

THE CRISIS IN FRANCE.

President Loubet Looking For a Premier to Succeed M. Dupuy.

M. DESCHANEL MAY BE CALLED.

Poincare Intimated to President Loubet That He Would Enter a Deschanel Cabinet, and the President of the Chamber is the Leading Candidate.

Paris, June 14.—The air is full of reports regarding the probable successor of M. Dupuy as premier. M. Poincare was the favorite yesterday morning, but after three-quarters of an hour spent in conference with the president he declined to accept the task. He is a Moderate Republican, and evidently doubted he would be able to succeed in forming a cabinet, which the papers think, after Monday's vote, must be a Radical cabinet.

Late last evening it developed that M. Poincare, while he refused the premiership, intimated to the president that he might enter a cabinet presided over by M. Paul Deschanel, president of the chamber of deputies, who had previously been in conference with M. Loubet. MM. Poincare and Deschanel conferred with their friends last evening and returned to the Elysee today to report the result. It is conceded that Deschanel is now the leading candidate.

The feeling among the Republican senators and deputies is veering in favor of a Poincare-Deschanel combination. M. Waldeck-Rousseau has dropped into the background, chiefly owing to his absence from Paris and to the impossibility of his return from Rome until a case in which he is engaged as counsel for the defense is finished.

It is said that M. Delcasse insists on retaining the foreign office portfolio in the new cabinet, rather than accepting that of the interior, and that M. Bourgeois prefers continuing a member of the French delegation at the Hague to accepting a cabinet post. The anti-Dreyfus press virulently attacks M. Waldeck-Rousseau and the president, declaring that they have already decided upon an openly Dreyfusard, anti-military ministry. Le Sol publishes a probable list, headed by M. Waldeck-Rousseau, with the headline, "A Ministry Against the Army." This is part of the campaign against M. Loubet.

Another feature is the posting of red placards upon available walls, attacking him as a "Panamist," and reproducing the text of the resolution adopted by the chamber in March, 1898, blaming the minister of the interior for arranging, toward the end of 1892, to dispatch a police agent to Venice to see Emile Arton, implicated with Dr. Herz and Baron von Reinach in the frauds upon the Panama Canal company. The placards then point out, in big type, that "this censured Panamist minister of the interior was Loubet, now president of the republic."

Small groups gathered in front of the placards and discussed their contents until the police, at a late hour last evening, tore them from the walls. The resignation of M. Dupuy and his cabinet was precipitated on Monday last. Despite the protests of the ministers, the chamber of deputies adopted a motion strongly criticizing the government, and the ministers tendered their resignations to President Loubet. The resignations were accepted, the ministers agreeing to remain in office until their successors were appointed. The contradictory attitude of the cabinet on the Dreyfus case is mainly responsible for the attitude of the deputies.

Christiani Gets Four Years. Paris, June 14.—Baron Christiani, who assaulted President Loubet with a cane at the Auteuil races June 4, was sentenced yesterday to four years' imprisonment. Christiani was tried before the correctional police court. The judges deliberated 35 minutes and delivered judgment, saying that, according to the articles of the penal code under which Christiani was sentenced, he was liable to from two to five years' imprisonment. Eleven participants in the cafe riots last Sunday have been variously sentenced, the maximum sentence being 16 days' imprisonment.

Piquart Exonerated. Paris, June 14.—The chamber of indictments yesterday decided that there is no case against Lieutenant Colonel Piquart, charged with forgery in the Dreyfus case, or against Maitre Leblois, his counsel, against whom charges were also made in connection with the case. The judgment of the court finally exonerates Piquart, who was released from prison after being in confinement nearly a year.

Panama Canal Commission Named. Washington, June 10.—The president yesterday appointed the following commission to determine the most feasible and practical route for a canal across the Isthmus of Panama: Rear Admiral John G. Walker, U. S. N.; Hon. Samuel Pasco, of Florida; Alfred Noble, C. E., of Illinois; George S. Morrison, C. E., of New York; Colonel Peter C. Hains, U. S. A.; Prof. William H. Burr, of Connecticut; Lieutenant Colonel Oswald H. Ernst, U. S. A.; Lewis M. Haupt, C. E., of Pennsylvania; Prof. Emory R. Johnson, of Pennsylvania.

A Mammoth Piece of Armor Plated. Bethlehem, Pa., June 14.—On a Pennsylvania railroad freight car last night the Bethlehem Steel company loaded one single piece of armor plate that weighed 112,056 pounds. It is to be used in a Russian battleship which the Cramps are building, and is one of a group of six mammoth pieces for the same warship. The same company also shipped last night plates for the superstructure of the Alabama to Newport News. They are not so heavy.

Loubet's Vindication. Paris, June 12.—President Loubet has had his revenge for the outrage at Auteuil. When he drove to Longchamp yesterday to attend the Grand Prix he was the hero of a great popular demonstration, expressing itself in one form or another along the whole route from the Elysee palace to the race course.

BLIZZARD BROUGHT JOY.

Two Little Eskimo Children in New York in High Glee Over the Great Storm.

It would have been impossible for the big city to have prepared a better reception for its little Eskimo visitors than the blizzard the weather man sent. Even the polar bear caged in Central park did not welcome the frost and snow more than the two little twin girls from the ice region who are now housed in a comfortable brick dwelling in West Thirty-ninth street, with their foster father, Wimer W. Bruce.

While everyone else in the house was half frozen Artmarhoke and Zaksriner sought cakes of ice and buckets of snow in the back yard. They rolled and tumbled about, laughing merrily while their pies and cakes "baked" in the frost.

"O, my, I am warm, Artmarhoke!" said one.

"O, dear, dear, so am I, Zaksriner," said the other.

To cool off they sat in the snow and made more snow piles to freeze into ice. Their eyes glistened like black diamonds and their cheeks were red as roses. Indoors people were bundled up in wraps and seemed to think they never would get warm, while the little youngsters outside were happy.

Zaksriner spent two hours sewing the other day for her baby, a blonde-haired doll of which she is proud, and then ran over to Capt. Bruce and asked:

"These people don't have such cold weather like this all the time?"

"No, indeed. If this would keep up no one would go outdoors," said Capt. Bruce.

"O, wouldn't that be nice if it was always like this? Artmarhoke and I would like it. We just love it."

"But the people in this part of the country are not used to such cold," said Capt. Bruce.

"Perhaps this weather just came for Artmarhoke and myself. Maybe it just followed us here. O, my, suppose—suppose—it did. Then wouldn't the people be mad, and (sadly) perhaps they wouldn't let us stay here!"

Artmarhoke went to the Museum of Natural History the other day, where casts are being made of both the children. Hers is almost completed. Zaksriner remained at home.

Accompanied by a servant from her home Artmarhoke went over to the arsenal, leaving the museum, and watched the bears snoring in their snow-laden cages.

"Zaksriner and I like the snow just like the bears do," said she. "Do you get some snow for the bears in summer? I hope so. You ought to."—N. Y. Journal.

BURGLARS IN SILK HATS.

Their Dress Impresses Servants in Paris and They Gain Admittance.

Innumerable complaints have reached the Paris police of late touching the exploits of a band of burglars, which had begun operations in the Charente district of the capital. This latest addition to the gangs of rogues by which Paris is too frequently infested is chiefly distinguished from similar associations by the care which its members devote to their dress. They go about their nefarious business attired as dandies of the smartest category. Their clothes are of irreproachable cut; they would blush to go ungloved, and their patent leather boots are in themselves a sort of guarantee of respectability. Their crowning glory, however, is their silk hats, which are of the latest fashionable shape and shine with a luster it would be hard to surpass. Thus accoutred they have no difficulty whatever in obtaining entrance to the houses they propose to ransack. In broad daylight they politely inquire of the concierge whether one of his tenants is at home, and the doorkeeper, impressed by their magnificent appearance, throws no difficulty in the way of their exploring at leisure the house intrusted to his care. Well equipped with false keys and ingeniously contrived jimnies, they make light of locks and bolts, and as they disdain all booty except money and bonds, their departure excites no suspicion. Last week alone over 40 burglaries are believed to have been committed by this gang. In several instances they left a note behind them, addressed to their victims, and informing them that they had had the honor of receiving the visit of the "Silk Hat Band." So far the police have been outwitted by the gang.—Chicago Evening News.

RAISING MUSKRATS.

The Crop Is Large in the Marshes of Maryland.

Thousands of Acres Are Devoted Solely to the Farming of the Animals for Their Fur—How They Are Caught.

In the vast marshes of the county of Dorchester, stretching from Fishing bay, near the Chesapeake on the west, to the Delaware line on the east, is harvested Maryland's great muskrat crop. Last year the catch aggregated 100,000 rats, and this year, judging from the start already made, the crop will be even larger. The hunting season begins January 1 and closes March 31.

The great marsh section of Dorchester county borders mainly on the Blackwater, Tranquakinn and Chicocomico rivers, in the election districts known as Lake, Drawbridge and Bucktown, where for miles the country is a monotonous level, the high grass shutting out from view the inky waters of the rivers, which, though extremely narrow, are navigable. A few years ago much of the land was looked upon as an irredeemable waste, and it remained part of the public domain, being the property of the state. Farmers pastured their hogs upon the grass and there was no thought that other use might be found for these tracts. The increase in the demand for muskrat skins as well as for the fur of the otter and mink changed all this, and within the last few years the Maryland land office has issued patents to thousands of acres taken up solely with a view to muskrat farming. There are still thousands of acres of these marsh lands in the possession of the state, more than even the land commissioners can trace, and all to be had merely for the asking. Should Germany and Russia, which now manifest such a fondness for the skins of the American muskrat, continue to take all that we can ship, there is no doubt that all these waste lands will soon have owners. In these marshes otter and minks were almost as plentiful as muskrats, but in recent years the latter have had almost undisturbed possession and have been protected by legislation.

The typical muskrat hunter is a peculiar product of this region as is the muskrat. Though he lives in a section that is fairly reeking with malaria, the home of chills, fever and ague and mosquitoes, he is a picture of rugged health, and is hardy and long lived. The people of these marshes are plain and simple and very hospitable. Their homes are small and rude built, usually one story in height and containing but two or three rooms. The children are as hardy as their parents, though in this country a stranger can no more keep in good health than he can in Cuba during the rainy season. The muskrat builds his house in the shape of a mound and aims to make it high enough to be safe from the highest tide, but in the spring and fall tidal waves sometimes flood the little structures, drowning the young, and then follows a shortage in the muskrat crop. The houses are built of grass, woven into a sort of cloth.

There are several methods of catching the little animals, the most common being by the use of the ordinary steel trap and giggering. The traps are set in the paths made by the rats in their travels through the marshes. Giggering furnishes the most interesting and exciting sport. The gig is a weapon about three feet long, having five or six sharp steel prongs, each 2 1/2 feet in length and several inches apart. This weapon is made just long enough for a man to easily thrust it through the grassy home of the muskrat. The hunter must approach these little houses against the wind, and a windy day is much the best for successful work. The animal's sense of smell is acute, and on detecting the approach of a human being all the rats scamper from the upper chamber of the house to the lower ones, where they are out of reach of the gig. When the hunter approaches a muskrat house properly it is not unusual for him to catch a rat on each prong of the gig. But no matter how many there may be in the house, the first throw of the gig is the hunter's only successful one, for those he fails to catch then make their escape. The day's hunt over, the trapper returns to his home and prepares both the fur and the flesh of the animal for market. With remarkable rapidity the skin is removed. An expert can skin a muskrat in less than half a minute. After the skin is removed it is stretched over a shingle to dry or cure. This process requires about four days. The outside of a rat trapper's cabin is always hung with bunches of skins, and on the inside they are frequently hung from the rafters. The meat of the rats is washed and prepared for buyers who visit the marshes almost daily, and they find a ready market for the meat in nearby towns and in New York and other cities. The muskrat lives principally on roots. These he gathers from the marshes and mounting a tussock washes them as clean as bleached celery. The muskrats will eat ducks or any fowl they can capture and kill, but nothing they find dead.

The skin of the muskrat now brings about 15 cents. Last year the market price was 24 cents for blacks and 12 cents for reds. The black is a richer and more desirable color, but the black rats are not so plentiful as the red. Now and then a white muskrat is caught. Buyers from New York and Baltimore are now visiting the marshes, but the hunters are holding off for higher prices, at present disposing of only enough in trade with merchants to meet their immediate wants. A good hunter generally makes about \$400 a season, and then in the spring turns to fishing.—N. Y. Sun.

HUMOROUS.

Philosophic—"My one hope is to die rich." "Huh! I believe I would rather live poor."—Indianapolis Journal.

"Do you believe one person can get the grippe from another?" "I don't see why not. Anybody who had it would be a fool not to give it up."—Boston Transcript.

When They Wrote on Stones.—Egyptian Poet (angrily)—"Then, why don't you return my manuscript?" Egyptian Editor (coldly)—"You enclosed no ox-team."—Life.

His Experience—"I thought Cholley's father started him in business." "He did; but business was so dull that Cholley had to get an alarm clock to wake himself up when it was time to go home!"—Puck.

"Should one refer to a bicycle as 'him,' 'her,' or 'it'?" "Her, of course." "But why do you make it feminine?" "Because one soon discovers that the fixings cost more than the framework."—Chicago Evening Post.

"Now that we have encountered these Americans," said Aguinaldo, "I wonder—" "What, oh, great chief, with the gold whistle?" "I wonder why they merely annexed Cuba, Porto Rico, the Ladrones and us. Why did they ignore Spain?"—Philadelphia North American.

Life's Compensations.—"You can't spell long words like hippopotamus and parallelogram," said the small boy who wore spectacles and a sailor suit. "Well," answered the boy who was leading a dog by a piece of rope, "dat's where I'm lucky. I don't have to."—Washington Star.

A FUNERAL IN CONGRESS.

Impressive Service Held in Honor of a Deceased Member of the House.

Funeral services over the remains of Representative Dingley, who died in Washington on January 13, were held the following Monday in the hall of representatives. These services, and it is rare that such an honor is not accorded to a member of the house who dies in office, were singularly impressive.

Speaker Reed, in the customary way, called the house to order at 12 o'clock noon, and the chaplain offered the usual prayer. The journal of the house was then read and approved. By previous arrangement of the sergeant-at-arms the members of the house had been assembled, with chairs close together, on the speaker's left. The seats on the other side of the hall were empty.

The doorkeeper soon announced to Speaker Reed in due form the arrival of the members of the other house by this simple phrase: "The senate of the United States." The senators then entered the hall of representatives, headed by the sergeant-at-arms, who escorted the vice president to a seat beside Speaker Reed, while they took the places assigned them on the floor at the speaker's right. The announcements that followed came in this order:

The ambassadors to the United States and the diplomat corps. The chief justice and the associate justices of the supreme court of the United States.

The committee on the part of the house and senate to attend the remains. The president and members of his cabinet.

The family and relatives of the deceased. When the ambassadors came in all persons present arose and remained standing until they were seated. Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador, headed the delegation and proceeded to the space in front of the speaker's desk, where he bowed courteously before taking the seat assigned to him. When the president and his cabinet came in those present remained standing until he was seated.

The rest of the funeral service was not unlike that witnessed in private life. Mr. Dingley's Washington pastor read from the Scriptures and delivered a short address. A quartette sang several appropriate selections. The chaplain of the house of representatives offered prayer.

After the service was over and all the official bodies attending had left the chamber Mr. Boutelle, of Maine, said: "Mr. Speaker, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, I move that the house do now adjourn."—Youth's Companion.

RICE CULTIVATION IN RUSSIA.

While rice has long been grown in Persia and the Trans-Caucasus, it was almost unknown in the interior of Russia up to 1886, the supply being imported from India, and, as it was subjected to high duty, its use was naturally confined to the wealthier classes. Russia first commenced the cultivation of rice in the early '80s, and in 1888 the first steam rice-cleaning factory was opened at Baku, and 1,612 tons were produced the first year. There has been a steady increase in the production of rice, and there are now five rice-cleaning factories in operation, and the annual product is more than 48,000 tons. The demand for rice has increased, and it is now generally used by the peasants throughout the empire. The quality of the native product is equal to that of the imported article. The residue is utilized, the broken grain being made into starch and the flour is given to hogs.—Scientific American.

There was a poor tramp here this afternoon," said the young wife. "The poor man was worrying over his next meal, he told me." "I wonder," said the husband, "if worrying over the next meal is any more torture than worrying over the last one."—Indianapolis Journal.

Robbing graves is a crime under Chinese law for which the thief may be justly killed on the spot by anyone finding him out.—N. Y. Sun.

ONLY ONE CURE FOR SCROFULA.

S. S. S. is the Only Remedy Equal to this Obsolete Disease. There are dozens of remedies recommended for Scrofula, some of them no doubt being able to afford temporary relief, but S. S. S. is absolutely the only remedy which completely cures it. Scrofula is one of the most obstinate, deep-seated blood diseases, and is beyond the reach of the many so-called purifiers and tonics because something more than a mere tonic is required. S. S. S. goes down to the seat of the disease, thus permanently eliminating every trace of the taint.

The serious consequences to which Scrofula surely leads should impress upon those afflicted with it the vital importance of wasting no time upon treatment which can not possibly effect a cure. In many cases where the wrong treatment has been relied upon, complicated glandular swellings have resulted, for which the doctors insist that a dangerous surgical operation is necessary.

Mr. H. E. Thompson, of Milledgeville, Ga., writes: "A bad case of Scrofula broke out on the glands of my neck, which had to be balanced and caused me much suffering. I was treated for a long while, but the physicians were unable to cure me, and my condition was as bad as when I began their treatment. Many blood remedies were used, but without effect. Some one recommended S. S. S., and I began to improve as soon as I had taken a few bottles. Continuing the remedy, I was soon cured permanently, and have never had a sign of the disease to return."—Swift's Specific.

—is the only remedy which can promptly reach and cure obstinate, deep-seated blood diseases. By relying upon it, and not experimenting with the various so-called tonics, etc., all sufferers from blood troubles can be promptly cured, instead of enduring years of suffering which gradually but surely undermines the constitution. S. S. S. is guaranteed purely vegetable, and never fails to cure Scrofula, Eczema, Cancer, Rheumatism, Contagious Blood Poison, Boils, Tetter, Pimples, Sores, Ulcers, etc. Insist upon S. S. S.; nothing can take its place. Books on blood and skin diseases will be mailed free to any address by the Swift Specific Company, Atlanta, Georgia.

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