The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.

WORLD'S BIGGEST WOMAN'S CLUB.

Surprising Development in London of an Idea That Had Its Birth a Year Ago.

LADIES OF ARMY AND NAVY.

Have Taken Over Famous Old Hotel and Have 4,000 Members .. Comfort and Freedom.

Special Correspondence,

London, Aug. 2.-There was never anything in the line of women's clubs, either in America or England, like "The Ladies' Army and Navy, like most other English woman's clubs, differs from the American women's club in that it doesn't attempt to educate anybody. The English club women take it for granted that they can get education elsewhere, so intellectual improvement like lectures and literary meet-

the course of a long, hard afternoon and evening, broken only by an hour for dinner, and 15 minutes for a cigarette thereafter. There is a smoking room, of course, but you can smoke also in the billight room, and in the lounging thereafter. There is a smoking room, of course, but you can smoke also in the billiard room, and in the lounging room. Another rule is that no member may run up an account. She has to pay on the spot for everything she gets. There is a steeial room for bridge and superb apartments in the way of public and private drawing-rooms, lunging rooms, and conservatories. Some of the members take rooms for the year round. There are 54 bedrooms the year round. There are 54 bedrooms and the bath arrangements are luxuriously modern and complete. Private culertaining is done at the club by members on an elaborate scale with the resident orchestra in attendance. But the club teas, receptions, and annual dinners so characteristic of the average "social" club in England aren't in favor at the Ladies' edition of the "rag" at ail. Mrs. Dundas and its other adherents believe in individual rather than co-operative club enter-tailing and are determined to devote taining and are determined to devote their efforts as an executive staff to make the club members comfortable. The members are at liberty to seek

The Ladies' Army and Navy, like

FREE FROM LECTURES.

their social life where they will.

Mrs. Hobart Chatfield Chatfield-Taylor of Chicago, is in London after a visit in Paris. Mrs. Chatfield-Taylor is now the guest of the Frank W. Mackeys, and is making a tremendous nit in London. She is said to have received more flattering attentions in English court circles during this and her prevous visits to London than any other young American woman. Mrs. Mackey gave a large dinner party for Mrs. Chatfield-Taylor, and an evening reception the day following, at which the most fashionable people in London were present. Mrs. Chatfield-Taylor is universally referred to as "pretty Mrs. Taylor," and her girlish style of dress is universally admired. She will accompany Mr. and Mrs. Mackey to their country place at Leamington. Among other Americans who have entertained Mrs. Chatfield-Taylor are the Ambassador and Mrs. Chatfield-Taylor at the Ambassador and Mrs. Chatfield-Taylor's talents for cotilion leading, a talent widely recognized in New York, Washington and Chicago, will be in evidence in London shortly when Mrs. Mackey gives a cotilion in Mrs. Chatfield-Taylor's honor. C. W. Kohisaat, representative of the St. Louis exposition for Norway, Sweden and Denmark, has been in London for some days en route to the countries to which he is specially deputed. Sweden and Delinars, has done of the countries to which he is specially deputed. Mr. Kohlsaat leaves today for Sweden. to transact the major part of his ex-position work. He will go to the other

countries later in the summer, returning countries later in the summer, returning to America in the autumn.

English newspapers have made a strange error lately by heraiding Mrs.

Laurence Drummond as "one of the great American hostesses in London." The fact is Mrs. Drummond is English of the English. She was a Miss Katherine Mary Antrobus, daughter of one of the bankers Antrobus associated with Courts. The mistake arose out of Mrs. Couts. The mistake arose out of Mrs. Drummond's long residence in America and Canada when Capt. Drummond was on Lord Minto's staff. Mrs. Drummond's prominence at the moment is caused by the activity of the Ladies Empire club which she founded and of which she is secretary. Mrs. Drummond was thought by many to have been the handsomest woman at the Delhi Durbar.

GOSSIP OF AMERICANS IN EUROPE

Mrs. Hobart Chatfield Chatfield-Tay-

Mrs. Clayton Glyn-Elinor Glyn, fa-mous as the author of "The Visits of Elizabeth,"—expects to visit America soon and will be entertained both in Newport and Bar Harbor, Mrs. Glyn Newport and Bar Harbor. Mrs. Glyn is a pretty young woman whose husband has a valuable estate called Sheering Hall in Essex. The portrait of "Elizabeth" in "The Visits" is that of Mrs. Glyn's great friend, Lady Angela Forbes, sister of the Duchess of Sutherland and Lady Warwick.

Miss Agnes Andrews of Seymour, Indiana, arrives in London next week to remain until August 30, when she sails for home. Miss Andrews has traveled for a year alone on the continent show-

a year alone on the continent show She has spent can do in that line. She has spen most of the time in Germany, Switzer LADY MARY. and and France.

WHY IT DID NOT WORK.

Why IT DID NOT WORK.

"When I was young," remarked the seedy man, "I was an inventor. And one day when I had the discuse badly, I invented a machine which I called "Mother dear," because it would call you early, It was a clockwork arrangement which was ment to stand by your bedside, and at whatever time in the morning it was inxed for, it would drag you out of bed and force you into your clothes. There were a lot of other things attached to it as well, such as a machine which would black your boots, and an arrangement for making a cup of coffee and frying bacon and so on. Well, I get it all completed at last, and it worked beautifully; and then I got a millionaire to come and look at it, so that he might find the capital to put it on the market."

"Well," said the listener, breaking in upon the silence; "didn't it work?"

"Yes," replied the inventor sadly, "it worked very well. But that idiot of a millionaire insisted on trying it on himself; and he laid down on the bed the wrong way." for the machine, so that it dragged him out the wrong way up, and the boot-brushing apparatus got to work on the too of his head, while the other end poured hot coffee down the leg of his trousers, and when he finally got free, he broke up my humble little home with the patent. That discouraged me, and I haven't invented anything since. Ah-hi!"—New York News.

"I don't wonder she attracted your at-greated with the age of his life were passed in this and similar positions as waiter in fifth-rate cafes and restaul-waiter in fifth-rate cafes and readily the patent. That discouraged me, and I haven't invented anything since. Ah-hi!"—New York News.

"I don't wonder she attracted your at-greated with the cafe and nearly the patent." The next four years of his life were passed in this and similar positions as waiter in fifth-rate cafes and readily the latest of the ment of the most dangerous man in all Europe. Likeness from the only extant picture of him.

Known as the most dangerous wain in all Europe. Likeness from the only extant pic

"I don't wonder she attracted your attention. She's the most magnificently dressed young woman here." "Who's that common looking old duffer that came with her?" "Oh, he's her father. All he's good for is to pay her bills."—Chicago Tribune.

EUROPE'S MOST DANGEROUS MAN

Extraordinary Exploits of the Son of a Roumanian Prince, and a French Actress.

RAISED IN FOUNDLING ASYLUM.

Became Valet to a Prince Whose Name and Money he Stole, and Then Turned Criminal.

Special Correspondence.

Berlin, Germany, August 3, 1903. -George Manolesco, a Roumanian criminal, who has just escaped from the lunatic ward of Herzberg prison, near Berlin, is described by the Ger man police as the most dangerous man in Europe, and the strange story of his life and adventures fully justifies this discription.

Manolesco is the son of a Roumanian Prince and a French actress who was engaged at one of the Bucharest theaters during the year preceding his birth. Neither his father nor his mother made the least provision for him, and he was handed over to a foundlings' hospital, where he spent his earliest childhood. Those early days of ************************



passed in this and similar positions as waiter in fifth-rate cafes and restaurants in which he came in contact with the worst types of criminals of both sexes and all ages, besides a variety of nationalities. The Roumanians have a knack for languages, and Manolesco

was no exception to the rule, for durwas no exception to the rule, for during the few years that he was knocking about the Balkans, he picked up French, German and English with an ease which bore testimony to his wenderful mental powers. At the age of 18 or thereabouts Manolesco secured a place as valet to a millionaire Roumanian nobleman, Prince Lahowarl, whom he acompanied all over Europe. The youth's intelligence, willingness and pleasant manners gained him the and pleasant manners gained him the confidence of his master, to whom be

ecame more a trusted companion than

mere domestic. It was in this position that Manolesco was able to obtain that wide knowledge of men in general, and high society in particular, which afterwards enabled him to pursue criminal practises with such astonishing success. He learned to know how ladies and gentlemen talk and act, how they take their pleasures, and how they live their eyery-day life. He became acquainted with all the rall-way routes in Europe and with most of the great cities of the continent. All this wide exercises was the cential this wide experience was the capital with which he set up business as an expert criminal, about five years after he had entered the service of Prince

Lahowarl-that is, at the age of 23.

ROBBED HIS MASTER. Prince Lahowari was staying in Paris at the time. One evening, when he came home from the theater his valet was nowhere to be seen; so the prince went to bed without assistance, hinking that Manelesco would be there in the morning. In the morning the valet was still absent, but the prince had not the least suspicion that anything was wrong, so great was his con-fidence in Manoiesco. I; was not until late in the afternoon that he happened to go to his safe to take out some money he needed and found it had been ransacked. He made a careful examination of his rooms, and found that some \$10,000 in hard cash, securities to the value of \$15,000, and jewelry to the value of another \$10,000 were missing. He gave the alarm to the police, but meanwhite Marchand had fully 15 meanwhile, Manolesco had had fully 13 hours in which to make good his es-

soon it was discovered that the miss-ing man had had the nerve to sell the securities for their full value early in the morning at an exchange office not 15 minutes' walk from the hotel, relying on the probability that the prince would not discover the loss till much later. His further movements could not be traced, and he got clear away with the heavy booty of his first

KEPT FREE FROM PARTNERS. KEPT FREE FROM PARTNERS.

The success which he achieved on this occasion encouraged Manolesco to embeck on a crimibal career in big style. Henceforth he traveled up and down Europe, superintending or carrying out in person robberies of extraordinary daring and skill. One day it was a bank which he plundered: the next day he would strip some big hotel of all the valuable it contained, and on a third day, in the same city, notwithstanding the increased vigilance of the police produced by the operations of the police produced by the operations of the two previous days, he would go through a series of private houses, carrying way great quantities of swag. On three occasions, at least,

the day, and lifted piles of money lay-ing on the counters. Once the amount was \$25,000, another time it was \$30,000, and on other occasions he seized equal-ly big sums, but every time, he got away unmolested. At other times, he broke into the carefully guarded strong rooms of banks and opened safes sup posed to be proof against dynamite. His hotel robberies were carried out some times by day and sometimes by night, but always when the rooms were occupied by guests, so that it would seem impossible for any stranger to enter them, much less ransack them, with-

out being discovered. How Manolesco effected these masterpices of criminal ingenuity remains a mystery to the police, but the facts stand on record. One remarkable feature of his operations was that he had no accomplices whatever, which ex-plains much of his success.

This criminal activity lasted for over five years, and during the greater part of the time, Manolesco was living a double life of a truly romantic char-acter. When he was not actually en-gaged in committing sensational burglaries, he assumed the title of Prince glaries, he assumed the title of Prince Lahowari—his former master—and svent into society in Paris and Berlin. Thanks to the lessons which he had learnt so well as a valet, and to the in-timate knowledge which he had ob-tained regarding the inner history of the Lahowari family, Manolesco was able to play his role to perfection. His wealth made a deep impression on so-ciety, while his eccentricities gained him the reputation of being a genuis.

Form time to time, he disappeared for a few days, for a week, or even for a month, but these mysterious retirements were attributed to his originality, and no one dreamed that Prince Lahowari was identical with the formidable criminal who had become the terror of the police of all European

WEDS A COUNTESS.

WEDS A COUNTESS.

It was during this period that Manclerco had his love romance. At the receptions which he attended in Paris, he became acquainted with the young Countess Kirchberg, the daughter of Count Kirchberg, a proud nobleman of Franco-German descent, and soon he was an ardent suitor for her hand. The comtesse, on her side, was fascinated by the dark and interesting Roumanian prince, and when he made her a formal offer of marriage, she accepted it with toy. During his engagement, "Prince La-

howari" continued to disappear as here tofore, but his aristocratic flancee tol crated his whim, as she regarded it, and talked of his unique ideas in tones of admiration. In due course, they were married, and after the wedding. "Prince Lahowari" continued to lead the same double existence as before.

At this time, he was at the height of his career. He was uninterruptedly successful in his burgling operations, and he was the hisband of a lady become to one of the added and bluests. longing to one of the oldest and bluest-blooded families in Europe. This combination of circumstances flattered his vanity as it appealed to his imagination, and he dropped into the habit of think-ing that his repealed crimes against ociety were proof against discovery.

FATE'S CLAIM ON LITTLE CHILD.

Czar Now Planning to Make Tiny Olga Empress of Russia, if he Has No Son.

CHANGE IN SUCCESSION LAWS.

Prospective Loss of the Imperial Crown to His Own Family the Actuating Cause.

Special Correspondence. St. Petersburg, Aug. 1 .- Little Grand Duchess Olgo of Russia, the eldest daughter of the czar, now not quite \$ years of age, has every prospect of becoming the unhappiest woman in the world, for it is again stated-and on good authority this time-that the Rus-

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COUNTESS KIRCHBERG.

The aristocrat who married Monolesco, and is now afraid he will murder

MODERATE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PR His aristocratic wife, however, was

not so satisfied with herself and the world. At close quarters, Manalesco often betrayed his innate brutality of nature, and his unpleasant qualities were a constant trouble to his wife, who, however, even then had not the faintest suspicion of her husband's true haracter and eccupation.

CAUGHT AT LAST.

Ultimately, of course, retribution overtook the criminal. Some two years ago, he was hunted down by the po-lice as the perpetrator of the numerous crimes which had so long puzzled them. His trial took place in Berlin, but the police were utterly unable to bring home many of his crimes to him owing to some missing link in the chain of legal evidence. Nevertheless, he was sentenced to a term of seven years harl labor.

With consummat cunning, he succeed ed in convincing the doctors that he was ane, and instead of undergoing the hardships of penal servitude, he was transferred to the comfortable and comaratively luxurious lunatic ward of the prison at Herzberg. He had not been there long before he escaped, showing great daring and astonishing strength, for he overpowered six wardens broke through two massive prison

He was recaptured, and now he has strategem. In the night, he called a warder to his cell, saying he was unwell and needed a doctor. The warder entered the cell to see what was wrong. whereupen Manolesco krocked him down, tied a handkerchief round his neck to tightly that he could hardly breathe, much less shout for help, and breathe, much loss shoul for help, and bound him so that he was unable to move a limb. Manolesco then took the warder's keys, let himself out, and walked boldly away. He was still wearing prison garb, but no one saw him, and in this attire, he actually traveled from Berlin to Dresden, a discrete limb by the still t tance of over 100 miles. How he did t remains a mystery, like many other

IN CLOVER.

Arrived at Dresden, he gained en-trance to the fashionable hotel de l'Eu-rope, and plundered a number of rooma occupied by visitors. In the first room occupied by visitors. In the first room he found an elegant gray suit, with overcost and hat to match. These he took away, leaving his convict's clothes hidden under the mattress, thus bestraying his identity. In the next room he annexed a pair of patent leather shoes: In a third room, he found a shirt, study, links, tie, and a diamond pin. In a fourth room he helped himself to a cigarcase filled with the contilext Havanas, and in a fifth room is liest Havanas, and in a fifth room in found a razor and shaving necessaries. He sat down cooly as if he were in his own residence and shaved off his beard,
From other rooms, he took hard cash
and other valuables. Altogether he
must have been in the hoter fully two hours, during which time he completely ransacked the place. How he contri-ed to do this without being discovered is more than anyone can tell. He has low got completely away.

He is a dangerous man to be at large,

and his wife, in particular, is in terror, Being married according to the rites

sian laws of succession are to be altered so as to enable her to ascend the throne when her father, Nicholas II,

According to the present laws of sucession, no female member of the imperial family can ascend the throne till all the male members of all branches of the house of Romanoff have died out, Therefore, failing the birth of a son to the ezar, his brother, the Grand Duke Michael, would be the next emperor of all the Russias. Grand Duke Michael, however, is in weak health—consumption, it is hinted—and if the czar outlives him the succession passes to their uncle, Grand Duke Vladimir, and his sons, the Grand Dukes Cyril, Beris and Andre. Failing these, the ezar has three more uncles and fully score of male cousins of the second and third degrees, all of whom, undr he present law, take precedence in the ight of succession to the ezar's own

daughters.
The loss of the imperial crown to his own family by no means saits the intirce past he has been contemplating a radical change which would secure the first rights to his daughters and their descendants instead of to his brother and the swarm of uncles and cousins. The laws of succession in Rusria are not regulated constitutionally, but can be modified or aftered fundamentally by the reigning czar at any time according to his own will and supreme pleasure, so that a simple pro-clamation, with his signature appended, would suffice to bring about the change which is Nichelass II,'s great desire. That fact is not generally understood, RELATIVES COVET HIS THRONE.

Easy as it appears for an absolutely autocratic monarch to fulfill his own heart's desire by a single stroke of the pen. Nicholas II has, nevertheless, nestrated to do so, for he fears the bitter ennity which such a step would stir up against him among his uncles and cousins, who, between them, pospronents if united in hostility to the

Ever since he ascended the throne of Russia Nicholas' troot formidable cae-mics have been his own near relatives, and particularly his nucle, Grand Duke Dischars Marie Paviovna, and their three sons Grand Duke Cyril, Borts and Andre, for this branch of the imperial family has never seased to hope that the soundy ventural of the exar and his brother by feath, abdication or other means will open for them the way to the threm which they cover. They have maligned and ridiculed the exar has a maligned and resematically falso they have spread systematically false reports about how, taking care that the wildcat runers should find their way not the press of Europe and America, and they have sought to undermine is position by all conceivable means,

DANGER OF ASSASSINATION.

This entity toward the czar at his wa court has developed to such an extent that the weightest and most sober of Jerman political reviews, Die Nation, leader, Dr. Barth, has seen fit to pub-

THE RESIDENCE OF THE PROPERTY



TITLED WOMAN WHO IS THE MOTHER OF A MARVELOUS FAMILY.

Dowager Duchess of Abercorn, who has just celebrated her 91st birthday, is the ancestor of this group, which

includes three dukes, and no end of lesser lords.

(Continued on page ten.)

liard marker" in London will preside. The click of the ivory can be heard in The Ladies' Army and Navy club claim other reasons for being the big-gest woman's club in the world, than that billiard room pretty steadily from 10 in the morning till 11 at night, and it the mere size of its membership list. All sorts of important people belong to it. Her Serene Highness Princess Edis an interesting and rather significant fact that the billiard room is open even ward of Saxe-Weimer, for whose sake her late husband gave up a throne and on Sundays after 3 in the afternoon. And don't suppose that these up-tocontracted a morgaratic alliance, is president. Her serene nighness took billiards without A QUIET LITTLE GAMBLE.

A QUIET LITTLE GAMBLE.

Likewise the card room is a lively and sometimes a coally place—Sunday or any other day. Theoretically, at least, you may not play whist for more than 25 cents a point, or bridge for more than 25 cents a point, or bridge for more than 25 cents a point, or bridge for more a point, or bezique for 4 cents per 106—but that doesn't mean that devotees of bridge, for instance, do not exchange.

Includes three dukes, and no end of lesser lords.

London, Aug. 5.—Here is a photo-kite disk, and it beats all records for blue blood of a single brand! That marvel-blood of a single brand! That marvel

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MRS. G. A. DUNDAS.

has resulted in an invitation for her to come to the United States and start

Reconstruction of the Participant Contraction of the Contraction of th

is going to have 4,000 before this year | ings are tabooed. The club's founda-

tion is the need for resting places other than hotels by women whose homes are more or less inaccessible, and who by

joining together can buy solid comfort at a reasonable rate. Most of the women who belong to the Ladies' "Rag" are able to pay for the best hotel accommodation in London, but they like to save money just the same. This

most fashionable and comfortable of clubs costs them \$25 a year dues, rooms from 85 cents up to \$1.85 cents a night,

breakfast 25 cents, luncheon 50 cents

linners 75 cents-which is about half

There isn't anything notably philan-

thropic about the Ladies' Army and Navy club, but it does one charity in a

unique way. A sum of 1 shilling on each subscription is set aside az an

annual donation to a charitable institu-tion connected with the army and navy

services, the special object to be ramed by her royal highness the Princess

The Ladies' Army and Navy club

grew out of one clever woman's head. The present secretary, Mrs. G. A. Dun-

long and honored standing, saw the fallacy of social clubs, and clubs run

with no particular idea of business be-

t to Pierpont Morgan. Perhaps the fact that her offices in the Walsingham House were under the same roof as

those of the redcubtable Ernest Terah Hooley gave point to her pen, although

her scheme proved as sound as most of the celebrated Hooley schemes

proved shady. She started the club on very little capital, but when its success

was so great that it became evident it must move out of its first home in

Dover street before it was a year old, she put forth a scheme for the issue of 12,500 % per cent shares of \$5 each, in order to get the Bristol hotel on a lease

of 53 years. Most of the stock was taken by the members, and according

that stock was an uncommonly good

investment. One result of the finan-cial as well as the social success of the

club is that its secretary has been con-sidering the plan of going over to Ameri-

to start a similar institution in New ork. She has also been asked to take

the management of other similar insti-

present rate will be the head of some kind of international club trust before

the semi-annual issued last week,

hind them. So she became a promoter in a fashion that would have done cred-

whose army connections are

Christian, sister to the king.

the rate of the average first class hotel

n London costs.

a similar institution here.

\$17,500 a year.

is out. It has just taken over a big

and famous old hotel in the very heart

of the fashionable shopping district, and

is estimating its annual income at \$45,-

000 from annual dues alone, \$20,000 from

rents of its bedrooms and \$10,000 from

profits on its food and wines-with a

surplus over all running expenses of

The irreverent call this surprising

new institution, "The Amazons and

Mermaids," only near relations of men who hold, or have held, commissions in

who hold, or have head, contained the army or navy being admitted to membership. Other folk, yet more irreverent, style the new concern "The Ladies' Rag." for the reason that the

historic "Army and Navy Club," from which the ladies have borrowed their

name, has been known by the nickname of "The Rag" for time out of mind.

IN A FAMOUS OLD HOUSE.

The building into which this biggest

and richest of women's clubs has just moved occupies a whole block in Bur-

lington Gardens just off Piccadilly, It

was once the Bristol hotel, the historic

hostelry many times sheltering the late king of Italy, and other royal guests. The Baring brothers of bank-

ing fame were habitues of the house at

one time, and the last important per-sonage to put up there before the hotel became a club house was the Grand Duke of Hesse, en route to the

once as much frequented as is the Carl-ton or Savoy today. Now all the glo-ries and comfort of the place redound

to benefit the progressive English wo

men who have made it even more lux-urious than it used to be.

A staff of sixty servants is already bired, and the club also supports a lit-

tle army of clerks, typists, halr-dress-ers and manicure girls. The dining-room, said to be the finest club room

In London, will seat two hundred at a pinch, and 189 is the usual number

too, where they can buy as little as a single ham sandwich if they want it or

a modest bowl of soup, without the necessity of everybody's knowing about this little economy. In the big diningrooms, everything is table-d'hote.

The Ladies' Army and Navy club is

one of two women's organizations in London which boasts a billiard room.

and there's to be a big billiard match before long when the only "lady bil-

Members have a cozy retreat,

The Bristol restaurant

Whose success in organizing the biggest and richest of Women's Clubs,