

SELECTED NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST FROM EUROPEAN CENTRES

LONDON, Nov. 5 (Special)—At Leicester a few days ago George Breward, a boot and shoe manufacturer, of Earl Shilton, pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with burglary at a factory belonging to a rival firm, and was sentenced to six months' hard labor.

The case excited much local interest, the prisoner being a well-known man.

The court was half filled with boots and shoes completed and hundreds of pairs in a partly manufactured state, as well as with leather and other materials which formed part of the stolen property.

The prisoner was captured at midnight on a Sunday with a bag on his back, and subsequently large quantities of leather belonging to Messrs Hurst, Colton and Hopcroft were found under a hedge in the prisoner's factory.

The prisoner, in a confession to the police, explained that he concealed himself in the factory on Sunday nights, when the engine man went to bank up his fires.

PARIS, Nov. 6 (Special)—Cries of distress drew the passers-by this morning to the grounds of a house at Courbevoie. They followed the direction of the cries to a well in the centre of the garden. Near the well a young girl of 17 was discovered, half-clad, and bleeding from a wound in the throat. She had come down, she said, hearing the barking of dogs, to shut up the fowlhouse. Suddenly a man had rushed at her and attacked

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her, and upon her showing fight he drew a dagger, stabbed her, and then threw her into the well. She gave a full description of the man.

As the struggle must have been carried on in the darkness, the suspicions of the people were aroused by the detail of the description. To establish the truth they made use of a stratagem. They told the girl that the clearness of her portrait left no doubt as to the identity of her assailant, who would in all probability pay the last penalty of the law. Upon this, faced with a sudden and unlooked-for responsibility, she confessed that her story was a myth, that what had really happened was that the solitude of the house where she was maid, and which was empty, had so preyed upon her mind that she at last determined to take her own life, and that, taking with her a kitchen knife, she went into the garden and seating herself on the edge of the well, tried to cut her throat, suffering herself, after the self-inflicted stroke, to fall into the well. Upon investigation the police found the knife at the bottom of the well.

PARIS, Nov. 6—Madame Larrey had not read her evening papers for nothing. She fled from the room crying: "Save yourselves, the house is going to blow up!" The tenants poured trembling into the street, which was soon in an uproar. Then up came a couple of bold constables, who entered the house, and, with infinite precautions, raised the plank. A moment later they, too, were in the street, their features convulsed, not with terror, but with laughter. The good old woman had mistaken coffee-sprouts for powder, and the lusty sprout of a casual potato for a murderous fuse.

LONDON, Nov. 6 (Special)—Inmates of the Kensington Workhouse had quite an unexpected treat this week. A young Chinese girl, found wandering in the streets, was taken to the institution, and, although she could not speak a word of English, quickly made herself at home. She produced a case of knives and performed some wonderful juggling feats

to the great delight of her audience. This Celestial Cinqvevalli is less than four feet high, and has her feet bandaged in accordance with the Chinese custom.

PARIS, Nov. 6 (Special)—M. Popoff, a Bulgarian student at the Sorbonne, was anxious to take his degree before he took his musket. A few days ago he received an order to return to Bulgaria and join a regiment at the front. M. Popoff had just completed a long and exhaustive study of the movements of the planet Heubia, and did not wish to lose the fruits of the labors of years. Unfortunately, the autumn session had not yet begun at the Sorbonne, and the members of the examining board were still rustivating by hill and sea. However, M. Popoff's request for immediate examination touched an answering chord of patriotism in the breast of the Dean of the Faculty of Science, M. Appel. An extraordinary meeting of the board of examiners was convoked, and for an hour M. Popoff expatiated on the motions of his planet with such eloquence and erudition that he left the examination-room Dr. Popoff. No doubt he will beguile the harsh hours of bivouac by studying the stars.

CAPE TOWN, S. A., Nov. 5, (Special)—White women are wanted in South Africa. At present there is a shortage of nearly 100,000 women in a total white population of 1,500,000, and the view is held by leading authorities that it would be very much better for the European population if the sexes were more equal in numbers.

Behind this opinion lies a great problem of the relationship between black and white, and it is clear that South African farmers and colonists generally would appreciate life in the dominion better if they could replace the Kaffir boy in the kitchen by a woman domestic from Europe.

"Women are badly wanted in South Africa," declares a colonial official. "There is a great opportunity for hardworking, strong, young women on the farms and as domestics, while nurses and dressmakers are also

wanted. At present a large part of the domestic work is done by blacks, but obviously it would be advantageous to find many of the 'boys' other employment. Wages are good, and there is every opportunity to save money."

PARIS, Nov. 5 (Special)—Late at night five mysterious individuals drove up, in a fine grey motor-car, to the door of the solitary hotel of the village of Chambly, in the Department of Seine-et-Oise. As burglaries had been rife in the district,

the hotel-keeper took care to inform the police of his suspicious visitors. Early the next morning a formidable body of policemen entered the little hotel, revolvers in hand; but the strangers were already on the alert. There was a noise of windows being thrown up, and in a moment the five suspects were in the street.

Then the revolvers on both sides began to speak, and soon the whole village was in an uproar. Arming themselves with whatever weapons they had, the police in the pursuit of the fugitives, four of whom were arrested after a fierce struggle. The fifth got clear away, and is still at large. The prisoner once under lock and key, the grey motor-car was subjected to a careful examination, which was not to prove fruitless. In the back seat were four overcoats, from the pockets of which the police extracted revolvers loaded with soft-nosed bullets, poignards, and bags of pepper. Beneath the overcoats and concealed by them, were bucklers in sheet-steel, such as have been suggested for the use of the police against bandits.

LONDON, Nov. 5 (Special)—Scenes of a serious nature occurred at football matches in Wales last Saturday, which will not go towards upholding the prestige of Wales "as a sporting nation." The occurrences all happened at rugby matches.

Mr. Frathy, the referee, in the Treorkey vs. Pontypridd match, on the first-named club's ground, did not please the spectators, and at the end of the match he was severely attacked. Large stones were thrown at him, and one hit him on the back of the head, rendering him unconscious.

L. Williams, a Pontypridd forward, was also set upon by the crowd, and was severely knocked about, while Gwilyn Jones, a Pontypridd three-quarter, was struck on the face as he was leaving the field. Two men have been arrested in connection with the affair.

LONDON, Nov. 6 (Special)—To a young Chelsea sculptor has fallen the

honor to execute a bust of the late King Edward, which is to be placed in the entrance of the new Middlesex County Hall at Westminster. He is P. Bryant Baker, who has already finished a bust of the late King, which is now in the drawing-room at Marlborough House, and is acknowledged to be one of the finest sculptured likenesses of His late Majesty in existence.

LONDON, Nov. 6 (Special)—There is apparently some hope for the discontented telephone subscribers, as extensive alterations are being made in the London telephone service, and the authorities hope to end the complaints of deterioration which have been made against the service ever since the Post Office took it over. Nearly 4,000 subscribers are to be provided with new numbers on January 1, when many lines will also be transferred from one exchange to another.

BRUSSELS, Nov. 9. (Special)—The Permanent Sugar Commission will meet at Brussels on the 9th of December. The Russian Government has recently demanded from all the Powers that are members of the Sug-

ar Convention a written undertaking by which they would permit Russia to increase the amount of her exportations if the exceptional circumstances of the present year, which compelled the Russian Government to ask for special treatment, should again arise. Plans were expressed that the German Government might refuse to agree to this demand, it has, however, consented, and the other Powers have raised no objections.

BERLIN, Nov. 11.—(Special)—The dead-grandmother fib, which has helped many a man and boy out of the difficulty of arranging for a football match or week-end holiday, has had a disastrous result for a first-class private of the 78th Infantry at Onabruk.

The soldier invented the "death" of his maternal ancestor for the purpose of securing four days' leave of absence. As it subsequently came to light that the old lady was still in the enjoyment of excellent health, the private was court-martialled, sentenced to six months' imprisonment for swindling his superior officers, and degraded to the rank of a second-class soldier.

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