Germany's New Bismarck

THE Moroccan dispute has served to bring to the fore a new and bold diplomatist in Europe, Alfred von Kiderlin-Waechter, chief of Germany's foreign office. Big diplomacy usually means storms, and Kiderlin seems to have a passion for raising worrying questions.

Bismarck once said, "Europe's greatest diplomat is he who to contemporaries is always 'making trouble.'" The Moroccan situation attested Kiderlin's genius at making trouble.

When he was born in 1852 Kiderlin's family was not even noble. His father was a mere "bourgeois" director of a Stuttgart bank, who married a noble lady named Waechter, so that the family adopted the semiaristocratic name Kiderlin-Waechter. "Waechter" means "watcher out," and Kiderlin-Waechter shows himself an excellent watcher out.

Young Kiderlin fought as a volunteer in the war of 1870-71 and afterward entered Tubingen university. Since then he has been secretary of embassy in St. Petersburg and in Paris and councilor of embassy at Constantinople. His first chance came in 1888, when he was taken by Kaiser Wilhelm on his first visit to St. Petersburg, Stockholm and Copenhagen. He picked up tremendous knowledge during his three years at the Russian court, and he surprised the kaiser by speaking the Russian language fluently. He rendered services all around and made a strong impression on young Wilhelm, who was already looking out for promising underlings. From that day Kiderlin has been looked upon as the kaiser's friend, and Wilhelm II. stood by him when he was bitterly attacked by enemies.

During Kiderlin's long stay at Bukarest a scandal developed. In 1909 the Berlin newspapers got hold of the

BARON VON KIDERLIN-WAECHTER.

story and printed it. Kaiser Wilhelm's answer was to remove Kiderlin from Bucharest, but to promote him to Berlin to manage the foreign office in place of Von Schoen, who had gone away on a "diplomatic illness," caused by his indiscretions in connection with the kaiser interview in a London newspaper.

November, 1909, saw Kiderlin's first appearance in the reichstag. He made a bad impression, and his maiden speech was met with general laughter. Kiderlin took the ridicule good naturedly and remarked that the time would come when the laugh would be with him. He was right, for when a year ago Schoen was transferred as ambassador to Paris Kiderlin was summoned a second time from Bukarest, and this time to stay.

Kiderlin immediately showed that he was a courageous man. He did not hesitate even to oppose his friend Kaiser Wilhelm. This was over relations with Russia. When Wilhelm II. came to the throne Germany was allied with Austria and Italy, as now, but she had also a "covering" treaty with Russia, which Bismarck had secretly concluded and afterward divulged. In this covering treaty Germany and Russia gave each other a guarantee of security in case either side was attacked. Kaiser Wilhelm took the view that this treaty was a mistake, and his first act after he came to the throne was to refuse to renew it. He adopted an anti-Russian policy. The immediate result was the Franco-Russian alliance against Germany, and the final result was the Anglo-Franco-Russian entente.

Germans generally never greatly feared the triple entente, but they desired nevertheless to break it up. This was Kiderlin-Waechter's first achievement. He told the kaiser straightly that his action in estranging Russia was a mistake and that the Bismarckian neutrality agreement must be revived. And this Kiderlin carried through. At the Potsdam meeting between kaiser and czar an agreement was come to which, in addition to regulating Russo-German relations in Persia and Asia Minor, contained Russian and German pledges of mutual peace.

It is a question whether Kiderlin will succeed in intimidating France or be intimidated by France, backed by England. Those who know him back him. If he wins out Europe may prepare for further crises.

GREAT MAP FACTORY.

Geological Survey Turns Out an Enormous Number.

The greatest official mapmaking establishment in the country at present is the United States geological survey. In constructing the huge topographic and geologic maps of the United States every detail of the work is done by the survey, from the work of the topographers who make the maps in the field down through the various stages of drafting, lettering, editing, engraving and lithographic printing in many colored inks. There is practically no compilation about the geological survey maps. They are based on surveys made on the ground, and the office work consists simply in putting them into form for issuance to the public. They depict most faithfully the characteristics of the areas surveyed.

Every year with the coming of the open field season numerous survey parties hurry away from the Washington office to the four quarters of the United States, as well as to Alaska, and the result of their season's work is the topographic and geologic mapping of tens of thousands of square miles of all sorts of country, ranging from the most forbidding swamps and morasses to the loftiest of the glacier covered mountains of the Rockies and the high Sierras and including the most valuable mineral deposits of the nation.

While these parties are thus traversing untrodden fields the survey engraving and printing plant throughout the summer, as in fact through all the year, is turning out hundreds of thousands of copies of the results of the previous year's field work. In a single midsummer month this year the survey plant printed 102,404 topographic maps, 5,345 geologic folios, each containing many maps, and 111,170 copies of other geologic maps, charts, etc. Besides its own maps, a great number of maps are also printed by the survey engraving division for other branches and departments of the government.

PETRIFIED TREES.

Three Prehistoric Giants Discovered In California.

Three petrified redwood trees that have been pronounced the very largest in the world that have thus far been discovered have just been uncovered from the debris of the mountain side only a short distance from the famous Bohemian club grove, in Sonoma county, Cal. This point is near the little town of Occident. One of these prehistoric monsters, which make the pyramids of Egypt modern by comparison in their ages, measures twenty three feet in diameter and is 350 feet in length. The other two petrified trees are thirteen and twelve feet in diameter, respectively.

The very largest petrified trees yet discovered, near Calistoga, Sonoma county, Cal., are only twelve feet in diameter. These three trees lie on a wooded hill pointing due north and south. The petrifaction is most remarkable, the grain of the wood and in one of them the decaying heart being very plainly discernible. Surrounding these petrified trees is standing a forest of very large redwoods. However, all of the standing trees are dead. The owner of the land on which these three great petrifactions lie is now having the debris all cleared away so as to fully expose the giant trunks, and an iron railing will protect them.—Scientific American.

Fish Avoid Turbines.

The belief that factories may be very destructive to fish through their turbines seems to be modified by recent experience. Nearly a score of years ago Sir Thomas Brady expressed the opinion that few fry survive an encounter with a turbine, and his experiments tended to prove that most of those passing through are killed. A Scotch investigator now finds that young and old fish may at least easily avoid the turbines. Not less than twenty experiments with trout and salmon have been reported by Professor McIntosh of the marine laboratory at St. Andrews, and one of the striking results was the ease with which trout swam about the turbine pits without being drawn into the vortex caused by the action of the turbines. They seemed quite capable of avoiding being injured except in case of some special accident. Under good conditions they could swim out of the turbine pits and pass up stream to seek some safe way of getting by the turbines.

A Walking Machine.

Professor Hele-Shaw predicts that, inasmuch as men and animals move upon the angle joint in a way quite superior to that of the rolling of a wheel, the time will come when a mechanical walking machine will be invented to move over parts of the earth where roads to not exist or are still in evil condition. He thinks that the higher his standard of locomotion becomes and the more he improves the roads the more man will feel the need of such a machine, which may possibly move at a speed of twenty miles an hour. There already exists a kind of pedaled wheel for heavy automobile engines, which progresses by steps instead of by rolling.

Many Colored Maps.

The engraving division of the United States geological survey printed during the fiscal year ending June 30 last 7,283,894 geologic, topographic and other maps, many of them in several colors, each requiring a separate impression. Some of the geologic maps require as many as twenty printings. The total number of printings during the year's work was probably not less than 45,000,000 or 50,000,000.

MRS. OGDEN MILLS.

She Plans to Limit Exclusive Society Set to One Hundred and Fifty.

Not 400, but 150, will comprise the socially elect of the future, according to plans formed by Mrs. Ogden Mills. Upon her return from France, whither she went to attend the wedding of her son, Ogden Livingston Mills, and Miss Margaret Rutherford, daughter of Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, Mrs. Mills is expected to resume her social feud with Mrs. John R. Drexel of Philadelphia and to renew her efforts to compress the social list to the 150 she considers adequate. If successful, Mrs. Mills will become the recognized social

MRS. OGDEN MILLS.

leader of Newport, a position which has been vacant since the death of Mrs. Astor.

The social rivalry between Mrs. Mills and Mrs. Drexel has been intense this summer. Mrs. Drexel has strong allies in many of the younger people, and she has been active in entertaining all season. Six dances and many dinners and luncheons are included in her list of entertainments already given, and others are to follow.

Earlier in the summer Mr. Drexel, it is understood, gave his wife $200,000 as an entertaining fund, and she has disbursed this with a lavish hand. Fairholm, the Drexel estate on Ochre Point, opposite Mrs. Vanderbilt's the Breakers, all summer long has been the headquarters of the younger set.

Mrs. Mills applied the 150 idea to the recent dance she gave at her place on the cliffs for her son-in-law and daughter, Earl and Countess Granard, the most exclusive entertainment held in Newport in many years. Mrs. Mills, with her daughters, Countess Granard and Mrs. Henry C. Phipps, wrote the cards for the 150 persons invited.

BEN JOHNSON OF KENTUCKY.

Congressman Is a Fatalist and a Most Interesting Character.

Representative Ben Johnson of Kentucky, who recently gained the distinction of being the first member of congress to fly an aeroplane, is a most interesting character. First of all, he is a fatalist. "What is written is written" is his creed and "what shall be" his belief.

Photo by American Press Association.

BEN JOHNSON.

He would be perfectly happy to go up in a flying machine in a hurricane, convinced that if it happened to be his time to die he would die then and there and that if it was not he would live through anything the elements had to offer. He has often told his friends that if he knew death were sitting at his elbow, intending to pay a call in five minutes, he would not even raise his hand to prevent the visit.

In Kentucky Mr. Johnson identified himself with the law and order element long before he came to congress and made himself particularly obnoxious to folks on the other side. One afternoon four men met Mr. Johnson and, shoving four wide muzzled guns up against his chest, ordered him to get out of town in two hours or suffer the consequences.

"You are too generous," said Mr. Johnson as he began shooting. He killed two of the four, seriously wounded one, and the other ran away.

"If it had been written that I should be killed then," he said afterward, "I would have been killed; otherwise there was no chance for me to be harmed."

It was only a few weeks ago, just before the end of the session, when Mr. Johnson was journeying down from the capitol on a Pennsylvania avenue car with a Democratic colleague from the south who became mixed up in a row with a big colored man. Mr. Johnson's little colleague punched the negro in the nose and was about to be annihilated when Mr. Johnson jumped to his feet, tapped the negro on the shoulder and said, "Vanish." The colored man jumped through a window taking the glass with him.

Mr. Johnson is a six footer, spare and angular.

SEEKING STOLEN PAINTING.

French Detective Got Wrong Clue to "Mona Lisa."

FOR hours the French sleuth had followed the man through devious highways and byways, the unsuspecting fellow slouching along with his canvas roll held tightly under his arm.

"Aha," hissed the smiling detective, "I have heem at ze last!"

He came a little closer. Spots of paint were distinctly visible on the canvas roll.

The sleuth sprang forward and snatched away the package.

"I ar-r-rest you," he dramatically cried, "for ze theft of ze gr-r-reat 'Mona Lisa!'"

The suspect stared at the sleuth, and the sleuth stared at the unrolled canvas.

"Monsieur," said the suspect calmly, "I will thank you to return to me my overalls!"

And taking the canvas garment from the detective's nerveless fingers he continued along the road to Passy.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Dangerous Story.

A Yale undergraduate has been having a fairly lively time of it during his summer vacation and when the allowance has not been keeping schedule time.

He was invited out to dinner with his mother, and he was seen to get a bit nervous when she began one of her favorite stories. This concerned the burning of their home, on which occasion the son's watch, left on a bureau, was found ticking in the ruins after the house had been destroyed.

At the conclusion of the story the college boy jumped up abruptly and left the room with his handkerchief over his face as if suddenly seized with nosebleed. He did not return for several minutes, by which time the conversation drifted.

After dinner the "undergrad's" chum asked the significance of the move.

"I'll tell you, but nobody else," said he. "When mother told that story I was afraid she was going to ask me to show the watch."—Chicago Post.

The Appearance of Evil.

"Sister Henderson," said Deacon Hypers, "you should avoid even the appearance of evil."

"Why, deacon, what do you mean?" asked Sister Henderson.

"I observe that on your sideboard you have several cut glass decanters and that each of them is half filled with what appear to be ardent spirits."

"Well, now, deacon, it isn't anything of the kind. The bottles look so pretty on the sideboard that I just filled them halfway with some floor stain and furniture polish, just for appearances."

"That's why I'm cautioning you, sister," replied the deacon. "Feeling a trifle weak and faint, I helped myself to a dose from the big bottle in the middle."—London Telegraph.

Danger In Delay.

Men who admire many girls and hesitate too long in making a selection are liable to see the whole flock fly south.—Spokane Spokesman-Review.

A Valuable Man.

"Yes, he had some rare trouble with his eyes," said the celebrated oculist. "Every time he went to read he would read double."

"Poor fellow," remarked the sympathetic person. "I suppose that interfered with his holding a good position?"

"Not at all. The gas company gobbled him up and gave him a lucrative job reading gas meters."—Lippincott's.

He Knew His English.

"Then I'm to tell the firm," the bill collector said, making a memorandum in his notebook, "that you'll probably settle this account next week?"

"Well, I'd hardly put it that way," hesitatingly answered the other. "'Probably' is a pretty strong word; better make it 'possibly.'"—Chicago Tribune.

Sometimes Happens.

Friend—You took your son into your establishment a few months ago to teach him the business, I understand. How did he turn out?

Business Man (wearily)—Great success. He's teaching me the business now.—Toledo Blade.

Not of the Smart Set.

Indignant Mother—Don't you ever dare to play with the cat next door again. You know very well that she has no license.

Our Restaurants.

"Why, the meat and potatoes are quite cold."

"Yes, sir; you would have done better to have ordered a sandwich at this time of day, but you particularly asked for something hot!"—London Opinion.

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