

EUROPE'S SITUATION.

The True Inwardness of the Matter Explained By Prominent Austrians.

VIENNA FULL OF WAR RUMORS.

How Germany Wishes to Complicate Other Countries to Secure Peace.

PROSPECTS FOR CIVIL STRIFE.

Berliners Look With Horror Upon Anything Likely to Cause a Conflict.

DE LESSEPS BERLIN RECEPTION.

Frenchmen Greatly Pleased With the Gracious Treatment Accorded Him.

MARRIAGE OF MME. NILSSON.

The Paris Municipal Council Shuts Down on Bookmakers—The Latest Spring Fashions—Gaiety at Pau—Other News.

War Gossip From Austria.

VIENNA, March 12.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—Vienna has become for the time being the center of all the war gossip. Tracing these rumors to their origin is hard work, but I have succeeded in locating two or three of the men whose opinions and words have filtered through half a dozen friends and the friends' friends have kept the city interested. Being well informed, those men necessarily, as Vienna goes, too much bound by position to allow interviewing. To avoid suppressing interesting matter, I take, therefore, the alternative of suppressing names.

AMERICA'S WRONG IMPRESSIONS.

Said one of these men to me: "I read the Herald, and once in a while some of the other American papers. What strikes me most as regards American view of the continental situation is that none of you seem to have the least idea of the true inwardness of Russia's relations with Germany. None of you see that Germany does not want to fight Russia, does not want to fight Russia, in fact, wants only to get other nations to do fighting. Austria and Russia, France and Italy—those are the two wars laid out by German diplomats. Very clever work they are doing, too, to bring them about. Consider that Austria is warned that Germany will not aid Austria in any war against Russia, brought on by the Bulgarian question. At the same time there is a note to Russia telling of this warning and dwelling on Germany's total indifference to the manner in which the eastern question is settled. An invitation to Russia, you say. Quite so; in fact, more than an invitation, for our gossip has it that a note, in fact, you might even say a famous, German stormed up and down his room the day after the latest Bulgarian fiasco and swore that if Germany had had such cowardly fools for leaders there would now be no Germany."

HE MEANT THE RUSSIANS.

You think he meant the Russians? Well, I have heard others make the same remark. What is also curious is that Germany, as Germany knows that we must fight Russia if Russia attempts to take Bulgaria. We don't want, but we must. We would split into half a dozen pieces within a year if we did not do so. Does it not occur to you that Germany still dreads Austria almost as much as it dreads Russia, and perhaps even more, a double pleasure in watching an Austro-Russian war? I'll tell you why, Germany dreads Austria. Germany has still to go through a wedding process like that your civil war was for you. It is very far from certain that the South German kingdoms will peacefully ally another Prussian kaiser to rule them and enlarge Berlin at the expense of their petty capitals.

CIVIL WAR ELEMENT.

Why does Russia show delight when you say the old emperor is good for twenty years yet? Because every well informed Prussian dreads a foreign enemy far less than he does internal jealousies. He knows, as we all know, that under the next German kaiser an attempt at secession will be made by one or more German states. Austria does not count for much in European politics, but we are a large factor in German politics. Suppose we choose to endorse the action of any one of the German states which desires to secede from Germany, and perhaps even to join our federation. Germany could whip us most decidedly. I know that. But how about France? Do you suppose France would allow any small German state to be oppressed by Prussia? My dear sir, you little know the innate justice and generosity of France. France would, at any cost of blood and money, help a seceding state from Prussia. France would even go to Berlin to see that the seceder had a fair trial. Yes, France and Austria, aided by a German civil war, could easily get to Berlin. Both nations remember, too, that it would merely be a visit to return Germany's tardy.

GERMANY'S POSITION TOWARDS AUSTRIA.

Germany does not want Austria destroyed. Besides, Germany was once a part of Austria. Germany would not allow Russia to take Vienna. Russia was also told so. A clever idea, that of the Germans, to allow us to be beaten but to guarantee our capital. It greatly increases the activity of the war party here in Vienna. We are to be kept as a barrier against Russia, but so weakened that some time we will ask admission to the German empire—that empire which is, you know, the dream of all good Prussians, and which includes Belgium, Holland, a little of Russia and a good deal of this poor Austria. So we are to fight Russia in furtherance of German plans. I have no doubt we shall do it. It would be a big war, involving both sides and leaving Germany more than ever mistress of Europe.

WHY SHE WANTS PEACE.

Why does Germany desire peace for itself? Any second secretary will tell you that Germany has not yet digested Alsace Lorraine. Besides, Germany was once a part of France. Rich, while the fighting is done by others. What has Germany to gain by war? Territory could not be taken except war with Russia, which Germany will never willingly risk. France is not a threat to Germany as you seem to think. France is the stay and comfort of all our aged German friends. I only wish we had a France as powerless as an enemy, but so all powerful at elections as to give us an overwhelming government majority for three years. I really do not think Germany could be governed if France were not a bogey, always at hand to scare the voters when the springing is opposed. It smacks too much of a military dictatorship. The idea of a France that gets what it wants and the voters say "thank you, Quilpe France and you would

destroy the main spring of the German government. It is a fact, however, that France is now too strong to suit Germany.

HOW ITALY STANDS.

People say that Italy is tempted by the offer of those parts of Italy now in France. That is mere gossip, however. Perhaps Italy is too good to take territory from a neighbor, or too cautious to fight for it. It is true, though, that such a policy would suit Germany very well, as France would thus be weakened and Italy would in the future be bound to Germany by fear of French revenge. Of one thing you may be certain, France will not be too much weakened. It is recognized too well by the German leaders that a little external pressure is needed to keep the German empire in shape. France supplies this.

BISMARCK'S CLEVER TACTICS.

By the way, did you notice how wonderful clever were Bismarck's election tactics? He had a parliament which, in the natural course of events, must be re-elected within ten months and which was then quite sure to contain a hostile majority. Suddenly the old statesman turns politician, appeals to patriotism, and Boulanger talks once or twice about white and, and in a trice has a majority, heart and hand, in the hands of a majority, and a minority, disheartened as to be helpless. It was wonderful. Such a man might almost make a nation of Austro-Hungary.

The gentleman who talked as above is a little bitter against even his own country, but this comes much more from fear for its future than from any diabolicality.

AFFAIRS AT BERLIN.

A Peaceful Feeling Prevails the Official Circles.

BERLIN, March 12.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—De Lesseps' hearty reception at Berlin is having a most excellent effect throughout France. It even encourages a few optimists to hope that it is not a mere dream that the burning questions that now separate the two nations may eventually be settled by a peaceful compromise. But, be that as it may, there is no doubt that the fact of De Lesseps' shaking hands with Kaiser Wilhelm, Bismarck and Von Moltke, has greatly mitigated the bitterness that the very mention of those three names naturally produces in the breasts of all Frenchmen. So, whether De Lesseps has any distinctly diplomatic mission or not, the mere fact of his presence in Berlin amply justifies the wisdom of the French government in having urged him to go there.

STOPPING HORSE-RACE BETTING.

The Paris Municipal Council has just passed a resolution against the bookmakers, have extinguished all attempts at gaiety this week. The Parisians have entered so thoroughly into the excitement of betting on horse racing that they will not be deprived of their holiday amusement without a vigorous protest. The Parisian stopping of betting is a very noisy and very unsympathetic individual. The resolution of the municipal authorities has almost elevated them to the rank of martyrs. I was present Thursday at the Antenne steeple chases where, as already cabled you, the bookmakers struck, and for the first time in the annals of the French turf there was horse racing without betting. It was a cold, windy day, and nobody took the slightest interest in the horses, but gathered around the large coal fireplaces there are on the grounds and admired the toilets of the pretty actresses and demi-mondaines who were out in great numbers to see the expected combat between the police and the bookmakers, who seemed greatly disappointed. Prince de St. Gran, president of the society steeple race, walked about a paddock accompanied by prefet de la Zin and prefet de police. I asked the prince what he thought of horse-racing without betting. He looked kindly and said it was practically impossible to prevent betting. Betting, whether immoral or not, has now become a firmly established custom with the Parisian public. All that can be done will be to regulate it in such a way as to protect the interests of the owners of horses and of the public who pay money to support horse-racing. An amusing incident that will be done if all parties keep their tempers and have patience.

THE END OF GERMAN PEACE.

"Germany will have no war." This is the first axiom among circles which consider themselves politically wise. The light but continuous movements of troops along the French frontier have caused some anxiety, but neither a Russian or French war is anything likely to ensue. It is a matter of terms, therefore it is thought there will be peace, at least so far as Germany is concerned. Those who argue that Germany wishes again to fight France either know nothing of the feelings and wishes of the German people and those great men who rule Germany, or else they are hopelessly deluded. From what I have seen and heard more quickly or more firmly impressed upon those who meet leading Germans than the all-pervading desire of peace. From the kaiser, through the chancellor, down to the bookmaker, all seem to look with horror at anything likely to ensue. It is not, therefore, without cause, that we hear of German nothing, but may lose much, by war; therefore why fight unless compelled to do so? This is the universal feeling as I find it. "Peace at any price, excepting the loss of German honor or German territory," well expresses what has been said publicly and confidentially by every German leader.

THE SECOND REGARDING AUSTRIA.

With brutal kindness, so it is said, Germany told Austria that Germany is not and can never in any way be interested in the eastern question. Austria may fight for Constantinople, but if beaten by Russia must expect no German alliance, indeed, Vienna may be threatened, when Germany would intervene. All this, according to Berlin opinion, was first communicated to Russia and was the consideration for which Russia agreed to refuse the offers of France—that is Russia takes Bulgaria instead of helping France to Alsace-Lorraine.

IT IS AN ALLY.

Point three lies in the belief that Italy will, by her heavy armament and general alertness, prove a valuable ally to Germany, although she will not be relied upon as an ally in actual war. Just what bone is offered to make the Italian growl at the right moment Berlin opinion does not know.

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The Berlin public seldom paid much attention to the reichstag which, since Wednesday's vote on septennate, has shown a split in the opposition. It is considered by the public mainly as a place selected by Prince Bismarck to deliver an occasional important declaration of his policy. So much for the case that the galleries are full or empty according as Bismarck comes or goes. On Thursday Prince Bismarck walked with his son Herbert from the reichstag to his palace on the Wilhelmstrasse. It was quite touching to see the respectful way in which the crowd of people who lined the Wilhelmstrasse, as the chancellor passed. No policeman or guard was near him. There was no jostling nor noise, but the orderly crowd everywhere as he passed showed a respect almost amounting to reverence. Prince Bismarck walked with a firm tread, making occasionally military salutes. He dressed as usual, in a frock coat and a crown prince. For awhile the emperor looked in and chatted with the four M. De Lesseps greatly pleased the Germans by saying that the emperor was younger in appearance than he was twenty years ago. Yesterday M. De Lesseps was received by some scientific men at the Ethnological museum. He is expressed the hope that he did not postpone his visit until the kaiser's birthday, the festivities of which are now being arranged on a scale almost unprecedented. Twenty or thirty kings, princes and grand dukes have already sent word of their coming. The question of precedence among such a mixed crowd of royalties is already puzzling the ablest German diplomat.

QUEEN LOUISE'S BIRTHDAY.

On Thursday was celebrated the anniversary of the birthday of Queen Louise. As usual the graceful statue in the Tuergarten was walked in by beautiful masses of the rarest flowers, while as a background against the evergreen trees were arranged strings of beds of delicate colored flowers serving to outline the statue. In the morning the court

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Point three lies in the belief that Italy will, by her heavy armament and general alertness, prove a valuable ally to Germany, although she will not be relied upon as an ally in actual war. Just what bone is offered to make the Italian growl at the right moment Berlin opinion does not know.

RESPECT FOR BISMARCK.

The Berlin public seldom paid much attention to the reichstag which, since Wednesday's vote on septennate, has shown a split in the opposition. It is considered by the public mainly as a place selected by Prince Bismarck to deliver an occasional important declaration of his policy. So much for the case that the galleries are full or empty according as Bismarck comes or goes. On Thursday Prince Bismarck walked with his son Herbert from the reichstag to his palace on the Wilhelmstrasse. It was quite touching to see the respectful way in which the crowd of people who lined the Wilhelmstrasse, as the chancellor passed. No policeman or guard was near him. There was no jostling nor noise, but the orderly crowd everywhere as he passed showed a respect almost amounting to reverence. Prince Bismarck walked with a firm tread, making occasionally military salutes. He dressed as usual, in a frock coat and a crown prince. For awhile the emperor looked in and chatted with the four M. De Lesseps greatly pleased the Germans by saying that the emperor was younger in appearance than he was twenty years ago. Yesterday M. De Lesseps was received by some scientific men at the Ethnological museum. He is expressed the hope that he did not postpone his visit until the kaiser's birthday, the festivities of which are now being arranged on a scale almost unprecedented. Twenty or thirty kings, princes and grand dukes have already sent word of their coming. The question of precedence among such a mixed crowd of royalties is already puzzling the ablest German diplomat.

QUEEN LOUISE'S BIRTHDAY.

On Thursday was celebrated the anniversary of the birthday of Queen Louise. As usual the graceful statue in the Tuergarten was walked in by beautiful masses of the rarest flowers, while as a background against the evergreen trees were arranged strings of beds of delicate colored flowers serving to outline the statue. In the morning the court

visited the memorial. All day crowds of people passed to and fro before it.

ENLARGING KRIEGER'S FACTORY.

As a kind of warning against too great a certainty about peace comes the news that Krieger's vast cannon factory will be further enlarged to enable it to fill orders.

TALK WITH THE "GRAND FRANCAIS."

This evening I saw M. De Lesseps just after he had had an hour's conversation with Prince Bismarck. M. De Lesseps told me there was no possibility of a war between Germany and France. There had been misunderstandings, but France had behaved so well that these were now cleared up. He then spoke enthusiastically of the extreme cordiality of his reception by every one in Berlin, from the emperor down. M. De Lesseps breakfasted to-day with the crown prince. During his stay in Berlin he has talked with nearly every great personage here. He asked me what he said to his visit to Berlin is so purely personal and unofficial that it is natural that no decoration should be given to him. Besides, he has already the highest Prussian order. He spoke pleasantly of his returning to America when the Panama canal is opened.

PARISIAN POINTS.

De Lesseps' Reception at Berlin—Profitable Betting at Horse Races.

PARIS, March 12.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to the BEE.]—De Lesseps' hearty reception at Berlin is having a most excellent effect throughout France. It even encourages a few optimists to hope that it is not a mere dream that the burning questions that now separate the two nations may eventually be settled by a peaceful compromise. But, be that as it may, there is no doubt that the fact of De Lesseps' shaking hands with Kaiser Wilhelm, Bismarck and Von Moltke, has greatly mitigated the bitterness that the very mention of those three names naturally produces in the breasts of all Frenchmen. So, whether De Lesseps has any distinctly diplomatic mission or not, the mere fact of his presence in Berlin amply justifies the wisdom of the French government in having urged him to go there.

STOPPING HORSE-RACE BETTING.

The Paris Municipal Council has just passed a resolution against the bookmakers, have extinguished all attempts at gaiety this week. The Parisians have entered so thoroughly into the excitement of betting on horse racing that they will not be deprived of their holiday amusement without a vigorous protest. The Parisian stopping of betting is a very noisy and very unsympathetic individual. The resolution of the municipal authorities has almost elevated them to the rank of martyrs. I was present Thursday at the Antenne steeple chases where, as already cabled you, the bookmakers struck, and for the first time in the annals of the French turf there was horse racing without betting. It was a cold, windy day, and nobody took the slightest interest in the horses, but gathered around the large coal fireplaces there are on the