imperial yacht Hohenzollern and the other in a baggage or wradrobe car, built especially for the purpose, and a part of his private railway train. This train was built after his own designs, and is very conveniently arranged for a man of his habits. It is always kept ready for use, because he never knows when he is going to start on a journey. Sometimes the railway officials have only a few moments' notice. They will receive notice by messenger or by telephone from the palace that the emperor will leave at once for a certain place, and are expected to have things ready by the time he reaches the station. As His Majesty becomes very impatient when delayed, the railway officials always hustle, and seldom disappoint him. The master of the robes, assisted by several valets, has charge of the emperor's wardrobe and when the train is in motion can produce at an instant's notice any uniform or regalia in which he may desire to appear at the next station. If he happens to be passing through a garrison town where one of his favorite regiments is stationed, it pleases them and it pleases him to greet the officers and men from the platform of his car in the same uniform they are wearing. If he crosses the border of another country it is considered a compliment for him to dress in the uniform of the army or navy of that country. Hence it is important to have his wardrobe car with him on all his journeys.

Not long ago, however, while making a trip around the German boundaries, something happened to the trucks which made it necessary to cut the wardrobe car out of the train. There was no time to make a change, and the master of the robes and the valets were commanded to transfer its contents to the most convenient car they could find and follow by the next train. By some complications, which have never been explained, much to the anxiety and anguish of the master of the robes, and his assistants, the car in which the emperor's clothing had been placed was shunted on to a side track during the night, and when they arrived at their destination they were horrified to find it missing. Nor could they get any trace of it. Messengers and telegrams were sent in every direction; the railroad system of Europe was turned bottom side up, but the car could not be found. The emperor had to wear borrowed plumage and make the best of it.

Some days later the collector of customs at the boundary reported to his superior officer that a car containing a lot of unmarked and unclaimed theatrical properties had arrived at the place and asked for instructions. This solved the mystery. The kaiser was glad to recover his fine garments, but did not enjoy having them described as theatrical properties, particularly when his intimate friends teased him about it.

PEOPLE KILLED BY SLEEP

Eminent specialists are just now endeavoring to solve the mystery of a disease known as beri-beri, which seems to be identical with the "sleeping illness" of the west coast of Africa. But up to the present even the greatest physicians have not been able to diagnose or cure it. Whole villages of West African negroes have been known to sleep themselves to death, and some time ago there was an outbreak of this same sleeping malady in a Dublin lunatic asylum. How this disease came over here remains a mystery.

In Sardinia and Sicily another new disease has made its appearance.

The doctors in these Mediterranean islands noticed that many of the natives showed symptoms of poisoning from eating beans. Curious symptoms of drowsy stupor overcame them, and in some cases people have been seen to fall unconscious from simply inhaling the scent of a beanfield in flower. Yet to the average person there is nothing poisonous about beans. A fortune awaits the doctor who will

COST OF BRITISH ROYALTY

During the long reign of Queen Victoria, the queen herself received annually $1,925,000; Prince of Wales, $200,000; Princess of Wales, $50,000; Dowager Empress Frederick of Germany, $40,000; Duke of Edinburgh, $50,000; Princess Christian, $30,000; Princess Louise, $30,000; Duke of Connaught, $125,000; Princess Beatrice, $30,000; Duke of Cambridge (the queen's cousin), $15,000; children of the Prince of Wales, $180,000. Total, $2,765,000. The queen also received the revenues of the duchy of Lancaster, amounting of late years to about $250,000 per annum. When the royal children married, dowries were usually provided for them; thus, on the occasion of her marriage, Princess Beatrice received $150,000 as a dowry by parliamentary grant.

RESPECTED THE MASTERPIECE

New York Times.

George Ade, who recently submitted the libretto of a comic opera to the Castle Square company, was requested by the manager to make a certain change. Ade drew back haughtily and asked:

"Who am I that I should tamper with a masterpiece?"

BOUNTIES FOR BEASTS

ANIMALS WITH PRICES ON THEIR HEADS

London Answers.

The French government's bill for wolf killing in 1883 was over £5,000, 1,316 pairs of ears having been brought in; and even in 1899 over £1,200 was paid. The bounty is given not only for full grown wolves, but cubs also. Oddly enough, wolves are practically extinct in the Alps and Pyrenees, most of those killed being found in the central provinces and in Alsace-Lorraine. Last December a pack of sixteen wolves was seen near Metz.

Russia is supposed to be infested by over a quarter of a million wolves. In one year recently 203 Russians were killed by these creatures, and the damage to live stock was set at a million and a half sterling. The wolf-hunters, who usually use a live pig as bait, get £2 a head for their bag from the Russian government, and as the skins are worth eight or ten shillings apiece they find their sport very profitable.

Norway and Sweden pay a similar price for dead wolves, which exist in great numbers in the mountains. These countries also pay about £4 each for bears. In Scandinavia a whole village generally combines in a bear-hunt, and a kill of four or five in the day is not uncommon.

India suffers more seriously from wild animals and reptiles than any other part of the world, in spite of the thickness of its population. The natives are generally too superstitious or cowardly to war against the creatures which prey upon them. Last year 25,166 human beings were killed by snakes and wild animals, of whom reptiles accounted for 21,901. Over 46,000 cattle were also destroyed.

The Indian government pays reward for almost every kind of harmful beast or snake. Last year a total of £6,550 was paid out for the deaths of 19,776 wild animals and 108,385 reptiles. Here is the bill for the district of Jubbulpore:

84 tigers	£400	0	0
221 panthers and leopards	216	10	0
109 bears	51	6	0
25 wolves	12	4	0
118 hyenas	23	6	0
Total	£703	6	0

In 1881 dingoes—the Austrian wild dogs—killed sheep to the estimated value of £80,000. But the bounty of 10 shillings a head has been the cause of exterminating these pestilent beasts for a long distance from the coast. There are plenty of them still, however, on up-country ranches, and their destructiveness may be judged by the fact that a single one of these yellow-haired brutes will kill a dozen sheep in a night.

But all other bounty-giving fades into insignificance compared with the enormous sums spent by New Zealand and New South Wales in their efforts to cope with the ever increasing plague of rabbits. After vainly trying to fence out the growing hordes, the various Austrian governments were forced to offer a bounty for each rabbit killed.

A penny a tail was the usual amount paid. This took effect in New South Wales in 1883, and since then about £1,000,000 has been expended by this government alone. The slaughter may be imagined by the fact that in one year 27,000,000 were paid for.

The latest animal upon which a government war has been declared is the rat. It has been proved conclusively that rats carry plague infection, so many towns all over the world are offering a penny a piece for rats' tails. Sidney, New South Wales, is one, and Copenhagen another. In the latter city the kills the first three weeks were 6,094, 6,616 and 6,780. The number has since grown to over 10,000 a week, and it is believed that by the end of 1902 rats will be getting scarce in Denmark.

RECIPES FROM THE VELDT

London Leader.

The following "recipes from the veldt, by Tommy Atkins' chef, suitable for Christmas fare," has been sent to friends in Coventry from a yeoman in South Africa:

Trek Ox Stew—Take an ox about 50 years old belonging to some one else. Kill it if it is not already dead. Cut into four or more parts. Boil in a pot of muddy water over a green wood fire. At the end of that time pull it out and wait for a sand storm. Then serve up. This is thought an excellent dish.

Sponge Cake—Take a few handfuls of Indian meal and sufficient dirty water to make into a stiff paste (no fat needed). Put it on a piece of tin or shovel over a fire. Ready for use when warmed through. N. B.—See the crowd trying to beg a bit of this when any one is making it.

Porridge—Take a few handfuls of Indian corn and put it into a bully beef or other old tin. Fill up with water and boil till soft. Put in a little salt if you are lucky enough to be able to pinch a bit. One feed of this will last all day.

Beverages, Tea or Coffee—Fill up the dinner pot with water—no need to wash the pot, as the sand in the water cleans that. Put it on the fire for fifteen minutes. Then throw in a handful of tea or coffee and serve up in mess tins that you have just used to fry bacon in. This is a most refreshing drink.

NOT GOOD RIDERS

Tit-Bits.

Few of the sovereigns of Europe are good horsemen. The German emperor has not what can be called a good seat. The Emperor Nicholas is far from being a master of the art of equitation, while the Kings of Sweden, Greece and Denmark detest riding. The King of Portugal labors under the disadvantage of embonpoint. Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria cannot ride for an hour at a time, and King Alexander of Servia is afraid of horses. The British royal princes are, however, all expert horsemen, but continental Europe can only boast of two sovereigns who are really at home in the saddle—the Emperor of Austria and the King of the Belgians.

NOT EXCUSED

New York Times.

A German summoned for jury duty before Justice Blanchard in the supreme court the other day, asked to be excused.

"Why do you wish to be excused?" asked the court.

"Vel, your honor," replied the man, "I dond know goot English ven I hear it."

"I guess you will do," said Justice Blanchard with a twinkle in his eye; "you won't hear much good English here anyhow."

GERMAN DOLLS

Tit-Bits.

It takes eighty men to make a German doll. Each man makes a small portion of the doll, but it is the same bit all the time, and 1,000 dozen dolls can be made in a day in some of the big factories. After the men finish the body portion of the doll the women's work begins. They paint, dress the dolls and pack them for the market.

PROFESSIONAL LIFE SAVING DOGS

London Leader.

Paris—The latest recruits to M. Lepines (Paris' chief of police) band of police are two fine young Newfoundland dogs, which are attached to the brigade of "agents plongeurs," or diving policemen, who were instituted during the exhibition to save those visitors who became giddy on the moving platform and fell into the Seine.

The Newfoundlands are being trained in an indoor swiming bath in the art of life-saving, and when the weather grows warmer, kennels will be built for them on the banks of the Seine, and their education will be continued in the river itself.

MARITIME EXPRESSIONS

The United Service.

Maritime expressions, used metaphorically, are, in fact, very common. We say a couple are "spliced," a young man is the "mainstay" of his family, an intruder "puts his oar in," the member from Wayback "steers through," a man is "hard up," sometimes "taken aback," or has "the wind taken out of his sails," a toper is "slewed," a loafer "spins a yarn," sometimes "tries the other tack," and a ruler "steers the ship of state" through troublesome times. This last metaphor is extremely ancient, by the way. Horace refers to Rome as a ship at sea, and Plutarch says the Delphic oracle referred to Athens in the same way. A Tamil saying embodies a like metaphor, "The soul is the ship, reason is the helm, the oars are the soul's thoughts, and truth is the port." An old collection of English proverbs contains this one: "The tongue is the rudder of our ship." A Malay maxim says: The boat which is swamped at sea may be bailed out, but the shipwreck of the affections is final." Aristophanes, Plautus and others use an expression which comes down to us as an English saw—"To row one way and look another." An old English proverb (1614) was, "It is not good to have an oar in every one's boat."

THE ENGLISH PHEASANT

The Fortnightly Review.

The pheasant in England, if not exactly indigenous, is certainly effectually naturalized; and, though originally from the Caucasus, may, after a thousand or so years of acclimatization, be looked upon as truly British. Tradition has it that the pheasant was brought into Europe by the Argonauts. It was probably introduced into England by the Romans. It certainly preceded the Normans. "Peasant hen and peasant cock" appeared in King Harold's bill of fare. Thomas a Becket is popularly supposed to have dined of a pheasant the day he was murdered. In the time of Edward I. the price of a pheasant was 4d, while woodcock (it makes ones mouth water) were but 3 farthings a pair. Two hundred years later, pheasants had raised to 12d apiece and woodcocks to 1d, while snipes could still be had at 3d a dozen. As long ago as the time of Henry VIII. the pheasant, as it still does, apparently led to a "tip," though on a somewhat lower scale than now. "Rewardes for brynging of p'sents" appears in L'Estrange's "Household Book"; "It'm to Mr. Ashley svnt for brynging of a fesaunt cocke and iiij. woodcocks ye XVIIIth daye of Octobre, in reward iiijd."

PAINFUL CHRISTMAS CARDS

Modern Answers.

After the battle of Omdurman, and the entry of Khartoum by the British soldiers, the first thing done was to sieze the treasury of the Khalifa. Among the curiosities found there was a packet of six Christmas cards.

It was not until the European prisoners had been released that the story of these relics became known. Among these prisoners was a Greek, who had lived in bondage for nearly ten years. The first Christmas after he was captured a camel-driver brought across the desert a small envelop for him. It contained a Christmas card. But the spies of the Khalifa soon informed him of the incident, and the Greek was flogged for presuming to have in his possession an emblem of the Christian faith.

A year later came another card to the Greek. Again word was brought to the Mahdi, and a second fifty lashes were administered. For six years in succession the unfortunate Greek paid for his Christmas messages with terrible beatings, till he found means to have the card-sending stopped.

A MANILA TEACHER IGNORANT OF OUR HAWAIIAN POSSESSIONS

In spite of all that has been written, in spite of books, magazine articles and newspaper articles, in spite of lectures, stereopticon talks and social talks, the fact remains that the bulk of the people on the mainland know very little about us, says the Honolulu Star. It was only the other day that one of the teachers passing through to Manila commented upon the fact that Honolulu had the appearance of an American town. The reply was:

Why, this is an American town. You are still in the United States."

And then she said: "Do you know, I always thought that the Hawaiian islands belonged to Japan."

This damsel was going to help to teach the Filipinos geography. It is to be hoped her Asiatic geography is of a somewhat better brand than her cosmographic views upon the Pacific.

BOHEMIA

Bohemia! the happy land
Where care and trouble have no part;
Where Love is king, and Sorrow banned
And all are gay and young at heart.

The land of joy, and light and song,
Where comrades gather, tried and true;
Where hope and faith divine are strong,
And skies serene are ever blue.

The Eden fair of pleasant dreams,
Where weary mortals find sweet rest,
And see bright visions—rainbow gleams
Of heaven and ideals blest.

There meet the gifted—not the great
By accident of Fate or birth;
But they who rise from low estate
By their own efforts, wit and worth.

—Henry Coyle in Donahoe's Magazine.

NOT USED TO HANDLES

Tit-Bits.

An amusing story was current in London soon after the Duke of Richmond became Duke of Gordon as well. An American lady, well known in English society, happened to receive a letter from his grace (who was personally unknown to her) with reference to a picture he wished to purchase from her. Mrs. H—— misunderstood the double-barreled ducal signature and addressed her reply to "Messrs. Richmond and Gordon, picture dealers"!

THE HOUSE BEAUTIFUL

Graven upon the knocker:
O Hate, go by! Love dwells within
And welcomes only kith and kin.
Above the fireplace:
Here, Friend, a dual comfort find—
Warmth, my heart; and Light, my mind.
Within the living-room:
My bread was savorless, but Thou
Hast shared it, Friend. 'Tis manna now.

—Robert Gilbert Welsh in The Independent.

Bowlby—This ostrich reminds me very much of a boarding-house chicken fricasee.

Dolber—How so?

Bowlby—Because it's all legs and neck.—Judge.

THE MODERN SISYPHUS

Josephus Sisyphus—Every time I get it ne ar the top De Wet pushes it down again, and it gets heavier all the time.

[Classical mythology dooms Sisyphus as a punishment to roll forever to the top of a hill a stone, which always rolls down again, just as it approaches its destination.]

SIMPLE HOUSEHOLD REMEDIES

London Answers.

In every kitchen or storeroom there is quite a druggist's shop of useful remedies.

So far as medical science has discovered, the best all-round cure for dyspepsia is salt-and-water. Put a small teaspoonful of salt in a large tumbler of water as hot as you can swallow, and drink it half an hour or twenty minutes before each meal. This washes out the stomach thoroughly. Many people try the plan of drinking hot water as a cure for stomach complaints, but as they omit the salt the operation is not always satisfactory. The plain water is rather irritating to a delicate stomach, but the addition of salt prevents the irritation, and converts the draught into a powerful stomach stimulant.

Pepper proves eqally valuable in emergencies. Suppose one has a pain in the stomach, or a sinking feeling, there is nothing better than a small quantity of pepper in a glass of hot water. With the addition of sugar it forms a pleasant and stimulating draught, good for a cold and all sorts of pains.

A teaspoonful of pepper put into a two-ounce bottle of strong whisky or rum will make the hair grow. After a bath, also, it is an excellent thing to rub into the head—or, in fact, all over the body. If one is at all blue after his morning tub, a little of this home-made tincture poured in the palm of the hand and briskly rubbed to the body will produce a warm glow and prevent chill.

Mustard has many valuable uses. As a plaster on the chest it draws the blood from the congested lungs to the skin, and in the foot-bath it draws the blood from the lungs to the feet. But it is still more valuable as an emetic. In these days of tinned foods we run considerable risk of poisoning—if not to the death, at least to the point of very great discomfort. A spoonful of mustard in a large glass of warm water is a splendid remedy in such cases, and it also stimulates.

Sugar cannot be beaten as a cure for cold in the head. It must be very finely powdered, and used as a snuff. In some way it then acts as an astringent, and, if used in time, puts an end to the cold.

In cases of poisoning there are many simple remedies at hand. For instance, suppose, as so often happens, nitric or sulphuric acid is swallowed in mistake for some beverage or the other, then it is necessary at once to neutralize the acid before it has time to corrode the stomach.

This is done by means of an alkali. But there is no time to send to the chemist's, and the best thing to do is to scrape some mortar off the wall, stir it up in water, and make the patient swallow it. If the poison happens to be alkaline instead of acid—caustic soda or ammonia, for instance—then you have the remedy at hand in the cruet. Give the victim a dose of vinegar.

Suppose it is an irritant poison, such as arsenic, or a sedative, such as opium, you must immediately give a large quantity of tepid mustard-and-water as an emetic. But this is not sufficient in the case of opium poisoning. Drowsiness comes on, which may be fatal. Therefore, you have to dose the patient with strong black coffee.

If you get a cut that will not stop bleeding, there is nothing like cold water. Don't bandage the hand. And if you wish to avoid blood-poisoning, don't dream of using the ancient remedy—a cobweb, but hold your hand above the head, and pour the coldest water procurable over it. The worst case of bleeding will usually yield to this treatment.

For slight burns, too, there is nothing like cold water. If you inadvertently touch a hot poker, then plunge your hand instantly into cold water, and keep it there for five or ten minutes.

Black-currant jam is one of the most agreeable and effective remedies for a sore throat or cough. Put a tablespoonful of it in a tumbler of hot water, and you have a delicious beverage, as well as an excellent cure.

Apples cure warts. Of course, the perfect remedy for warts and corns is salicylic acid; but, failing that, an apple rubbed on the place frequently will effect a cure, by means of the malic acid it contains. Cold tea is a very old and tried remedy for relaxed sore throat. Its tannic acid acts as an astringent when the tea is used as a gargle.

When you come home from a cycling trip over dusty roads your eyes are apt to be sore. Don't rub them, and don't commit the common and great mistake of opening them in cold water. But put some salt—say, a dessertspoonful or more—in a basin of tepid water, and then plunge in your head and open your eyes. The salt will prevent the water from hurting the delicate lining membrane.

Eight out of ten cases of toothache can be relieved by getting some bread-soda—bicarbonate of soda,not baking-powder—dusting it on a piece of cotton wool and placing it in the cavity. If all the teeth ache together, the cause is generally acidity of the mouth. In that case, dissolve the soda in warm water, and wash the teeth with it. You will be well in an instant.

If you keep licorice in the house, you have one of the very best cures for dyspepsia. A small piece of licorice, slowly dissolved in the mouth, covers the stomach with a protective coat, and relieves the pain of inflammation.

CIGARETTE LAWS IN ICELAND

Tit-Bits.

It seems that girls, as well as boys, of Reykjavik, Iceland, have contracted the habit of smoking cigarettes, and the law allows any adult man or women who finds a boy or girl smoking to give the young offender a sound spanking and to sieze and destroy any cigarette found in his or her possession.

WHY SCANDINAVIAN CONSERVATIVES WAR

A Call for Retrenchment—Political and Other Troubles on the Peninsula—Two Notable Deaths.

Correspondence of The Journal.

Christiania, Norway, Dec. 20.—The municipal elections are being held in these days under the new law granting municipal suffrage also to women. The results thus far have been overwhelmingly in favor of the conservatives, who, in a number of places, have been out of power for years. In Bergen, the second city of the kingdom, and a hotbed of radicalism, the conservatives have twenty-nine places, the liberals nineteen and the socialists sixteen. In Christiania the election was held Dec. 9. The result was: Conservatives, forty-eight places, liberals sixteen, socialists fourteen, prohibitionists two, workingmen two, women two. The principal reason for this overwhelming conservative victory is the fact that in municipal administration the liberals have for years been drifting towards socialism. To catch workingmen's votes, they have provided for a great many things which may be fine enough in their way, but which are very expensive and necessitate an ever increasing burden of taxation. While in Christiania, during the last twenty years, the population has increased about 100 per cent, the municipal debt has increased 600 per cent and the taxes 200 per cent. The municipal debt of Christiania at present amounts to 56,000,000 crowns, or about 250 crowns per individual. While during the last two years the conservatives have had a bare majority in the council, the liberal regime from 1896-99 had saddled so many obligations upon the city that, under the stress of the present hard times, coming upon a period of feverish and largely fictitious prosperity, the burden upon the taxpayers is becoming almost unbearable. But, in spite of this, before the present election the liberal managers came before the public with another series of extravagantly expensive measures to conciliate the socialist vote. The natural result was that a great many taxpayers of liberal leanings stayed at home or voted with the conservatives, who carried the day triumphantly.

Retrenchment in municipal expenses will now be the watchword. And it is high time. Industries and individuals are being taxed to death. Living expenses are fearfully high. Times are hard, a great many failures have occurred since the great boom collapsed. There is great distress among the working classes. House rent has fallen slightly, but fish, meat, especially pork, butter, milk and potatoes are extravagantly high.

The same spirit of extravagance which has been abroad in municipal affairs has also prevailed to a considerable extent in the management of national affairs. The public debt of Norway at present amounts to about 227,000,000 of crowns and a proposition is now before parliament to borrow another 35,000,000, which is more than the entire national debt amounted to a generation ago. The credit of Norway has up to this time been excellent on the European money markets, but a debt of 300,000,000 on a small nation of about 2,000,000 individuals is becoming a somewhat serious affair. A large proportion of the debt of course represents legitimate railway building and improvements of various kinds but it is a question if the representatives of the nation have not been overzealous in furnishing their contribuencies with railroads which pay no dividends and in absorbing for the state at an enormous outlay of capital concerns which might just as well have been left in private hands. And of late years millions have been spent unstintingly on the improvement of the national defences. Four battleships have been acquired within the last few years. The ships were built in England, so that all the money went out of the country. They might just as well have been built at home where our own workingmen would have reaped the benefit. But it would have taken at least twice the time, and those in control considered that there was danger in delay. The new supply of field artillery has been ordered in Germany which could probably not be avoided, but the carriages might just as well have been built at home. The plan of fortifying strategic points on the Swedish border which was carried by a strict party vote at the last session of parliament has met with severe criticism from competent military quarters but then to begin with it "only calls for 2,000,000" as the secretary of war haughtily remarked in the great financial debate which opened the present session of parliament. All citizens regardless of party are glad to see the public defences established on a satisfactory footing but the taxpayers are beginning to understand that it is possible to overdo a good thing and that it is a poor policy to use so much money for war preparations in peace time, that when the war comes we shall have no means of carrying it on to a successful issue."

It is not divulging any secret to state that the zeal of the party in power for strengthening the defenses of the country is largely due to the idea that they might sometime be used as a base for determind action in the questions pending between Sweden and Norway, notably as to the establishment of a separate Norwegian consular service and a separate Norwegian foreign office. Thus far no such action has resulted, if it has been contemplated, and the Swedes have been scared by the warlike preparations of the Norwegians into a radical reorganization of their somewhat antiquated army. And while the Norwegians have put all available money into ships, guns and fortifications, the Swedes, while not neglecting these very necessary things, have also been able to increase very materially both the numbers and the efficiency of their army. While in Norway the fighting strength of the army has only been increased by a few companies, the Swedes, according to their new army plan, have increased their infantry by twenty-five batallions, doubled their artillery and increased their cavalry by one half. And while, in 1889, the time allowed to the training of the Swedish soldiers was somewhat shorter than that of the Norwegian army, by the new army plan the Swedish soldiers will get about twice the amount of training that Norway can afford to give her soldiers.

But, then, of course, the Swedish taxpayer, too, is getting restive under the increased burdens, and it is to be hoped that on both sides of the border the people will come to understand the folly of indulging in a mad race for military excellence, which neither country can support in the long run.

Present developments on the eastern border of Sweden, already alluded to, have also inclined the Swedish people to favor a speedy, fair and amicable settlement of questions pending with Norway. Just what practical progress has been made towards such settlement at the present time, the general public seems to know nothing about, but rumors have been abroad from time to time of pending negotiations between the governments of the two countries. Patriotic citizens in Norway of all party affiliations by this time seem to be agreed that Norway of right ought to have a separate and independent consular representative abroad. But the practical realization of this plan presents many difficulties on account of the intimate relations necessarily existing between the consular service and the diplomatic service. How can two distinct and occasionally antagonistic consular services get along with the one foreign office, which all Swedes and a great many Norwegians think is an indispensable condition of the continuance of the union?

Dr. Sigurd Ibsen (son of the poet) has discussed these questions from the Norwegian point of view in an able paper and it seems that the Swedish government at present has an expert engaged on presenting the Swedish point of view. So much seems to have been gained, at any rate, that the Swedish authorities appear to be inclined to discuss the matter calmly and dispassionately and to take the wishes of the Norwegians under proper consideration. The whole matter may be brought up again in the present session of the Norwegian parliament and it is to be hoped that a final settlement satisfactory to the nations may be speedily reached. Then the energy and the money which are now wasted in both countries on extravagant military preparations may be turned into productive channels, may be devoted to the advancement of trades and industries and may thus be productive of much good to coming generations. The tax payer, at any rate, will enjoy the change, even if the professional politician will not. The politician has been on top in Norway for many years. The richest plums have dropped into his hard-worked mouth, he has waxed fat and powerful, his friends and relations have been wonderfully blessed.

But even the path of the guileless politician is not always entirely free from thorns. His best-laid plans sometimes "gang a-gley." His unselfish efforts are not always properly appreciated by an ungrateful public and occasionally little unpleasantnesses occur which mar the harmony even of the best-regulated of political families.

Fuss With the King.

Let me briefly mention a couple of occurrences of recent date. In October, 1900, Colonel Peters, a stanch adherent of the powers that be, was appointed to the command of Oskarsborg, the principal fortress of the country. A few months ago the colonel was tried by court-martial and found guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman and duly sentenced to eighty days imprisonment. The whole trouble, apparently, originated from the colonel's wife, who was displeased with the commandant's quarters and with the conduct of certain boatmen who ply between the fort and the main land, but in the course of subsequent events the colonel indulged in a good deal of prevarication, to use a mild term, and the military court found his conduct deserving of the severe sentence imposed. The sentence was appealed to the supreme court and affirmed and then the colonel sent in a petition for executive clemency and the liberal cabinet recommended to the king that the colonel's sentence be changed to thirty days' confinement to his quarters in the fortress. The king, however, found the sentence of the court-martial, reaffirmed by the findings of the highest tribunal of the land, a just and proper one, and decided it for the good of discipline in the service that justice should be allowed to take it course in the case of a colonel as in the case of a private soldier. But the cabinet thought otherwise; they threatened to resign if the colonel's sentence were not commuted. What should the poor king do? He could not afford to have a constitutional conflict raised on these premises and had to yield to their wishes. But he made use of his privilege of having his objections against the decision entered upon the records of his cabinet, and for this presumption the king was roundly abused by several so-called liberal papers.

Another Unpleasant Incident.

Another unpleasant incident, which has kept the papers busy for the last few weeks, is the Bjornson-Sverdrup-Richter imbroglio.

Johan Sverdrup was the leader of the opposition in the long and furious constitutional struggle which resulted in the great liberal victory of 1884. Sverdrup formed the first liberal ministry, but the great expectations with which his accession to power was hailed were doomed to disappointment. Sverdrup as chief of the cabinet was a different man from Sverdrup the leader of the opposition. His old friends and associates turned upon him, he was thrown and relegated to private life, and died a broken and friendless man. In May, 1888, Bjornstjerne Bjornson, the famous Norwegian poet-politician, publicly charged Sverdrup with having told a deliberate untruth in the Norwegian parliament in 1885 in regard to a certain protocol on diplomatic affairs, for which he made his colleague, O. Richter, the Norwegian minister of state in Stockholm, responsible. Bjornson stated that he had his information direct from Mr. Richter and that this gentleman had solemnly assured him that he would no longer support Sverdrup. Richter, however, did not keep this promise, and so Bjornson turned upon him and publicly denounced his former friend. Richter now found his position untenable, resigned and in a fit of despondency took his own life. In January, 1889, Bjornson furthermore charged Sverdrup with downright forgery. At a meeting of the members of the cabinet in Christiania Sverdrup had presented a draft of a certain very important letter to be sent to Mr. Richter. This draft was approved by Mr. Sverdrup's colleagues, but for purposes of his own he had suppressed this letter and sent an entirely different one to Mr. Richter. This identical charge against the greatest man of the liberal party and the chief director of the affairs of the nation, Mr. Bjornson deliberately repeated in a drama which he afterwards wrote on the sad life-story of Richter. One of the persons of the drama says to the person representing Richter:

"Do you remember when he (Mr. Sverdrup) wrote you a long letter, which he read to his colleagues and which they approved of—and then sent you an entirely different one—a different letter which they knew nothing about?"

This drama, a splendid piece of dramatic composition by the way, was taken up this season by the National Theater and had a very successful run. But this revival of the old scandalous charge was more than Mr. Sverdrup's children could stand. They wrote a public letter to Mr. Bjornson demanding convincing proof of the charge or instant and absolute retraction.

Bjornson, however, instead of retracting and apologizing, reiterated the charge in emphatic terms and claimed that he was in possession of ample proof.

The newspapers of course took up the matter, and for weeks have been filled with statements pro and con. The surviving members of the Swedish cabinet have been appealed to for their testimony, but they all disclaim any knowledge of a letter to Mr. Richter adopted in a meeting of the members of the cabinet. Bjornson appears to have acted in good faith, relying on information supplied principally by the editor of the Dagbladet, but thus far he appears to have signally failed to make out a case. Sveddrup's children have announced that it is their intention to bring the matter into the courts to have it sifted to the bottom in order to clear the memory of their father of this charge. There the matter rests at present. Endeavors are being made to have the matter dropped. And this would probably be the best thing for all concerned. A public trial of such a case would probably only result in the raking up of a mass of political filth that will be a stench in the nostrils of the people and of no particular good to anybody. But it is a strange irony of fate that Bjornson, who once in one of his noblest moments of inspiration sang the greatness of Johan Sverdrup in resonant verse, should be the one to besmirch the memory of the statesman long in his grave.

Two Notable Deaths.

Two notable deaths have occurred within the last few weeks. On Nov. 1, died Bernhard Getz, the attorney general of Norway, only 51 years old. Mr. Getz, who had previously been a professor in the law department of Norway, was a practical and scientific jurist of the highest rank. An original thinker, combining in a remarkable degree scientific thoroughness with practical wisdom he has been the prime mover in recent legal reformers in Norway. His great work on the new criminal code has attracted attention among criminalists all over Europe and received flattering recognition from the greatest authorities in this field.

On Dec. 10 occurred the death of the commanding officer of the Norwegian navy, Vice Admiral G. F. von Krogh. Admiral von Krogh belonged to a family which for generations has had distinguished representatives in the navy. He was made rear admiral in 1896 and vice admiral in 1899. He has had charge of the navy in a period of reorganization and by his unfailing tact and great personal popularity, has brought about many needed changes with a minimum of friction. The admiral was beloved by all who knew him, an able officer and a true Christian gentleman. His body was taken from Christiania to the naval station at Horten on the battleship Tordenskjold, and buried there to-day with the highest military honors.

—O. J. Breda.

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