

POLITICAL IMPORT HIDDEN

Significance of the Franco-Italian Friendship Concealed.

All But Placitudes Edited From the Speeches at Toulon—England Anxious for a Policy, Be It Good or Bad—Russia Glad of a New Reaction.

(Special Cablegram—Copyrighted.) LONDON, April 13.—Comedy in high politics is sometimes more interesting than tragedy, and it certainly is a relief to the nerves to get a respite from the European world has been watching this week's flirtation at Toulon with benevolent amusement.

The principal characters have played their parts beautifully. It is only the "supers" or the chorus, as represented by the local French populace, who have failed to do what is expected of them. They have not displayed that made-to-order affection for the Italian visitors which their official superiors and stage managers expect. Their cheers have sometimes been insincere and never had the ring of genuineness.

This is only natural. Diplomacy can change the role of enmity to friendliness overnight, but the popular antipathy to Italians which has been encouraged in southern France for nearly twenty years cannot suddenly be dispelled by a change of the official attitude at Paris. There is no serious danger, however, that the government's new policy toward Italy will meet any strong general opposition in France.

The week's events at Toulon have not thrown the least light on the ultimate purposes of France and Germany. Everything except the merest platitudes has been edited out of all the speeches and other utterances, and the political significance of the recent Franco-Italian compliments and embraces is as well concealed as ever.

Russia is undoubtedly well pleased to have the world's attention diverted for a few days from the Far Eastern embroglio by the Mediterranean drama, and there is no intimation yet as to what her next move will be toward the inevitable goal in Manchuria. The "Times" today plaintively affects to believe that the British commitments to the revolting Czecho-Slovaks, who prevented the signature of the Russo-Chinese treaty, carries the additional significance of the decision of the British Government to protect these Chinese officials in carrying out a similar policy in the future.

One is compelled to fear, however, that the wish is father to the thought on the part of the "Times." British letters of approval bear such a striking resemblance to Emperor William's famous telegram to Mr. Kruger, that the conviction is almost forced that they also lack a sequel.

The public demand on the Government for a policy—any policy rather than no policy—grows stronger every day among all parties and classes in Great Britain. The "Spectator" today expresses the views of the Unionists and Liberals alike when it says: "We cannot disguise from ourselves the fact that we may be reaching a situation in Europe when a definite, even if mistaken, policy will be better than no policy at all. We would infinitely rather come to terms with Russia and make a clear understanding with her than commit ourselves to Japan and the Triple Alliance. But if our statements will not or cannot come to an understanding with Russia, we would rather stand in with the Triple Alliance than do what we appear to be doing now; that is, barking at Russia's heels and giving her the impression that we are her deadliest foe and yet making no arrangements with Russia's European and Far Eastern enemies.

"That is pure foolishness. We get all the odium of an anti-Russian policy and get none of its advantages. We are hated by and fear Russia, and yet if a dual alliance attacked us we should have no support from the Triple Alliance. Rather than withstand Russia in our present feeble and futile way, we should withstand her boldly and strongly. It will be a bad and un-intelligent policy, but anything is better than no policy at all."

SLAIN BY THE MAFIA

Fourteen Men Victims of the So-called Sicilian Assassins in Sicily.

ROME, April 13.—The beginning of the year word was sent from Rome that the Mafia and other societies in Sicily must be stamped out at all cost, and the local authorities were threatened with degradation if they should not do their utmost to suppress them. The Mafia promptly took up the challenge with a result that there has been a carnival of crime in the beautiful island.

Since the beginning of February no fewer than fourteen men have been murdered and each corpse has been found with a paper thrust between its teeth, bearing the words: "Thus the Mafia punishes its traitorous members. The victims were suspected of having given information to the police."

The household of Baron Ignazio Franco, in his castle in the district of Reggio, was alarmed on Monday night by an attempt, apparently of brigands, to force an entrance. The baron and his servants, after hastily arming themselves, started a vigorous fight with the intruders. A few shots were fired at the windows, but without damage on either side, and the supposed bandits proved to be the police.

The captain explained that the authorities had received information that the brigand, Mussolino, had been in the castle for a week as a guest in the servant's hall. While the police still surrounded the castle the building was searched, but there was no trace of the brigand and the police finally retired.

This was apparently the last effort of the police to locate the brigand for the special force drafted in the district has now been withdrawn in the belief that Mussolino has left the country or is waiting at some port for an opportunity to get away.

All outgoing steamers are being thoroughly searched. A few days ago a torpedo boat stopped the steamer *Mellia*, off Messina, and vainly searched for the noted brigand.

11.25 to Baltimore and Return via B. & O. Saturday and Sunday. April 13 and 14, goods for return until following Monday. Tickets good on all trains except local trains.

CHINESE CONVERTS STARVE.

Deplovable Conditions in the Shanai and Honan Provinces.

PEKING, April 13.—There are ten thousand converts to the Protestant faith in the province of Shanai and the majority of them are in great distress. Their purses are empty, their clothes are ragged, and they are actually starving. A wealthy Chinese who is disposed to be friendly toward the missionaries has agreed to advance money enough to relieve the distress if the missionaries give the necessary security.

Shanai is the province where, more than twenty years ago, during the hard times the missionaries distributed over 200,000 tickets among the poor and suffering. Most of this money came from Great Britain. An American missionary named Whiting, who died at that time of famine, was buried with honor at T'ai-yuan-fu, a place of 400,000 people. Whiting had sacrificed forty-four missionaries. It is estimated that three shillings a month for each convert will be sufficient to keep the starving alive.

Similar reports from the northern part of the province of Honan. There is great distress in the city of Chang-te-fu, and it is reported that many families are dying daily of starvation where a small amount of money would keep them alive. Slim contributions for their relief are expected this year. The Boxers are still drilling within the limits of this city with the connivance of the officials. The Boxers who remember the benefits they received in the past desire the missionaries to return, especially the medical missionaries.

The missionaries think, however, that this is impossible at present, as the place is along the line that Emperor Kwang-su will probably take on his return to Peking, and there will be no security there until Emperor establishes a stable government.

The examination of twenty-two officers for promotion from second to first lieutenants was begun yesterday at the Temple of Agriculture.

AN ANTI-HIGH CHURCH FIGHT.

The Introduction of Confession Causes a Protest in Dover.

LONDON, April 13.—Easter tide seems to have brought with it a renewal of the extreme High Church practices which the Archbishop and Bishops at a conference declared illegal and forbidden. It is reported that many churches have gone back to these uses, especially to the ceremonial use of incense. There is naturally renewed agitation on the part of the opponents of the High Church, who are making a special fight against the use of certain rituals to continue anti-ritualist confession and absolution.

The most noteworthy case was at Dover, where the vicar who was the secretary for the preparation of boys for confirmation refused to present to the Bishop boys who refused to confess. The boys, who were of unimpeachable character, were supported by their parents and would not consent to yield to the moral force that was brought to bear upon them. The result was they could not be confirmed.

The vicar and other members of the church protested to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who made a private enquiry, which resulted in the excommunication of the vicar. Last night a crowded indignity meeting was held in the Dover town hall. A resolution was adopted against the introduction of confession, especially as being an essential preliminary to the sacrament of the Eucharist.

It was also submitted that a private enquiry by the Archbishop was inadequate and that a public investigation where witnesses on either side could be produced would be held in the Dover town hall. A resolution was adopted against the introduction of confession, especially as being an essential preliminary to the sacrament of the Eucharist.

ENGLISH VITAL STATISTICS.

The Records for 1900 Completed and Made Public.

LONDON, April 13.—The records of births, marriages, and deaths in the United Kingdom for the year 1900, which is issued today, show that the marriages numbered 262,204, which is the highest rate since 1876, and gives a rate of 16.1 married out of every thousand. The births numbered 2,250,000, or a rate of 25.3 per thousand of the population. The deaths numbered 225,000, or a rate of 18.2 per thousand. Eighty-nine thousand two hundred and thirty-five deaths were due to zymotic diseases and 42,000 to pulmonary phthisis, and 2,121 men and 223 women died of cancer.

This was the first year on record where there has not been a single death from hydrophobia, and this is regarded as a justification of the stringent measures for the muzzling and quarantining of dogs.

LADY COOK'S EXPLANATION.

Will Not Retire, She Says, Until the Rumors Are Quelled.

LONDON, April 13.—Lady Cook, formerly Miss Tennie C. Clavin, said in an interview today that no further reply had been received from the secretary in regard to the exhuming of her husband's body. In deference to the wishes of her stepchildren, she said she had decided not to press the matter. She would not have any control of the household until the affair is cleared up. She was desirous, she says, of spending some of the money left by Sir Francis in establishing institutions for the prevention of crime, but she will not do this until she has disposed of the accusations against her.

She says she expects further developments, and that her solicitors will make a statement in her behalf justifying her position before the world. She reaffirmed her intention not to retreat until the allegations had been proved baseless.

KING EDWARD'S PORTRAIT.

Luke Fildes, R. A., Commissioned to Paint an Official Picture.

LONDON, April 13.—As announced, Luke Fildes, R. A., has been commissioned to paint an official portrait of the King. Alexandria was so successful a few years ago, has been commissioned to paint an official portrait of the King.

The picture will be life size and following the usual custom, thirty or forty replicas will be made for the colonies and embassies.

RECEIVED BY THE POPE.

An Audience Granted to Perry Heath and Senator Keen.

ROME, April 13.—The Pope today received ex-Assistant Postmaster General Perry S. Heath and Senator Keen of New Jersey.

Monsignor O'Connell, rector of the American College, made the introductions.

Engaged to Young Cavendish. LONDON, April 13.—The engagement is announced of Miss Isabel Jay, leading lady of the Savoy Theatre, to H. S. H. Cavendish, who was at one time reported to be engaged to Miss Edna May.

"Blood Tells." U-Ah-M purifies the blood, gives you appetite, and vigor. At all drug stores.

CUBAN DELEGATES AT SEA.

The Vote on the Platt Amendment Not Understood by Them.

The Convention Finally Decides It Neither Accepted Nor Rejected—A Commission to Come to Washington Decided On, It Is Reported.

HAVANA, April 13.—At a private session of the convention today, it is understood, a question was raised regarding the meaning of the resolution adopted yesterday. Some of the radical delegates declared that the resolution is not tantamount to a rejection of the American propositions, being merely an expression of the views of the delegates to the Platt amendment, which is liable to be qualified by later interpretations of the clauses, while, on the other hand, they who opposed the adoption of the resolution considered that it meant the rejection of the Platt amendment entirely.

General Nunez, formerly Civil Governor of Havana, asked for an explanation of the vote on this question, which was yesterday's resolution meant neither the acceptance nor rejection of the Platt amendment.

It is understood that the convention decided to appoint a commission to go to Washington and treat with President McKinley and secure the best terms possible, and on its return to place the matter before the convention.

Commenting on the resolution adopted by the Cuban Constitutional Convention at a secret session last night regarding the American propositions, "Discussion" says today: "This rejects the Platt amendment." "The Diario de la Marina" says the action of the convention is equivalent to a rejection of the American propositions, despite anything the delegates may say. "La Lucha" agrees with the "Diario de la Marina."

ANGRY AT THE COMMITTEE.

Englishmen Disgusted With Its Action Over the Victoria Memorial.

LONDON, April 13.—Of the quarter of a million pounds sterling wanted for the Victoria Memorial in London, only £20,000 has as yet been subscribed and the subscriptions are coming in slowly.

It would be quite wrong to suppose that this indicates any lack of diminution of respect and affection for the late Queen. The committee on management is alone responsible. Their inaction and action alike have deprived them of popular confidence. They seem to have disappointed everybody and pleased nobody and at present their only chance of success is in a very short time all resistance to us will cease.

CHARGED WITH MURDER.

Major Edmund Evans Found With a Dying Man.

COLUMBIA, Mo., April 13.—Major Edmund Evans, brother of the late Major Gary Evans, who is a prospective candidate for the United States Senate against Senator McLaury, was arrested in his room at the extra hotel in Columbia, Mo., on the charge of murdering Capt. John J. Griffin, a commercial representative in the State of the Norfolk and Western Railroad.

The selection of the Mc'll in front of Buckingham Palace is not much caviled at, but otherwise the dissatisfaction is general. The appointment of Sculptor Brook and five architects was especially criticized and there is universal feeling in favor of open competition. Norman Shaw, R. A., says it seems a most stupid thing.

"What they are going to do," he says, "so far as I can gather, no one knows. Either the work should be thrown open to competition, or the committee should select a particular person."

Mr. Shaw, however, expresses a despair over Englishmen's capacity in the matter of monumental architecture. He thinks the Germans and French lead, but does not advocate foreign competition. He adds: "It seems a most fortuitous business, but I suppose we will have to do it somehow."

Others criticize the selection of Mr. Brook as a portrait sculptor on the ground that allegory and not portraiture is more essential to the grand and dignified work necessary. Others point out that the front of the palace is so poor architecturally that it must be rebuilt before it will be possible to have it as a background for a statue enough for the new monument.

But the most serious factor is the dissatisfaction of the city of London from which most of the money for the memorial is collected. The Lord Mayor sent a circular to the deputy aldermen for the thirty-three wards requesting them to call a meeting at which the matter should be open to competition. No one knows who the sub-committee or executive committee are. We have been overruled by a clique of the upper ten. The Lord Mayor would not have been obliged to include him when I asked him who his fellow-members were he said he could not tell.

Trouble of a somewhat similar sort seems to be plaguing the Victoria Memorial scheme for what is practically an imperial Institute of India in Calcutta, which has been naturally receiving large subscriptions from the Rajahs and others, is already called "Curzon's folly" and is languishing in the local press. Bombay insists that the memorial shall be its own. Other cities and districts show a similar desire.

HIS WEDDING PREVENTED.

Difficulties Placed in the Way of the Marriage of Hedford.

LONDON, April 13.—When the young Marquis of Hedford, who is connected with many aristocratic families, fell a victim to the charms of Rose Boote, a Gaiety girl, he was obliged to make strenuous efforts to separate the couple. Once before, at a cost of £5,000, his mother, it is said, prevented him from making a mesalliance.

However, the marquis was inexorable himself and communicated the fact of his engagement to the newspapers, declaring that the marriage would take place at an early date. Then his family made a final effort to prevent the marriage, and even the aid of the King, it is whispered, was invoked. The marquis promised not to marry while he remained in the Guards. As a matter of fact, as a lieutenant he is unable to marry without the consent of his colonel.

The authorities kept the marquis tied up at Windsor on special duty at the Palace and he was unable to get leave to see his charmer. The impatient lover sent in his papers, but the War Office refused to accept his resignation until the country was at war. And as a final blow they have found that they need the services of the marquis in India.

MR. ALGER'S SUGGESTIONS.

He Thinks It Time to Reduce the Philippine Army.

NEW YORK, April 13.—Gen. Russell A. Alger believes that the capture of Aguinaldo has made further aggressive campaigning in the Philippines unnecessary and unwise, and he would reduce the troops stationed there, possibly 50,000 men to just enough to man the garrisons which, at a liberal estimate, would not be more than 25,000.

"The Filipino," said General Alger today, "has vitally changed the conditions in the Philippines, despite what the papers may say about it. It was an important event. Aguinaldo is clever and he has been able to lead his people. He has given up the fight, and as soon as his attitude toward this country is known to his followers organized resistance will cease. We have now about 60,000 men in the Philippines whose term of service will expire on June 20 next. The expense of maintaining so many men there is heavy, and I believe that the time has now come when it is unnecessary."

"The Filipino is impressionable, and they have been misled regarding the way in which this country would treat them if they submitted. Since the capture of Aguinaldo many insurgents have surrendered, but the majority of the Spanish soldiers in Santiago feared that our troops would put them to death if they surrendered. It is not surprising that Aguinaldo's followers, who are much more ignorant, should have a similar fear."

"Let them once be convinced that we are not so terrible as we have been painted to them, and they will yield. Aguinaldo himself was the backbone of the rebellion. He is a man of honor, when he signs it, he is circulated throughout the island. It will not be necessary to continue aggressive campaigning."

"We do not need the present troops for our military purposes. It was estimated by some observers that it would have to keep from 25,000 to 30,000 men in Cuba, and 5,000 have proved enough. The Filipinos are now facing the American Army. The time has arrived when they must be convinced that our terms are not as harsh as they have been treated and I believe that within a very short time all resistance to us will cease."

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TO ASK TAYLOR'S RETURN.

Beckham to Requisition for His Surrender.

A Belief That Governor Durbin, of Indiana, Will Yield Him Up, Together With Finley—The Commonwealth Rests in the Ripley Trial.

LOUISVILLE, April 13.—Governor Beckham will issue a requisition on Governor Durbin, of Indiana, for the return of W. S. Taylor and Charles Finley as soon as the trial of Garnett Ripley is over.

Ripley has been put on trial by the Commonwealth simply for the purpose of justifying Governor Beckham in making the requisition. It is believed that the testimony given by ex-Governor Bradley and Judge W. H. Yost will influence Governor Durbin in honoring such a requisition.

Ex-Governor Bradley, who was one of Taylor's attorneys in the contest, has declared that he believes Governor Durbin will deliver over Taylor and Finley. Governor Moun's grounds for not giving up Taylor and Finley was the inflated condition of the public mind.

"The most important point of the trial was the opening statement of Attorney O'Neal, and Judge Cantill overruled the motion to dismiss the case, in which he admitted the testimony of ex-Governor Bradley and ex-Superior Judge W. H. Yost as to what Ripley had told them Taylor had said to Ripley. Judge O'Neal said Ripley had met Yost when he was Taylor's office excited. When he asked Taylor what the trouble, Taylor explained, writing his hands: 'My God! These fellows have been played, and the Republicans believe Taylor and Finley can get a fair trial now.'

"FRANKFORT, Ky., April 13.—The Commonwealth rested its case today in the trial of Garnett Ripley, charged with being accessory to the murder of William Goebel.

"We need not the present troops for our military purposes. It was estimated by some observers that it would have to keep from 25,000 to 30,000 men in Cuba, and 5,000 have proved enough. The Filipinos are now facing the American Army. The time has arrived when they must be convinced that our terms are not as harsh as they have been treated and I believe that within a very short time all resistance to us will cease."

"Let them once be convinced that we are not so terrible as we have been painted to them, and they will yield. Aguinaldo himself was the backbone of the rebellion. He is a man of honor, when he signs it, he is circulated throughout the island. It will not be necessary to continue aggressive campaigning."

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NO THOUGHT OF ANNEXATION.

Senator Platt Says Cuba Must Remain Independent.

PHILADELPHIA, April 13.—"The Races of the West Indies," was the subject of discussion at the evening session of the fifth international meeting of the American Academy of Political and Social Science tonight. President Charles C. Harrison, of the University of Pennsylvania, presided. United States Senator Orville H. Platt, of Connecticut, was the first speaker. His topic was "Our Relation to the People of Cuba and Porto Rico."

Senator Platt said that the United States had undertaken a difficult task in promising the pacification of the opposing elements in the population of the two islands, but that there ought to be no hesitation in insisting on the establishment of a stable and lasting government, even though the United States be required to guarantee such stability. "The only limitation to the power of the United States in the establishment of this government, he said, is that there must be no thought of annexing Cuba.

"The people of the island must be allowed to declare their rights, and the United States simply should see that these are guaranteed and maintained."

MRS. DAY'S CONDITION.

Physicians Express a Hope for Her Recovery.

CANTON, Ohio, April 13.—Judge Day, who was summoned to the hospital by the illness of his wife, reached the city a little after 3 o'clock. The address in his homecoming was greatly mitigated by the fact that Mrs. Day had partly regained consciousness.

Mrs. Day passed out of a state of complete unconsciousness early this morning, and recognized the members of the family. She was not fully conscious at any time during the day, but she was able to neither gain nor lose during the last twelve hours.

Dr. Parker, of Cleveland, was summoned this afternoon, and he and the Republican physician, Dr. McKelvie, at the attending local physicians to night. At its conclusion hope was expressed that Mrs. Day would recover, but it was said her illness is very serious.

PREPARING A WELCOME.

San Juan Laborers to Celebrate the Governor's Return.

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, April 13.—Representatives of the Federación Regional, the principal labor organization of the island, called on Mr. Hunt, the Secretary of Porto Rico, today, and presented a petition to him expressing confidence in Governor Allen and also stating that they were delighted to learn that the Governor was to return.

Furthermore, they asked Mr. Hunt to inform President McKelvie that the working people on the island had perfect confidence in Governor Allen, and were anxious for him to come back. They will take measures to show their loyalty and fidelity on his arrival here.

Senator Iglesias, who is in New York, and has been criticizing the Government and the Governor, represents, they said, the Socialists and the genuine laborers. He is an agitator they declared, and opposed to the Americans.

SOD HOUSES CAVE IN.

Fatalities Caused by the Heavy Rain in Kansas.

TOPEKA, Kan., April 13.—Accidents have befallen many of the families still living in sod houses in western Kansas. The recent heavy rains have caused some of these to cave in, and in several instances lives have been lost.

Yesterday a sod house caved in on the family of H. Hostetter, of Graham County, killing Mrs. Hostetter and her child, and breaking Mr. Hostetter's arm. The dirt roof had been heavily soaked by the continuous rains, and the framework was not strong enough to withstand the load.

GOLD BARS RECOVERED.

Found by a Steward on the Wilhelm Grosse.

LONDON, April 13.—A news agency dispatch from Bremen says that the British authority for the statement that the two gold bars reported to have been stolen from the strong room of the steamship Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse were discovered this morning by one of the stewards near the second cabin while the vessel was being cleaned.

The bars are valued at \$60,000. The discovery leads to the belief that the theft was the work of a party who occupied a plot to steal the gold while in transit from New York.

Some one who had knowledge that there would be a gold shipment on the trip secured second cabin tickets and succeeded in breaking into the strong box of the ship and extracting the bars. The plot failed because the thief did not have courage enough to remove his boots when the ship reached port. It was probably the intention of the party who occupied the berth in which the gold was hidden.

CAPE TOWN'S PLAGUE EPIDEMIC.