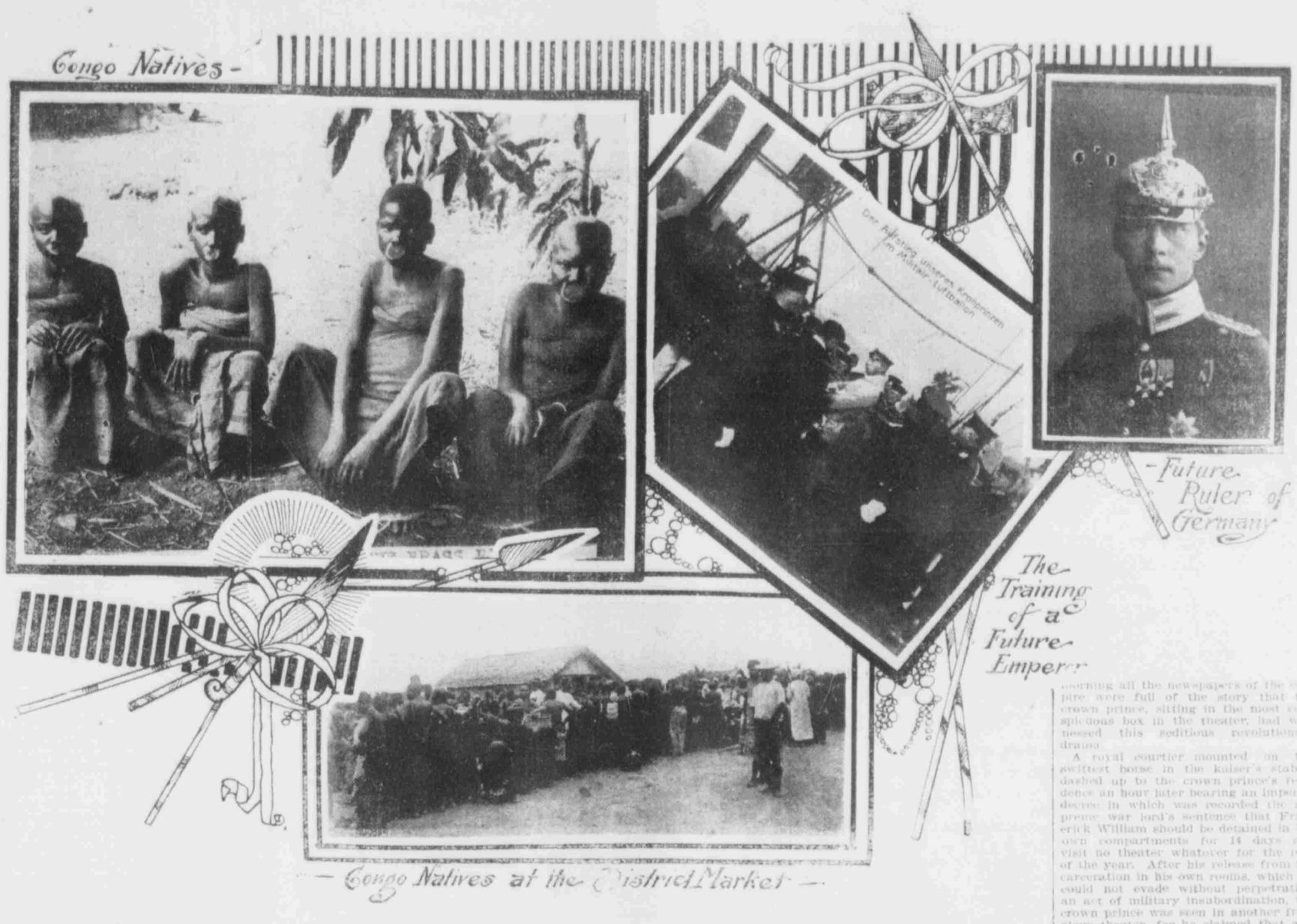
The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.

Kaiser Versus Crown Prince in Clash of Temperaments.

Special Correspondence.

BERLIN, Feb. 11.—There exists a latent hostility between the German emperor and his oldest son, the Crown Prince Frederick William, that is one of the most remarkable features of the present critical situation in the Fatherland. Not that the rivalry and even hostility between the kaiser and his heir are anything new; on the contrary, they have been noticeable for many long years; but just at present they are attracting more attention than usual because they have an important political bearing on the crisis through which Germany is passing.

It is one of the unhappy traditions of the House of Hohenzollern that bitter hostility should prevail between the reigning father and the son waiting for the royal succession. In a certain degree this enmity exists in almost all monarchial countries between the occupant of the throne and the man who is waiting for his death to step into his exalted position. But the rivalry between father and eldest son has been more marked in the royal house of Prussia than in any other existing dynasty. The late Emperor Frederick, when crown prince, frequently was in opposition to his father, William I, and all the progressive elements in the country based their hopes of future reform on the accession of a man who was known to detest with all his heart the reactionary policy countenanced and maintained by his imperial father. Similarly a deep latent hostility always existed between the present kaiser and his father. It is notorious that the kaiser, although he indulges in the worship of ancestry almost to the same extent as the Chinese, never glorifies his father, Emperor Frederick, but only his grandfather, Emperor William I, in his public speeches. During the earlier years of his reign there were many visible indications of his frigid feeling toward his father, as there were manifestations of his unbounded reverence for his grandfather. It is recorded, and is indeed a public secret that a certain noted German painter fell into deep disfavor in the eyes of William II. because he created a picture glorifying his father, Emperor Frederick, with a kind of halo round his head.



DIFFERENT TEMPERAMENTS.

There is thus, primarily, a hereditary reason for the serious differences that have arisen at various times and still exist between the kaiser and his presumptive successor. But there are many other reasons. Father and son are as unlike as two men possibly can be. The kaiser is an excitable, tempestuous, passionate man; the crown prince is evenly balanced and reasonable. The kaiser is a dreamer and an idealist; the crown prince is eminently practical and has a profound contempt for all manifestations of a fantastic imagination. The kaiser is deeply religious and as devotional as a monk; the crown prince, without any tendency toward infidelity, is distinctly poorer in piety than his imperial father. The kaiser loves flattery and never is happy when not surrounded by fawning courtiers; the crown prince, on the contrary, abhors the deceitful arts of court satellites and loves to breathe the free air of ordinary humanity. The kaiser isolates himself as a species of divinity; the crown prince loses no opportunity of mixing with the common people. The kaiser entertains a deep dislike for any routine occupation and is ambitious to gain fame as a versatile authority on all subjects under the sun; the crown prince, far from being a genius, is content modestly to perform his duties, firstly as an officer of the army and secondly as an apprentice to his future trade of governing by taking systematic lessons in the different departments of state. The striking difference between father and son runs through all phases of their respective lives. In their thoughts and in their tastes, in their likes and dislikes, in their pastimes and studies, they are as far apart as the two poles.

STERN PARENT.

Those who have an insight into the inner life of the German imperial court state that the radical differences between the kaiser and the crown prince became evident to all onlookers when the latter was still a boy. At an early age his father's words and deeds seemed to jar on the crown prince. When he went to school he wished to pursue a different course of studies from that mapped out for him by his father. When the kaiser tried to arouse his youthful interest in battleships and in Assyrian theology, young Frederick William showed no responsive desire to concern himself with these matters. The kaiser, on the other hand, who is an extremely stern parent, had no toleration for the youthful follies of his eldest boy. The kaiser judged his childish failings with a lack of charity which implanted a certain bitterness in Frederick William's heart.

DRINKING BOUTS.

This lack of harmony between father and son, remarkable as it was, was unknown to wider circles until the Crown Prince Frederick William became a student at the famous University of Bonn. The kaiser, like all other princes of the house of Hohenzollern, had been a student at Bonn during his transition from youth to manhood, and he had entered into German university life, and particularly into the drinking habits of the students, with unbounded enthusiasm. Not so Crown Prince Frederick William. Among the students who belong to the predominant corps at the German universities, and particularly at Bonn, there is a drinking code to which all of them, and especially newcomers, must conform with rigid obedience. The students' drinking bouts take place at regular intervals with a kind of military discipline that is characteristic of the race. There is a drinking captain, and his orders have to be obeyed with implicit subordination. One of the drinking customs consists in emptying a huge flagon of beer at one draft.

The kaiser in his student days conformed to this rule without question, and poured this alarming quantity of beer down his throat with a total disregard for the innate vulgarity of the custom. Crown Prince Frederick William rose in rebellion against this foolish student tradition. He declared that he liked to drink beer and that he enjoyed the revelries in the company of his fellow students, but he strongly protested against being compelled to pour all the contents of a huge jug down his throat at one distasteful gulp. He was willing to conform to all the noble traditions of student life, but not to this one objectionable feature. The students in their wrath appealed direct to the kaiser, and William II, much perturbed in his mind by the revolutionary tendencies of his eldest son revealed in this rebellion against a tradition of centuries, journeyed to Boon to enforce obedience to the custom that had been hallowed by long observance. A sharp quarrel between kaiser and crown prince ensued, and the kaiser gained his point. Crown Prince Frederick William consented to swallow his flagon of beer at one draft, but the wrong rankled in his mind and tended to widen the rift between him and his despotic father.

DIFFERENCE OF OPINION

Subsequently, more difference of opinion developed between the emperor and his future successor on account of the latter's liking for horse racing. The kaiser entertains a strong dislike for horse racing and only appears on the race course twice a year—once in Berlin and once at Hamburg. His appearance on these occasions is due only to the observance of a custom long established, and owing to the fact that one of the races each day is to compete for a prize given by himself. To demonstrate his dislike for horse racing the Kaiser dashes up to the course in a motor car, enters the royal box just before the race for his own prize starts, watches the race, congratulates the winner and departs with the same speed. The crown prince not only delights in horse racing, but at an early age insisted in taking part in wild military steeplechases in which he risked his own neck with a complete disregard for the value of his august person.

This pastime was intensely annoying to the emperor not only on its own merits, but because it seemed to him to violate that species of divinity in which his own offspring should be enshrined. In William II's estimation it brought the future German emperor down to the level of jockeys and grooms, and was, in addition, a kind of slight on the kaiser's own taste. One of the crown prince's mad riding feats brought him into direct collision with his father. He rode up the steep flight of stone steps leading to the castle of Sans Souci at Potsdam, and by way of punishment was sentenced by the kaiser to three days' detention in his own apartments.

POOR YACHTSMAN.

The kaiser, whose favorite pastime is yachting, was unable to excite any enthusiasm in his eldest son's breast for this nautical form of sport. However, he drove the crown prince to buy a yacht in which he could take part in the races at the Kiel regatta, with the result that the crown prince, unable to accustom himself to handling his craft, having neither interest nor inclination for the occupation, came in last in every race except the one in which he capsized, owing to a total disregard of all the rules of seamanship. The kaiser, who is keenly desirous of raising yatching to the same high level in Germany as it is in England, was chagrined beyond measure by his eldest son's landlubbery exhibition.

DRAMATIC TASTES DIFFER.

Similar discrepancies arose in the respective dramatic tastes of the kaiser and the crown prince. The emperor admires the serious drama and delights in seeing plays with a moral. Heavy operas and solemn plays as respectable as they are tedious attract him to such an extent that he is capable of going to see them time after time. The crown prince, by way of contrast, delights in light comedy, musical pantomimes and melodrama. His visits to the liveliest and most frivolous theaters in Berlin are recorded at frequent intervals during the winter season. On one famous occasion he dared to go and see an anti-military play entitled "Jena or Sedan," in which all the abuses and manifold corruptions and revolting features of contemporary German military life were portrayed by the author, Bejerlein, with relentless realism. Next morning all the newspapers of the empire were full of the story that the crown prince, sitting in the most conspicuous box in the theater, had witnessed this seditious revolutionary drama.

A royal courtier mounted on the swiftest horse in the kaiser's stables dashed up to the crown prince's residence an hour later bearing an imperial decree in which was recorded the supreme war lord's sentence that Frederick William should be detained in his own compartments for 14 days and visit no theater whatever for the rest of the year. After his release from incarceration in his own rooms, which he could not evade without perpetrating an act of military insubordination, the crown prince was seen in another frivolous theater, for he claimed that any further interference in his choice of amusements was unjustifiable and intolerable.

MARRIED WRONG WOMAN.

The Crown Prince Frederick William married his wife, Cecilia, against the kaiser's wishes. There were both political and personal objections to the match. Primarily the emperor and empress objected to Princess Cecilia not on her own merits, for she stands above reproach, but because they had conceived a dislike for her mother, the Grand Duchess Anastasia of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, who had been involved in a more or less public scandal, in the course of which grave doubts were cast upon her morality. After the crown prince had received commands to abandon the idea of including a matrimonial alliance with Princess Cecilia he took the bit between his teeth and acted in defiance of his father's wishes.

The kaiser was away at Kiel when he took the decisive step. Traveling to Cecilia's residence he took her for a walk in the woods and proposed marriage to her with all the impetuosity of youthful passion. Their engagement having become an accomplished fact, he coolly telegraphed the announcement to his father and made it clear that he intended to carry out his resolution in the face of all obstacles. Simultaneously the crown prince gave the announcement of his bethrothal to the newspapers, and the kaiser, unable to face the scandal of a breach of promise, was obliged to surrender and acquiesce in the match.

KAISER SNUBS HER.

William II revenged himself on the unfortunate Grand Duchess Anastasia, who, as a matter of etiquette, had to be invited to the wedding festivities in Berlin. Moreover, as a matter of etiquette, she had to be placed next to the kaiser at all the court banquets and entertainments held to celebrate the wedding. On every single occasion the kaiser half turned his back on her in an ostentatious way and demonstratively refrained from addressing a single word to her. It was a terrible humiliation for the bride's mother, and she suffered keenly, but bore it for the sake of her daughter. When, after the wedding, the crown prince and princess left shortly before midnight on their honeymoon trip, the Grand Duchess Anastasia, who had come to Berlin unexpectedly for the nuptials, she packed her trunks, left the palace in the middle of the night and took up her quarters at the Hotel Bristol, at the other end of Unter den Linden. She got even with the kaiser, but the crown prince never forgave his father the slight inflicted on his wife's mother.

KEEPS A SCRAP BOOK.

In the recent political crises in Germany the crown prince has made no secret of his sympathy with all the forces working against his imperial father. When Maximilian Harden, the brilliant editor of the Zukunft, published his first revelation of the scandalous court at a group of perverts, headed by Prince Philip Eulenburg, it was the crown prince who thrust this particular number of the Zukunft before the kaiser's eyes. It was the crown prince who, by thus setting the ball in motion, led up to all those scandals which have resulted in the kaiser's public renunciation of some of his absolutist privileges. More recently, when all the newspapers of Germany were publishing article after article ridiculing the kaiser's indiscretions and mistakes and denouncing his personal regime, the crown prince had all these hostile expressions of opinion carefully collected for his own amusement. He just gloated over them, and it may be safely said that no one in Germany rejoiced so much over the kaiser's discomfiture as his son. On numerous occasions the crown prince has been heard to remark with an ironical smile:

"I never make speeches and I never grant interviews."

POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

Underlying these personal differences and discords between the kaiser and his presumptive successor there is a deep political significance. Judging from the fundamental contradictions between the characters of the two men, there is every reason to believe that the accession to the throne of the Crown Prince Frederick William will bring about far-reaching changes that cannot fail to affect not only Germany herself, but all those countries affected by the German foreign policy. If, as appears certain, the kaiser withholds a larger measure of constitutional liberties from his subjects, Crown Prince Frederick William probably will concede them when he holds the reigns of government. If the kaiser intimidates his French neighbors, Crown Prince Frederick will endeavor to conciliate them. If the kaiser looks upon England with suspicion and hostility, Crown Prince Frederick William may be expected to extend the hand of friendship across the North sea. The same political changes may be anticipated in all phases of domestic and foreign policy. For these reasons Crown Prince Frederick William's accession to the throne and his early years of imperial power will be full of surpassing interest to all students of the world's progress. They may indeed stand out prominently in the history of the constitutional development of the German empire.

RUDOLPH VON ELPHBERG.

ARRESTED

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King Leopold Institutes a Model Monetary System

Special Correspondence.

BRUSSELS, Feb. 10.—One of the biggest problems which face Belgium now that it has assumed control of the Congo is the introduction of adequate money supply into the African dependency. King Leopold endowed the Congo with a magnificent monetary system—on paper. He established a gold standard but minted no gold coin and excepting the currency made from brass wire, he put very little money of any sort in circulation.

Belgium promises to change the Congo procedure; to make the money system a reality and put as much money as is needed in circulation in its new colony. That is a bold promise, for cash amounting to many millions is needed.

The natives know what money is. They have never been without a currency of some sort. These savages are no fools. They understand the law made by the white man. They know that under it cash payments of the government tax will secure their personal liberty to them, and that liberty they are determined to have, even if they must work for it. When King Leopold transferred the Congo sovereignty to Belgium the money in circulation, including bank notes, silver, nickel and copper, bore a face value of $227,540.

CORNER ON COIN.

This money, eked out by English gold, which the state accepted as legal tender, was not always sufficient for the needs of traders in their dealings with the state. The government officials in the Congo insist on all payments for carriage as well as dues being made in Congo coin or sovereigns. At times there is not enough of such coinage to be found in Boma and more than once the governor of the Congo has had to interfere in order to prevent a money crisis, and order the officials to accept French money, easily obtainable from the French Congo on the other side of the great African river. As a rule, however, foreign coin has been kept out of the Congo. If it is still to be kept out the Belgian mint must be busy for a long time to come.

Putting the needs of traders aside the $200,000 or so left in the Congo by King Leopold will hardly be a drop in the bucket when the government pay-day comes around. The pay-roll of the Belgian Colonial office is enormous. The department of argiculture employs 10,000 native workmen; there are 14,000 natives in the public force; 4,000 natives are employed regularly on the railway works; in the shipyards at Leopoldville alone 500 natives are engaged; many thousands are engaged on the state vessels and waterways, and there are other great departments served by multitudes of natives.

LABOR TAX.

From a careful analysis of the Congo Budget it appears that 53.41 of the ordinary expenses of the state comes under the head of what have been called "services from which the blacks derive at least partial utility." These "services" are those in which the natives work and draw pay: the National Domain, for example, the working of which cost the state over $1,200,000 in 1906, while the natives were still laboring on it under compulsion of the labor tax, and paid in kind; the public force, which costs $1,100,000 and the naval service, which costs over $400,000.

From the foundation of the state to 1908, its total outlay exclusive of extraordinary expenditure, amounted to $75,915,951.29. Of this sum over $49,200,000 was paid to the natives, or expended on works of immediate benefit to them. This was the actual cost in cash to the state. The cash was spent in part on trade goods with which to pay wages, but, though the money did not remain in the Congo, the state has had to pay that sum for the upkeep of the colony, and Belgium will have similar payments to make in the future.

HOW COIN DISAPPEARS.

It will require an immense amount of coin to meet these expenses year after year in cash, for the natives withdraw a huge amount of money from circulation to turn it to some uses which civilization finds hardly necessary, such as burying it with chiefs; or to others which civilization thinks crude, as for example, decorating noses, ears, arms and legs with it.

It is probable that the fear of the great drain which would be caused by the continual disappearance of coin from currency was a cause which led King Leopold's government to continue the truck system of payment for so many years. The existence of this danger was proved by the manner in which the natives used the money made from brass wire. They bent the mitakos into rings and the ostentatious rich covered themselves with them to such an extent that their limbs became extended, and their necks stretched up to almost twice their ordinary size.

SLAVES AS CURRENCY.

Slaves were the gold standard of the natives for years. There was continual dealing in slaves everywhere in the Congo for home use, as well as for export; and by retail, in small portions, as well as wholesale. It was a common thing to have live slaves brought to market and sold piecemeal, limb by limb to different buyers.

The white traders, who were settled in central Africa before the foundation of the Congo State, did not interfere with the slave trade, but they set up an abominable money standard of their own, one in which bottles of gin took the place of coin.

The representative of the Netherlands explained this, and defended it at the Conference of Berlin. "The sale of drink," he said, "was undoubtedly established in commercial usage, according to which spirits represented money in a way, and were the principal instruments of exchange in the Congo basin." The conference refused to interfere with the sale of gin, but it has since been stamped out.

NATIVE TRADING.

Protestant missionaries seem to have been the first who sought to raise the natives by means of trade. They acted on the natives' love of chatter and traffic. Their plan was that of barter. They opened stores and bartered native cloth, beads, brass rods, knives and all sorts of trade goods for building materials, food and generally, for whatever the natives had to sell of value. "A dirty business," said Mrs. Grattan Guinness, who saw it practised in its commencement, "but one the natives themselves thoroughly enjoy."

HUGE PROFITS.

Big settlements sprang up around the mission stations, and the missionaries' trade with the natives grew large. Agents of rubber companies also traded largely, and dazzling profits were drawn from dealings in truck and by means of the brass wire currency. These dealings were never declared illegal, and to the present moment there are localities in which they are continued with huge profit to the traders. The profits of one of the independent trading companies, the Kasai, amounted to $2,000,000 net, in 1906.

King Leopold explained, in the official publications of the state, that his plan was one "to inoculate the taste for work into the natives" by forcing them to labor for so many hours a month, chiefly on the crown lands collecting rubber, and paying them for their labor. From this plan there developed the famous Congo system. Under it no money passed hands until recently. Labor was obligatory on the natives as a tax; the payment, or reward to them was made in kind. The system was changed in 1906, when it was decreed that only one tax should be imposed on the natives, that that tax should be stated and payable in cash, that it might be as low as $1.20 a year, and that it should never be higher than $4.80.

The latest traveler in the Congo, M. Emile Vanderveide, leader of the Belgian Socialists, writing from the Congo in September, 1908, describes how, in the last year of King Leopold's Congo sovereignty, "at the instance of missionaries and others," the state "finally decided to renounce rubber and introduce the tax in cash money."

The reports of the foreign consuls bear out the statements of the Belgian Socialist. The natives are working hard, and clamoring for cash payments. In return for the rich exports from the Congo to her mother-country, Belgium must scatter gold over her expectant colony.

MALCOLM K. DOUGLAS.

Famous Park Lane Mansion May House Countess Granard

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, Feb, 10.—Enterprising London house agents have not waited for the arrival of the Countess of Granard in London to suggest that she should inspect the most desirable mansions on their lists. Taking time by the forelock they have forwarded her plans and particulars from their books.

It is known that Lady Granard likes the position of Park Lane, which she regards as the most desirable part of London because of its proximity to the park. This has raised hopes in the minds of those interested in the late Alfred Bell's house in Park Lane, a mansion which so many American millionairesses have inspected only to find it did not suit their requirements. Nevertheless it is a most desirable abode, commanding a beautiful view of Hyde park. It has been at least three if not more years in the market, possibly because no one but a millionaire can afford to keep it up. On the ground floor is a suite of five big reception rooms out of which is the winter garden with its exquisite electric fountain said to be the finest of its kind in Europe. There are nearly 20 bedrooms. Mrs. Marshall Field, Jr., now Mrs. Drummond, was once on the point of buying it. There are infinite possibilities for making it one of the finest houses in the Lane, although its height is limited to two stories to meet the exigencies of the laws of "ancient lights." Some time ago $1,000,000 was being asked for it. Now it is thought half that sum would buy it. This is owing to the great depreciation in the value of town houses just now, half of the best parts of London being in the market.

SUPERSTITIOUS BRITISHERS.

Lord and Lady Granard will for the present occupy 37 Charles street, which is Lord Dartmouth's unpretentious little abode. The story goes here that Mr Ogden Mills intends to present his daughter with $1,250,000 either to buy or build a London mansion, thus following the example of Mr. Vanderbilt, who presented a similar figure to his daughter, the Duchess of Marlborough, for the purchase of the site and the building of Sunderland House. Hundreds of Britishers have superstitious about house building for themselves and in no circumstances will they be induced to do it. It is said that those who build rarely live to occupy such homes, and if they do there are other troubles. To the fact that Sunderland House was erected by the duchess is attributed by many the Marlborough domestic differences. This is no doubt the worst kind of nonsense but the superstitious point to the fact as an illustration of their theory.

TALK OF THE COUNTY.

J. J. Van Alen has succeeded in carrying out the threat he made when he took Rushton Hall, namely, to be regarded before many years as the most important man in Northamptonshire. He made this announcement because some of the county families, who are of the oldest stock in the kingdom were at first inclined to question before they called on the American millionaire. Now, all these blue-blooded aristocrats have to take a back seat for the owner of Rushton Hall carries all before him. The magnificence of his entertainments, the uniqueness of his stud, the generosity of his charity have all been the talk of the county wherein he has succeeded in making himself the most popular man. He employs largely and he pays handsomely.

Although he is only renting Rushton, he has spent an immense fortune upon it, estimated variously at from $250,000 to $750,000. He has been entertaining there troops of American guests, including the Duke and Duchess of Manchester and their children. A whole floor of the house was placed at their disposal with day and night nurseries for Lord Mandeville and his brother and sister. The chef at Rushton is paid $5,000 per annum. He is a negro who has been trained in Paris and elsewhere and is an accomplished chemist as well as a cook. When he was engaged by Mr. Van Alen it was difficult to find white servants to work with him so the master imported several blacks and seems to have solved the problem. This black chef is a howling swell and has a suite of rooms to himself and a motor car. He is devoted to his master and often goes abroad with him, for Mr. Van Alen who is fastidious in matters appertaining to the table has become so accustomed to his cooking that he does not fancy any one else's.

When the Rushton estate was in the market early in the sixties, it was very nearly purchased for the present king, then Prince of Wales, but there was an idea that too much money would have to be spent upon it to make it fit for the requirements of the heir to the throne who was not then in a position to stand the outlay. There is a well wooded park of nearly 400 acres. The house dates from 1595.

DUCHESS AS AUTHORESS.

The duchess of Marlborough will shortly join the ranks of novelists with a novel which is said to be absorbing, at her spare moments. If what her friends say is true, she will have a great deal to say in it on certain social problems and situations on which she feels very keenly. For the past few years, indeed, ever since the days when she was the very first to interest Mayfair in Plato she has become a close student of human nature and literature. She is credited with being very desirous of unraveling domestic problems and putting things on a new basis with more privileges for women. Those who know her best are deploring the fact that she has of late been taking life so seriously. In England, at all events, it is not the fashion to be serious and a novel with a purpose is dull reading and even when its frontispiece is emblazoned with a ducal coronet does not find readers. This was forcibly shown in the novel written by the Duchess of Sutherland, which was surely the cleverest and dullest book issued for many a day. The first edition was never exhausted.

INTERESTING DIVORCE.

Mrs. Elsie French Vanderbilt has been greatly feted on the continent, notably in Paris, where she stayed on her way south to buy frocks. She has now shaken off a good deal of the depression which she suffered for a long time after her domestic troubles. Is looking extremely pretty and is wearing wonderful gowns and jewels. Suitors by the dozen pursue her, but she says she will not marry again—a statement which is doubted. She takes every precaution to be chaperoned as carefully as a young girl, never going anywhere alone. People call her a prude, though the nicer section adult she is wise to be careful, for women who divorce their husbands, however innocent they themselves may be, are always more or less open to remark. Speaking to someone lately, Mrs. Vanderbilt remarked:

"I have the privileges of a girl without her restrictions, and the knowledge of a widow, so there is a good deal to be envied in my position. I never valued freedom as I do now."

Mrs. Vanderbilt will spend part of the London season with her sister, Lady Cheylesmore.

LADY MARY.