

ment from door to door. It is Jane who says:

"At the door of a cottage I saw a little girl about to throw a mess of cold porridge into a pig trough.

"Will you give me that?" I asked.

"Mother," she exclaimed, "there is a woman wants me to give her this porridge."

"Well, lass, replied a voice within 'give it her. If she's a beggar T' pig doesn't want it.'"

That is too often the sum and substance of our back door charity—T' pig doesn't want it."

### CAPRIVI IN THE REICHSTAG.

BERLIN, Nov. 27.—Chancellor Von Caprivi was present at the session of the Reichstag this morning, and in his speech referred to the rumors that he intended to resign as ridiculous. Von Caprivi refuted the reproaches uttered against the government on account of its so-called vacillating policy. The Kaiser's journey to Russia established a friendly intercourse between the two monarchs, but no political matters were discussed by them. The press indulged in too much trumpeting in regard to the visit of the French fleet at Cronstadt, which engendered on the other side the wish for more drumming.

The position of France and Russia toward the Dreibund had not changed. All that had happened at Cronstadt was that the existing conditions had become manifest. There is no need for uneasiness;

#### THE CZAR'S INTENTIONS

are most pacific. Only care must be taken to avoid clumsy errors. The Czar's government was in a position to make its will prevail. Its increased confidence in the French government constituted no danger to Germany.

Referring to the state of the general armament in Europe the chancellor said this would continue much longer, uninfluenced by the resolutions adopted by peace congresses. It was, however, a matter of satisfaction that the general preparations for war had increased the desire for peace.

In east Africa Germany still had a long task to fulfill. She has been obliged to have recourse to the doubtful plan of the lottery. But Germany's possessions in Africa were ten times more important than those of England, with which nation Germany had not made a bad bargain. He said that the abolition of compulsory passports in Alsace-Lorraine had been regarded as an act of weakness, but the continuance of that system as a permanency was impossible. The

#### ASSIMILATION OF THE REICHSLAND

with Germany was progressing surely; the best connecting link was the army. After a few generations the Reichsland question would be settled.

There was no cause for uneasiness on account of the army, although military pessimists had lately become apparent. The world's habit of estimating the worth of an army according to its numbers was wrong. Germany never before possessed so many capable military leaders, and no other nation had such chances for the next war.

Referring to the movements of troops on the Russian and French frontiers,

the chancellor said that Germany as well as Austria had in this respect probably exceeded their duty. Too much anxiety prevailed because Russia had dispatched an army corps to a place as near the German frontier as Coblenz was to the Russian frontier. The newspapers, moreover, ought to be better employed than alarming their readers by publishing reports calculated to interfere with commerce and damaging to the country.

The chancellor, referring to his journey to Russia with Emperor William, said that he knew the interview between the two Emperors had given great satisfaction to Russia. "Nothing," he said, "could shake his conviction that the personal intentions of the Czar were the most pacific in the world. No existing government," he continued, "has sufficient military preponderance to induce it to provoke war with a light heart. The stronger the government is, the more easily will it avoid a dangerous contretemps. It is a source of satisfaction to know that Russia possesses this strength. France would not have sought the Cronstadt meeting had she doubted that Russia was strong enough to be relied upon."

### THE RUSSO-FRENCH ALLIANCE.

LONDON, Nov. 27.—The first authentic information, conveying the result of De Giers' sojourn in Paris, reached the foreign office through the British embassy in Berlin. De Giers communicated to Emperor William and Caprivi a clear explanation of the conferences held in Paris and the character of the Russo-French entente. Doubtless the Czar instructed the minister to make the declarations with a view of having not only the German, but other interested European governments, learn the nature of the compact between Russia and France.

According to the semi-official statement, based on De Giers' declarations, his recent interview with President Carnot, De Freycinet and Ribot resulted in a definite agreement for an exclusively defensive alliance. The entente agreed upon, according to the statement quoted, differs on one of the most essential points from the triple alliance, inasmuch as, while that makes the European *status quo* the basis of a maintenance of peace, the Russo-French entente aims at what De Giers has called "the respect for treaties," meaning especially the restoration of Russia's grip on Bulgaria and British evacuation of Egypt. The differences on these features of the situation are not in the meantime to be regarded as constituting a danger of war, as both the Russian and the French governments desire to assure a strict application of existing treaties by pacific means.

De Giers further communicated the fact that

#### NO TREATY WAS YET SIGNED,

and intimated that the French ministers desire to conclude a formal contract as alone defining future responsibilities and rendering it possible to pursue a distinct policy for Europe, while at the same time avoiding the reproach of cherishing warlike designs.

One of these official assurances from

the Berlin embassy is that the Paris conferences resulted in a scheme to maintain a diplomatic warfare against the Dreibund and England, awaiting a more propitious period for engaging in an actual war.

De Giers' communications assume first importance, not for what they disclose so much as because they constitute the first official admission of the Russian government to the powers that a Russo-French alliance is really arranged.

LORD SALISBURY WENT TO WINDSOR tonight to place before the Queen certain dispatches, and it is surmised that they are those which refer to the entente.

Since Secretary Rusk reported in favor of excluding English live stock, unless the restrictions in landing American cattle be removed, British farming societies have actively discussed the subject. The balance of opinion of the livestock dealers distinctly supports the attitude of Chairman Chaplin of the board of agriculture on the subject. The farmers' journals are giving prominence to announcements of recent outbreaks in New Jersey, with a view of enforcing the argument that, before the United States government can legally claim the admission of American cattle, it must satisfy the British government that pleuro-pneumonia is so extirpated that no cases have occurred in twelve months in any part of the Union.

The chief continental transatlantic steamship companies, the German, Dutch and French, with the Red Star line, have signed an agreement, pooling the trade of conveying steerage and 'tween decks passengers. The object of the arrangement is to diminish the competition, which, it is stated, has so long pushed past the point where profit could accrue.

At Rochester, Wisconsin, the body of an unknown man was recently found hanging to a tree. The corpse was cut down and given into the care of an undertaker, who crowded it into a four and a half foot coffin, although the man was six feet tall. When the discovery of this act of barbarism was made, the undertaker's bill was simply cut down and the matter allowed to pass at that.

The art museum of Vienna, which has been in the course of erection for the last sixteen years, was opened formally by the Emperor last month. It is said to be the finest building of the kind in the world, and to contain the most valuable collection of art works ever found under one roof. The interior is even more magnificent than the exterior, and is vividly described by a correspondent of the New York Tribune, as follows: "Perhaps the most striking feature is the abundant use of color. Gold leaf is spread about most lavishly, and there are marbles of every hue. Floors and ceilings and walls and arches are dazzling with chromatic tints. The capitals and pedestals of the columns are of gilt bronze, the floors are prismatic mosaics and the ceilings are a sky of paintings. It is said that every painter and sculptor of note in Vienna for the past ten years has been employed on the adornment of these stately halls and galleries."