

FOR A GIGANTIC TRUST

Kaiser Wilhelm Aims to Absorb 20 Toy Sovereigns

POCKET KINGDOMS DEAR

Each of These German States Has a Population Less Than New York—Monarchs Alone Cost Millions Annually—The Emperor the Actual Boss of Entire Army.

At present Germany is not an absolute empire, but a confederation of some score of sovereign states, who have combined on the basis of a common nationality to present a united front to foreign countries.

The present king has contrived to make us forget most of these facts. He is himself so prominent a figure in the affairs of his country that the world has almost forgotten the existence of all the remaining German monarchs who are, theoretically, quite equal to the emperor in rank and dignity.

Apart from the Kaiser there are 20 independent monarchs in Germany—three kings, six grand dukes, four dukes and seven reigning princes.

Each of these sovereign German states has a population less than that of New York and Chicago. The kingdom of Wurttemberg has a population of a little more than 2,000,000, the kingdom of Saxony a little more than 4,000,000, and the kingdom of Bavaria a little more than 6,000,000, and all these states are overshadowed by Prussia with its population of 35,000,000.

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The 20 royal courts in Germany are effective supports of reactionary politics and personal snobbery. The little German courts have been fruitful of all sorts of queer situations and scandals.

A curious feature about all these little German courts which cost so much and which produce so many scandals calculated to discredit monarchical institutions, is that they are purely ornamental.

The Barn's Fault. Judge—You are accused of having driven your car directly against the barn. You made no apparent effort to keep to the road and avoid the accident.

Chaufeur—You do me grave injustice, your honor. I tooted my horn repeatedly and even slowed down to eighteen miles. The barn had ample time to get out of the way.—Chicago Post.

PAT CROWE'S FAILURE.

How He Planned to Kidnap John D. Rockefeller.

In March 1905 it was my intention to go to Cleveland, kidnap Rockefeller the oil king, and demand a ransom of \$2,000,000 from his son under penalty that if the ransom were not paid immediately I would "put the old man off watch."

Only about \$3,000 in cash was necessary to carry out the plot to kidnap Rockefeller. I visited Forest Hill, near Cleveland, viewed the surroundings and considered it would be easy work to make the multi-millionaire a prisoner.

I intended to dress up like a gentleman and cut a wide swath in Cleveland society. After becoming acquainted with the best people of the city I expected to make calls at the Rockefeller home.

After we once had Mr. Rockefeller safe within the house it was my intention to write a note to his son that unless \$2,000,000 was delivered to me within three days the waves of Lake Erie would wash the old man's body upon the sands of the Euclid Beach.



I should have commanded Rockefeller's son to cross Lake Erie in a small tug, manned by not more than three men, and take with him \$2,000,000 in gold.

As the tug neared the Canadian shore a red light posed on a pole would be seen. Tethered to this pole would be a scow. In this scow the bags of gold were to be deposited.

As the tug pulled up to the red light the instructions were that a rocket should be fired from the vessel.

This was to be the signal by which I should know that the money was on board and would be deposited at the point designated.

So close to the shore was this scow to be anchored that in case more than the required number of persons should be on board the tug my pal and I with a rapid fire gun at a convenient point on the shore would have sunk the tug then and there.

My friend said he had the cash in the bank and that he would draw \$2,000 and turn it over to me. With this I was to rent the palatial home of which I have spoken, and begin to make the people of Cleveland take notice of "Lord Tell."

From the time I held up that Indianapolis banker for \$18,000 and "counted ties" for seven days I have always had a good front on me, while my finances were apparently unlimited. This counts some, you know. In fact, a man's front is everything.

But this Cleveland enemy of the oil king turned me flat when the time for the delivery of the money came around. I had a good front, a sparkler or two, but did not have the price of a meal ticket in my pocket.

My confederate was to have received \$500,000 as his share of the proceeds of the kidnaping.

About this time I became disgusted and discouraged. I returned to Omaha with the intention of giving myself up. But I was informed that the Pinkertons were hot on my trail and intended sending me up for life, were that possible.

One whom I considered a trusted friend—a bartender—told me that I looked as though I had murder in my heart. I unbuckled my six shooters from around my waist and handed them to the barkeeper with the remark that I had never yet killed any one and did not intend to.

When I stepped outside the saloon door two detectives placed revolvers at my head and told me to come along with them. I went. With my going the Rockefeller kidnaping scheme exploded.—New York World.

THE "LAND GRAB" FRAUD

Methods Employed to Defraud the U. S. Government

HARD ON REAL SETTLERS

Many Unscrupulous Persons Lay Claim to Large Tracts and Erect Temporary Huts or Cabins—Under Law a Minor Becomes Head of the Family by Adopting a Child.

The ingenuity and audacity of the men who have been and still are engaged in defrauding the United States out of public lands are equalled only by the absolute consciencelessness of this class of swindlers. Every possible device is resorted to by the men who have sought to acquire illegal title to the public domain, says the New York Times.

An instance of this character which recently came to light was found in Idaho. A single contractor had erected, on the order of a land company, thirty-four cabins on as many homestead entries—"one hundred and sixties" they are called in the Land Office—had furnished them with the usual meager furniture of the genuine cabin, had actually built fires in the little sheet iron stoves, in order that the cabins might appear to have been occupied, and had hung from the rafters of each a fragment of a slice of bacon.

As the late Capt. George Lindsay Wilson, the Folkstone recluse, died without making a will, the whole of his fortune goes to the British crown. Several persons in his service had expected handsome legacies.

Says the London Chronicle: "It has very rarely happened that so large an estate as Capt. Wilson's falls to the crown. Queen Victoria, during her long life, had only one or two as large. Although the aggregate amount which annually reverts to the crown in the case of persons dying intestate, without known heirs, is considerable, it is chiefly made up of a number of very small estates, and there are usually many claimants. Persons entitled to money are seldom far to seek when wanted, but the number of claimants of money who cannot show any title to it is very large indeed."

Tapeworms Make Pearls. Prof. Herdman's recent investigations on the subject of pearl formation have yielded some interesting conclusions. In the great majority of cases it appears that the pearl is due to the presence in the oyster of a marine tapeworm. When the spherical larva of the worm dies necrotic matter is deposited round it, and the resulting mass is known as a pearl.

Another fertile source of fraud is the provision of the land law which entitles soldiers or soldiers' widows to deduct from the five years necessary to a free homestead entry the term of army service of such soldier. For instance, a land or cattle company desiring to secure title to a large tract will scour the country for indigent widows of old soldiers.

When a sufficient company has been gathered together each will be "located" on a homestead entry. These women are generally ignorant of the character of the transaction in which they are asked to participate. They are only informed that they can secure their living and from \$50 to \$75 in cash by living for six months each year in a little cabin which will be furnished them without expense.

The injustice resulting from the acquisition of large tracts of land by cattle and lumber companies is grave. One or two thousand acres or more fenced and devoted to grazing or lumbering operations renders the region almost untenable to the genuine settler. He is deprived of neighbors, roads, school—in a word, of all those advantages which a community would afford him, and all too often he sickens of his isolated position and finally sells his homestead to the company which has already acquired a monopoly of his surroundings.

Canada now possesses twelve wire-Canada now possesses twelve wire-Canada now possesses twelve wire-Canada now possesses twelve wire-Canada now possesses twelve wire-

JAPAN AND CHRISTIANITY.

Converts Include Among Its Classes Japan's Best Element.

Accessions to Christian churches in Japan are estimated by Dr. Scherer at about 3,000 annually, but they embrace mainly the "influential classes"—legislators, judges, army and navy officers, lawyers, bankers and physicians.

The masses seem as yet almost as immune to Christianity as are Mohammedan masses. Count Okuma is represented by Dr. Scherer as among the Japanese of light and leading who feel concerned at the moral condition of Japan today. It is a question," says the count, "whether as a people we have not lost fiber as a result of the many new influences to which we have been subjected. Development has been intellectual and not moral."

Count Okuma, although not a Christian himself, is represented as welcoming the endeavors which "Christians are making to supply to the country a high standard of conduct."

There is, in a word, ample evidence that the action of church-burning mobs in Tokio reflects no sentiment prevalent in the government circles of Japan. Prime Minister Katsura seems to think the American mind may be in the dark on this point, for he has kept the cables warm with assurances of official Japanese esteem for Christians and for Americans.—Current Literature.

British Crown £175,000 Richer.

As the late Capt. George Lindsay Wilson, the Folkstone recluse, died without making a will, the whole of his fortune goes to the British crown. Several persons in his service had expected handsome legacies. Capt. Wilson, who was the illegitimate son of Sir John Wilson, Bart., at one time commander of the forces in Ceylon, was a bachelor, and left no legal heirs. The estate reverting to the crown under this intestacy has been valued by the authorities at £150,209. To this has to be added £25,603 left by Capt. Wilson's father. Sir John Wilson died in 1856, but Capt. Wilson refused to touch a penny of it, with the result that the estate has remained for 49 years unadministered. Now the crown inherits both fortunes.

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