

THE GERMAN PREMIER

Personality of Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, the New Chancellor.

RESERVED AND THOUGHTFUL.

Prince von Bulow's Successor is Emperor William's College Friend and Has Been Called "the Philosopher Statesman"—A Man of Convincing Thought and Substance.

Dr. Theobald von Bethmann-Hollweg, former secretary of the interior and vice chancellor, who was recently appointed by the kaiser chancellor of the German empire in succession to Prince von Bulow, is a college friend of Emperor William II. They were fraternity brothers in the Borussia corps at Bonn, and during the entire reign of William Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg often has advised his majesty. But he has shown a disinclination to accept high office. He is a man of reserved and thoughtful habits and has been called "the philosopher statesman."

Natural and Simple in Bearing.

He is a tall man with a long face, emphasized by a small, dark, pointed beard. Emperor William often has found rest and comfort in Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg's repose of manner and agreeable conversation, and he is one of the few frequenters of the court whose bearing toward his majesty is natural and simple.

Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg is of Jewish origin. The Bethmann family left Holland two centuries ago on ac-



DR. THEOBALD VON BETHMANN-HOLLWEG.

count of his religion and settled in Frankfurt, where the men engaged in banking. His great-grandmother married John James Hollweg, who added his wife's name to his own. His grandfather was the first member of the family to enter public service. He became a professor of jurisprudence at the Bonn university and received a patent of nobility for his learning. Later he was made a member of the Prussian diet and became active in the constitutional agitation of the forties, and ten years later he was appointed to the Liberal cabinet as minister of education.

Often Rode With the Kaiser.

Prince von Bulow's successor is fifty-three years old. In youth he studied law, always the first step to a public career, and was appointed assistant judge. Before he was thirty years old he was made district governor of Ober-Barnim and later became provincial president of Potsdam. For three years there he saw much of his majesty, and the two took long walks and rides together. It was the doctor's custom to ride out with his majesty in an old tweed suit of sober cut, and he always selected a quiet horse.

Following his sojourn at Potsdam Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg's promotion was rapid. He became president of the government of Bromberg and president of the province of Brandenburg, from which post he took up the portfolio of Prussian minister of the interior. He followed Posadowsky as imperial minister and showed in parliament his powers of plain and effective statement. He is without the graces of expression and the wit of Prince von Bulow, but is a man of convincing thought and substance.

Prepared Important Laws.

Since he became minister of the interior Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg has distinguished himself by preparing an imperial insurance law and a law controlling a right of assemblage, both of which passed the reichstag.

Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg in his political principles is a mild Conservative, but he is most particular in the application to himself of the traditional policy that the servants of the crown must be nonpartisan. While he was district governor of Bromberg the Conservative interests sought to use his influence in a local election, and he explained indignantly, "I am an administrative official, not an election agent."

Prince von Bulow recently said of the new chancellor, "He is a very able man and of a profound nature."

Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg possesses an excellent knowledge of the English language and is a student of American affairs.

GLIMPSES OF PERSIA'S SHAH.

Nationalists' Chief Opponent Is Largely Russian in Taste and Looks.

Mohammed Ali, the present shah of Persia, who is said to have taken refuge in the Russian legation at Teheran from the attacks of the Nationalists, succeeded the late shah, Muzaffar-ed-Din, in January, 1907. He was born in 1872 and was the favorite son of his father. When the Nationalists in the latter part of his father's reign started a movement for a constitution the heir apparent was their chief opponent. The display of force made by the Constitutionalists, however, forced the late shah to grant their demands.

During his father's reign Mohammed Ali served first as provincial governor over part of the Persian dominions and subsequently as regent. His father had practically given up ruling the domain during his last illness, and the affairs of state were handled by the son. In these posts Mohammed Ali showed keen intelligence and ability.

Mohammed is largely Russian in taste and appearance. He has kept Russian counselors around him, and he appointed Lieutenant Colonel Liahkoff, a Russian officer, to command his troops. In doing so he evidently looked to the Russian government for support to keep him in power. He made treaties by which Russia and England were pledged to act in unison in all matters concerning Persia and as a result found both countries ready to help him with loans.

Mohammed Ali has always feared Turkish aggression and the movement for constitutional government alike. He allowed parliament to meet, but soon got into trouble with it. According to the Persian constitution, the parliament had the right to choose and dismiss all cabinet officers. Accordingly, after some trouble, the shah's ministers, much against his will, were dismissed for some act which did not accord with parliament's views.

The quarrel between the shah and parliament was aggravated by a plot in which one of his brothers was implicated, together with several important members of the Constitutional parliament. Two bombs were thrown at the shah while he was riding in February, 1908, but both missed him. He considered parliament accessory to this attack and called upon it to give up the guilty members. This demand was met with open defiance, and the advisability of the shah's deposition was openly discussed.

The shah withdrew from his palace and intrenched himself on the outskirts of Teheran, sending Colonel Liahkoff with a body of royal troops to bombard the parliament building. Parliament was dispersed, and the constitution was withdrawn.

AUTO IN SAHARA DESERT.

First Trip Excited Genuine Curiosity. Arab Chief Delighted With a Ride.

The first automobile journey in the Sahara desert was recently made by Edward E. Ayer of the Field museum, in Chicago, and Mrs. Ayer. Among the incidents was the acquaintance of the chief of nomads, who was given a seat in the car to insure pacific relations. The car was shipped from Paris to Algiers. After skirting northern Africa Mr. Ayer says:

"We kept our course south over the desert to the oasis of Biskra, where we found growing 100,000 date palms. At Biskra began the 150 mile trip toward the heart of the desert. Over the barren desert we urged our car to Toungat."

"This journey over the sands and rocks was a pioneering effort, so far as a big touring car was concerned. We were forced to carry strips of matting, each thirty feet in length, which could be stretched before the machine when we came to reaches of soft sand."

"The automobile excited the most genuine curiosity. I remember in particular one Arab chief who rode for a long time on his beautiful horse at the side of the car. His hand followed not far in the rear. Finally we suggested that he dismount and ride with us. This he did with every display of pleasure. We speeded the car along, and he grinned with all the delight of a child grasping a new toy."

Sewell Ford's 1,500 Mile Trip in Auto.
An automobile tour of 1,500 miles without touching a tire or experiencing engine trouble is the good luck record established by Sewell Ford, the author, living at Hackensack, N. J., who recently returned from his first long trip in his new touring car. Mr. Ford and family spent four weeks on the road, stopping for some time in Boston and vicinity and visiting the various seashore resorts as far north as Portland, Me., then making an inland detour that took them almost into the White mountains. The return was made by way of Boston, Springfield, Hartford and New Haven in a quick run of two days.

A Rare Display of Native Wood.

A portion of the native wood exhibit of Pacific county, Wash., has been shipped to the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition at Seattle, Wash. It consists of a magnificent library table made of fir and finished in the natural wood, made by Mr. Schenk of South Bend, Wash., who has been offered \$150 for the table; one spruce plant, fifteen feet long, five feet wide, two inches thick and highly polished; one fir plank, fifteen feet long, sixty-six inches wide and two inches thick. Neither of these planks is marred by a flaw of any description. There are also two other smaller tables made by Mr. Schenk.

SCHOOL FOR INDUSTRY

Freeport, Ill., Trying a Trade Between Factory and Lessons.

PUPILS PAID FOR THEIR WORK

One Week Boys Labor Over the Machines and the Next Over Their Desks, Getting a Training to Fit Them For the Commercial World. Radical Educational Change.

The Citizens' Commercial association of Freeport, Ill., has, in connection with the school board, brought about an innovation in industrial education. The plan adopted is to permit students in the high school to work one-half of the time in factories.

The boys work in pairs, one boy in the factory one week and in high school the next week, the other boy of the pair alternating—that is, the boy in school this week goes to the factory on Saturday afternoon and takes the work in hand that the other boy has been doing all the week so that he can take it up quickly Monday morning without encroaching too much upon the time of the foreman. The boys are paid 10 cents an hour the first year, 11 cents the second year and 12½ cents the third year, and they are given full credit for their work in high school.

Good Progress Made in School.

It is said that boys working in this way pass their examinations as creditably as those spending their full time in school. The reasons given are that because of their factory experience their minds are more receptive and they comprehend the school work quickly. Then they have their evenings to prepare recitations, and as only the more ambitious boys elect such a course they make good progress.

The plan pleases the boys because it gives them a chance to work with tools and to earn something. Most boys when they arrive at the age of fourteen years wish to earn their own money. This gives them an opportunity to do so and to remain in school at the same time. It pleases the mothers because, while they appreciate the necessity of the boys going to work, they feel that it is a rather tender age to tie them down to hard work every day.

It pleases the fathers because they feel that the boys ought to be engaged in some productive employment, while still they desire them better prepared intellectually. It pleases the manufacturers because it provides boys who have brains and ambition beyond the average, for only the more energetic boys will choose a course of this kind.

It pleases the school board because it keeps boys in school for the four year period, something that is very difficult to do. It pleases the labor organizations by helping the boys who need help most.

It is beneficial to the boys in another way. If a boy don't go to work when he is about fourteen years old he becomes too proud or too lazy to work. It is a well known fact that the most important business men were brought up to work when they were young; that a large proportion of tramps and irresponsibles are recruited from villages where boys have no chores to attend to before school and nothing to do after school.

Interest in the Home Hearth.

Still another object is to bring a closer relation between the high school and the manufacturing interests of Freeport for the purpose of interesting the boys in their home city instead of pointing them away to some other city as soon as they leave school. The plan will help to solve the apprentice difficulties, while directing the minds of the brightest boys along mechanical lines, something after the plan of the German educational system.

The general plan is for the boys to start work in the factory in vacation. They choose the factory that suits them best, and the employers try them out. The boys try the work to learn whether they like it or not.

Mr. Shearer of the Citizens' Commercial association, who was principally instrumental in introducing the plan, says:

"The Freeport plan means a radical change in educational matters, one that is about as far away from the old time classical system as it is possible to get. Specializing in high school to such an extent is an innovation which points to radical changes in our educational methods, leaning well over toward the manufacturing interests of the United States."

"No radical change in the curriculum of the Freeport high school is contemplated at present, but in all probability the system will be extended along special lines looking to the education of young men and young women to fit them for the special lines of work chosen by them."

"Technical studies will be used as mind trainers just as effectually as the Greek and Latin of our old time pedagogues, and the boys will imbibe something of practical value while they are still young."—Kansas City Star.

A Marathon Dance.

Two couples of Franklin, Pa., danced continuously the other night for ten hours and fifteen minutes. It was a Marathon dance, and thirteen couples started at 9:45 o'clock, but most of them dropped out before 2 o'clock the next morning, and at 5 o'clock Sylvester Rich and Gertrude Monagan and Frank Sheehan and Jennie Sackard were the only ones left. They danced until 8 and agreed to call it a draw and divide the purse of \$10.

THE PILLORY.

An English Writer's Reflections Upon Public Punishment.

Perhaps one of the few really democratic institutions ever created was the pillory. I do not say that it was a humane institution, though it was certainly more humane than our system of silent imprisonment. But being humane has nothing to do with being democratic. You may have humane and inhumane democracies, just as you may have humane and inhumane despots.

The point is that the pillory was a real appeal to the people. If it was cruel it was because the people were cruel or perhaps justly indignant. The people threw dead cats (the less humanitarian, I believe, threw live cats), but they could throw bouquets and crowns of laurel if they liked. Sometimes they did. The argument about the old public punishments cuts both ways. The publicity was an additional risk for the government as well as an additional risk for the prisoner, and this is especially true of the executions for treason. It was no small thing that half a million men might possibly treat as a martyr a man whom the king was treating as a murderer, that the prince had to concede to every obscure ruffian exactly what that ruffian probably wanted most—fame.—G. K. Chesterton in London News.

THE KANGAROO.

Its Hind Legs Are a Most Formidable Pair of Weapons.

The kangaroo seems poorly provided by nature with offensive weapons. His powers of biting are not formidable, and his fore paws are so weak as to seem almost rudimentary members of little use. His hind legs are muscular and strong, but are apparently of use only to assist flight from his enemies. On these hind legs is found, however, a most formidable weapon in the shape of a long claw as hard as steel and sharp as a chisel—as terrible to dogs as the scythe chariots of the ancients were to their enemies. When run down the kangaroo, placing a tree behind him to protect his rear, will seize in his fore paws such indiscreet dogs as rush up to him and, holding them firmly, disembowel them with a sweep of his sickle-like claws.

Even the hunters themselves thus caught in the viselike grip of an "old man" kangaroo of the larger breeds have sometimes suffered in like manner and have now and then taken their own turn at being hunted as the enraged animals turned upon them and attacked their horses with blind ferocity.—St. James' Gazette.

The Colossus of Rhodes.

The gigantic Colossus of Rhodes was one of the seven wonders of the world. It was erected in honor of the sun by Charles of Lindus, a disciple of Lysippus, and was thrown down by an earthquake about 224 B. C.

The figure stood upon two moles, a leg extended on each side of the harbor. A winding staircase led to the top of the figure, from out of the eyes of which were visible the coast of Syria and the ships sailing on the coast of Egypt. The colossi were the peculiar characteristic of eastern art and were of common occurrence, many of them being over sixty feet in height. The most celebrated is the statue of Memnos, on the plain of Thebes, described by the historian Strabo.

A Skeleton in Every Closet.

The expression "There is a skeleton in every closet" is said to have its origin in the fact that a soldier once wrote to his mother, who complained of her unhappiness, to have some sewing done for him by some one who had no cares or troubles. At last the mother found a woman who seemed to have no troubles, but when she told her business the woman took her to a closet containing a skeleton and said: "Madam, I try to keep my troubles to myself, but every night I am compelled by my husband to kiss this skeleton, who was once his rival. Think you, then, I can be happy?"

Alphabetical Time.

An English man, Higgins & Dodd, finding that there were twelve letters in their name, placed a great clock over their door with the letters on its face instead of numerals.

They waited anxiously for days, weeks, hoping for some return, but not a soul took notice of the clock. At last, amid excitement behind the office window, a man was seen to halt in the street and gaze at the clock, puzzled.

Slowly he came to the door, entered and drawled, "Say, is it half past Higgins or a quarter to Dodd?"—T. P.'s Weekly.

Her Bargain.

Wife—Oh, this is awful! These curtains I got at the bargain sale don't match our furniture. Hubby—Return 'em. Wife—I should say not—cheap as I got them? We must have some new furniture at once!—Cleveland Leader.

The Hero.

"So Bliggins has written a historical novel?"

"Yes," answered Miss Cayenne, "Who is the hero of the book?"

"The man who has undertaken to publish it."—Washington Star.

To Save Space.

Jack—Hello, Tom, old man, got your new flat fitted up yet? Tom—Not quite. Say, do you know where I can buy a folding toothbrush?—Boston Transcript.

When you have written a wrathful letter put it in the stove.—Lincoln.

IT WAS OVERDONE.

By OSCAR COX.
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"I say, Trixie, if I could depend upon you I'd take you down to Edgemere, father's country seat by the sea, for the week's end."

"What do you mean by 'depending upon me?'"

"Why, to behave yourself, of course. Father and mother are both straitlaced people, and you'd have to go incog. If it came out that I'd taken down a high kicker from the Eden theater I'd get myself disinherited."

"I see. Rest assured that you can trust me, Bertie. Haven't I played Mrs. Dismal? Do you suppose an actress who can personate characters on the boards will fall before an audience of two old people in a private house?"

"All right. We'll try it on. But don't overdo it."

The next day Albert Kettleton's mother received a note from him that he would bring down Miss Agnes Darr, a young lady he had met in charitable work. Since there would be a meeting in the slums Saturday night they would not arrive till after midnight. The meeting referred to was the evening performance at the theater, Beatrice La Fontaine, alias Agnes Darr, not "coming off" till 10:15.

Mrs. Kettleton, not considering it proper that a young lady should arrive at her house without being received by the hostess, sat up until the couple's arrival.

"I'm so glad," said the fond mother, "that Bert has fallen in with such good people in the city. And to think that you have been working with the poor this very evening! Of course you're hungry. I've a supper set for you in the dining room."

"All right, mother," said Albert; "you go to bed. It's too bad to have kept you up so late."

Miss Darr passed into the dining room. Albert was behind with his mother, who asked in a whisper if he thought it proper that she should leave them up together. He assured her that it would be a slight to watch a slum worker, and the old lady went to bed.

No wines or liquors having been brought forth, Bert drew from his secret stock in his own private closet, and if his mother had returned half an hour later she would have seen strange sights.

After breakfast the next morning, considering their Christian work, the young couple found it impossible to invent an excuse to be absent from family prayers; but, this over, Bert lit a cigar and strolled with the guest to the beach. Before he got away his mother reminded him that the carriage would be ready at 10:30 to take them to church. Not daring to absent themselves, they returned in time and endured the longest sermon of the season. Dinner was at 1 o'clock. Bert tried to smuggle a cocktail into the young lady's room before dining, but failed. The first freedom came about 3 o'clock, when the old couple went upstairs for a siesta.

"Great Scott, Bert," said Trixie, "how long is this going to last?"

"For heaven's sake, hold on to yourself! Any break would ruin me!"

"Are there any more ceremonies?"

"No. Mother may think we'll want to go to church this evening, but we can plead having been up late."

They spent the afternoon on the beach, but the splash of the waves had no soothing effect on the actress. She worked hard during the week and counted on recreation on Sunday. She was not getting it. At tea time the two strolled back to the house, where they found the old couple wearing their usual Sunday evening solemnity. After a long grace a few small, feathery biscuits were served with tea. Miss Darr sighed. She could have eaten all there was on the table. Bert looked at her anxiously. He was fearing a collapse of her patience and a consequent break.

Thus knowing her, he should have watched her more carefully. His mother asked him for half an hour of his time for a chat, and he went up with her to her boudoir, leaving Trixie with a book in the library. When the chat was ended he and his mother came downstairs, treading noiselessly on the thick carpets. Mr. Kettleton had put on his hat for a stroll in the grounds and was standing with his hands in his pockets on the porch. Miss Darr was approaching him from behind.

"Dear girl," remarked the old lady, "I do so love people who devote their lives to others. Is there anything between you two, my dear boy? I hope there is."

The good lady never got a reply to her question. At the moment Trixie, who had come up unheard behind Mr. Kettleton, raised one foot in the air, and the old gentleman's hat went sailing off, landing in a palm beside the porch. When he turned Miss Darr was bent over a rose.

She left Edgemere by the next train. Bert remained for a week vainly trying to give some comfort to the parents he so grossly deceived, then went back to the city. It was another week before he saw the lady whom he had introduced under the name of Agnes Darr, and even then he went to reproach her with bringing upon him a great trouble.

"You knew perfectly well," he said, "that such an act would ruin me. What did you do it for?"

"In the first place, if you and your mother hadn't come along at the wrong time your father wouldn't have known how his hat came off. Besides, it was you who overdid the matter. If you hadn't passed me off as so dreadfully good we could have cut the ceremonies and I wouldn't have got reckless."

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