

The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.



COLUMBUS WAS NOT SUCH A HERO

Critical Studies of His Life by Prominent American at Paris Embassy.

HIGHEST LITERARY HONOR.

Movement for Canonization of Navigator, Originating in America, Finds No Support at Rome.

Special Correspondence.

PARIS, Jan. 7.—Henry Vignaud, the venerable first secretary of the United States embassy in Paris, is now putting the finishing touches to the second series of his monumental work, "Critical Studies of the Life of Columbus." His first series has just been "crowned" by the academy. This is the highest form of appreciation that France can bestow, and no other recognition elsewhere is held in such high esteem as the men who confer it are all savants of the specialist order. It is a distinction rarely given to foreigners and Mr. Vignaud is the first American to receive it.

CONFIRMED PREVARICATOR.

"In my first series of critical studies," said Mr. Vignaud, "I left Columbus when he settled in Portugal and married. In the new series I take him from the commencement of his life in Portugal until his departure for the discovery of America. In other words, my second series is a continuation of the first. My critical studies, however, conclude with Columbus's starting on his voyage because after that his life is fully recorded and there are no disputed points about him to be cleared up. Columbus was a man of mystery and a most consummate liar. He lied continually about himself. He lied whenever he thought it served his personal interests. I prove him to be a confirmed liar.

married to Beatrice. This is something that will have to be taken into account in considering his fitness for canonization. His eldest son, however, is legitimate, for Columbus was married in Portugal. It is from this son that the Duke de Veragua, who raises bulls for the fights in Spain, and who visited America during the Chicago exposition, is descended.

SEEKING THE TRUTH.

"It is often said that I am too severe upon Columbus. I have sought only to set out the truth about him, and it is the truth about him that proves him to have been a consummate liar. The results of my investigations set forth in my first series of studies are now accepted as incontrovertible by all serious students of the discoverer of America. Filson Young, for instance, in his life of Columbus, accepts my contentions throughout.

"I may mention also that the discovery of the true date of Columbus's birth is mine. Since I made that known a document has been brought to light showing that Columbus was born in 1451 as I maintained. Formerly all histories of the navigator were based largely upon tradition, but the facts that I have brought to light concerning him show that he was far from being the sort of man who is worthy of our worship."

CANNOT BE CANONIZED.

"Will Columbus ever be made a saint, Mr. Vignaud?" I asked.

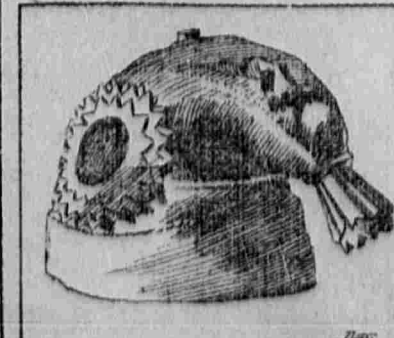
"Never," Mr. Vignaud replied. "You might look upon me as a kind of lay devil's advocate. You know that the cardinal who is appointed to oppose the canonization of a saint and who raises all the objections he can is called the devil's advocate. The question of the canonization of Columbus is full of interest for Americans. I believe the Knights of Columbus, a powerful organization in the United States, pushed the canonization. Americans contributed towards the expense of the investigation. The movement originated in France, Plus IX favored it; Leo XIII frowned upon it; and Plus X has taken no action in the matter. Recently it was said that the question was being taken up again at the instigation of the Knights of Columbus. I have communicated with Rome on the matter and the reply is that nothing is being done about it.

"Columbus cannot be canonized because, according to the canons of the Catholic church, that honor is reserved only for those who were possessed of heroic virtues and by whom, or at least through whom, not less than three miracles have been wrought. Now no miracles are attributed to Columbus and he cannot have been heroically virtuous because he was a most accomplished liar and he lived in concubinage with Beatrice Henriquez. The question of his canonization never even reached the Congregation of Rites which is the first step. The Knights of Columbus will have to wait a long time for their saint."

Mr. Vignaud's studies of Columbus and his estimate of the character of the man are all the more interesting because of the fact that it was a feeling of profound admiration for the discoverer of America, based upon what he had up to that time read about him, that led him to take up the subject.

TROPHY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.

The French "cap of liberty" shown herewith was taken from the mainmast of the frigate *Union* by an English captain when that vessel was captured in 1793, and it has remained in the possession of his descendants ever since. Only three of these interesting relics of the French revolution are known to exist.



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What English Statesmen Pay for Premiership.

Shattered Health the Price of High Position—Recent Breakdown of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman Calls Attention Afresh to Calls Made on Vitality by His Exalted Office—Job of U. S. President One of Luxurious Ease.

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—Broken health is the price almost invariably paid for the highest office under the crown in England—that of prime minister. Truly it may be described as a killing job. Attention has been called once again to the tremendous strain it places on the vitality of its incumbent by the recent breakdown of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, which was due solely to overwork.

There probably is no position, public or private in the world, which makes so many demands on the time and energy of its holder. Americans are accustomed to the statement that the president of the United States is the hardest worked man in the country, and no doubt he is, but the president of the United States leads a life of luxurious ease compared with that of the prime minister of the British empire. Try to imagine the duties of the president, the leader of the house of representatives and the chairman of the national committee rolled into one, and add to that personal responsibility for all the machinery of government, including every department looked after in America by a member of the cabinet, who also is independent. Add to these duties the ever present necessity of attending to the business of the nation, on which the premier's tenure of office depends, and the drudgery of addressing numberless great meetings and traveling from one end of the kingdom to another when parliament is not sitting, and you may have some idea of the burden of toil that falls on the shoulders of the British prime minister. The president of the United States is an executive only. Except so far as his personal influence goes, he has nothing to do with the legislative branch of the government. His secretaries in charge of the various departments are semi-independent, and except in matters of broad general policy he has little concern with the direct management of the various departments of government.

MUCH HARRASSED MAN.

The prime minister of England is an executive, a legislative and a political officer. He must have a seat in one or other house of parliament and he must be in his place night after night to lead his party and answer the questions of his opponents, who do not err on the side of consideration for the much-harrassed man whom they are trying their hardest to oust from his high position. It must be remembered too that the house of commons, in which the present prime minister sits, does not, like the house of representatives, meet in the morning and adjourn at a reasonable hour. It meets in the afternoon, seldom adjourns before midnight and often sits all night. All this time the premier has to be in his place, although he may have been hard at work on the administrative features of his routine since early morning. He may have to make a dozen speeches in a night, many of them impromptu, and he must always be alert and have all his wits about him, for an apparently slight slip may mean the downfall of his government and the defeat of the measures and policies for which he stands.

This is the legislative side of his work. On the administrative side he must preside, sometimes daily for a week or more, and usually at least once a week, at cabinet councils at which the party program of legislation, the party policy on all great questions, and many small ones, appointments to office and a host of other details are discussed. He must act as peacemaker among a group of ambitious men struggling to secure each for himself whatever credit is to be got for the government's accomplishments and to place on some one else's shoulders the responsibility for failure. He must labor to keep his cabinet harmonious, although there are often grave differences of policy and principle among its members, and to see that it presents a united front to the country.

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MUST ATTEND KING.

In addition to all this he may be summoned at any moment to attend the king, and that is a summons that must not be disobeyed. He has to attend the king's privy councils and he must be in evidence when the king entertains foreign royalties or other guests of political importance, and perhaps these functions are the most tiring of all to a man who has passed middle age, as the British premier almost invariably has. One must do a good deal of standing in the presence of royalty and a good deal of bowing, and they are both physically tiring. The restraint and etiquette are mentally wearing, especially to a man who, like Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, has not been brought up in the atmosphere of the court.

But it must also be remembered that England is an intensely democratic country, notwithstanding all the pomp and circumstance which surround its monarch and its government. The prime minister must be almost as accessible as the president of the United States. Day after day he must receive deputations from all sorts of public and commercial bodies interested in legislation or administrative policy, and he must dare not refuse to see them. It will be seen, then, that the 24 hours are all too short for the prime minister's work.

NO REST ON HOLIDAYS.

His holidays even are strenuous. When parliament adjourns the round of speech-making begins. The prime minister must make at least one great speech to his own constituents. He must attend banquet after banquet, and at each one he is expected to say something that is addressed not only to those within the sound of his voice but to the whole country, and he must write letters and send messages to divers ends of the kingdom. It is physically impossible for him to attend.

Perhaps this very inadequate recital of the principal of his duties will give some idea of the enormous strain to which the prime minister is subjected. On the day on which Sir Henry collapsed he hurried up from Windsor Castle, where he had been in attendance on the king and his guest, the German emperor, to receive a deputation of brewers and others interested in the new liquor legislation which is promised for the next session of parliament. From his official residence at No. 10 Downing street, where he received the deputation, he drove to the Guildhall, in the old city of London, and was present at the city corporation's lunch in honor of the Kaiser, and from the Guildhall he drove straight to the railway station and traveled more than 200 miles into Wales, where he was to deliver an important political speech that night. Of course, he was the guest of honor at a great banquet immediately after his arrival, and after the banquet he delivered his speech. The breakdown came in the night, a short time after he had retired to bed, and the result is that he has been compelled to abandon all business and take a long rest on the Riviera.

LAST OF LONG LINE.

Sir Henry is the last of a long line of premiers who have sacrificed their health for the public service. His immediate predecessor, Mr. Balfour, was ill more than once during his term of office, and immediately after his leaving it he was compelled to take a long rest cure. In spite of that he never has been a well man since he left the premiership, and he is just recovering from a recent breakdown caused by the strain of recess speaking. Mr. Balfour, too, is a younger man than Sir Henry, who is 71, and he has the additional advantage of being a devotee of the outdoor life. Every night that he can snatch from the hurly-burly of politics is devoted to golf, and he is classed as one of the best amateur golfers in the kingdom.

His uncle, Lord Salisbury, who preceded him in the premiership, was a man of extraordinary constitution, but even he confessed that the only way in which he kept himself fit for his duties was by having a hobby. His hobby was chemistry, and after a wearying night in parliament he would often devote a few hours in his laboratory to working out some problem, which gave him mental relief at least from the cares of state. Even Lord Salisbury, however, did not last long after his retirement from public life, and his life was shortened many years undoubtedly by the enormous labors of the premiership.

GLADSTONE A WORKER.

Probably one of the most remarkable workers who ever held this great office was Mr. Gladstone. In appearance he was almost frail, and it is well known that his health never was robust. It also is common knowledge that he owed his power to continual working as he did to the devoted care of his wife, who, indeed, combined the duties and duties of a wife, a nurse and a mother. There never was a late sitting at the house which did not find Mrs. Gladstone waiting in her carriage in the Palace yard for her husband to join her, and her first care was to wrap a muffler round his throat and a shawl around his shoulders. She watched his physical condition with the keenness of a physician, and the slightest sign of overstrain she insisted on carrying him off into the country, where he was wont to recuperate with the aid of his favorite exercise of cutting down trees.

Another prime minister who suffered from the strain of the office was Lord Palmerston, whose prodigious energy is the subject of special remark by all his contemporary biographers. Professor Payne, in a volume of reminiscences, tells of leaving the house with Palmerston at 1 o'clock one morning and walking up Parliament street with him. At the door of the foreign office Palmerston left him, remarking that he had several important papers to revise before he could go to bed. It is said that Palmerston made it a practice to work 10 hours a day at the foreign office in addition to attending to his legislative duties. He had a desk constructed at the foreign office at which he used to stand because, he said, if he fell asleep, the fall would wake him.

KEPT IN CONDITION.

Another of his biographers tells of going to call on him one night. As the caller approached the house he saw Palmerston come out bareheaded and look cautiously around. Apparently satisfied that no one was in sight he proceeded to climb over the high railings in front of the house and then climb back again. This done, he re-entered the house. In reply to his caller's inquiry he said that this was his way of ascertaining if he was keeping in proper physical condition or not. If overwork was telling on him too much he would be unable to climb the railings.

William Pitt, the first Earl of Chatham, was perhaps the only case of a premier who actually was killed by his work when in harness. He was suffering from a serious breakdown when a parliamentary crisis arose, and he insisted on going to the house. When there he was seized with the attack which terminated in his death. It is interesting to note that he was engaged in when he collapsed was the moving of an address to the king praying him to withdraw his troops from America and make peace with the revolted colonies.

The younger Pitt also was a victim of the burden of the premiership, and history records several instances of his breakdown. George Canning actually became ill in the house when he was premier, and was laid aside for months by a serious

illness brought on by the cares and duties of his office. Peel said that if his nose did not bleed every night in the house he would collapse.

SEEMS TO BE NO REMEDY.

It is hard to say what the remedy for this state of affairs is. In fact, there seems to be none under the English political system, and the tendency is for the premiership to become still harder with the growth of democracy. In the old days the premier at least was spared the endless processions of deputations from labor unions, friendly societies, clubs of all kinds and all sorts of business associations which the premier of today has to receive. To refuse to see one of them might cost his party thousands of votes, or even mean the loss of a seat in parliament. The attendance on royalty is a duty of state which cannot well be dispensed with, although the present king, with his usual good sense, has recognized the strain on the premier and has cut it down to a minimum. The parliamentary duties are regarded as indispensable for the British people demand that the responsible head of their government shall be present in parliament to answer for all his actions to the representatives of the people, and his position as the head of the government entails a certain amount of campaigning and public speaking.

The conclusion, impotent as it may seem, seems to be that England must sacrifice her ablest men on the altar of the premiership.

JOHN S. STEELE.

ANTI-SEMITIC AGITATOR

A DANGEROUS LUNATIC.

Special Correspondence.

BERLIN, Jan. 8.—At last it seems probable that a termination has been put to the pernicious activity of Count Walter Puckler, the notorious anti-Semitic agitator. He will no longer be allowed to indulge publicly in his favorite pastime—Jew baiting. He has been adjudged a dangerous lunatic and the other afternoon was arrested at a fashionable hotel here and conveyed under police escort to Daildorf asylum.

But it is not his fulminations against the Jews which have led to his suppression. It is for something which under German law is regarded as a far more heinous offense. He has abused the sacred person of the Kaiser. And no man—state or man—can be allowed to do that with impunity.

Count Puckler has for many years been the most implacable foe of the Jewish race in Germany. He has delivered hundreds of speeches against the Jews which have led to his suppression. It is for something which under German law is regarded as a far more heinous offense. He has abused the sacred person of the Kaiser. And no man—state or man—can be allowed to do that with impunity.

GRAFT RAMPANT IN STAGD ENGLAND

Local Governments of Johnny Bull Said to Be Honey-combed With It.

RECENT INVESTIGATIONS.

Disclose a State of Affairs Calculated To Make Tammany Turn Green With Envy.

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, Jan. 9.—Englishmen who enjoyed talking about the corruption and dishonesty in American municipal life are singing very small just now. Even the most patriotic Briton is apt to feel that for him to abuse America on this score is dangerously like the pot calling the kettle black.

It has always been the boast of Englishmen that all departments of their government were free from corruption and to a great extent this has been the case. Lately, however, there has been a rude awakening. Investigation after investigation into the workings of various boards of guardians and other local government authorities have disclosed a state of affairs which would put to shame the greatest grafters that Tammany hall or the Philadelphia ring ever produced. It is true that the amounts of money involved in the English disclosures were smaller than those that we are accustomed to hear about from America, but the only reason that this was so was that the amounts that could be stolen were smaller. Working on the percentage basis the British grafter has far eclipsed his American cousin.

GRAFT IN LONDON.

London has been going through a series of investigations of boards of guardians for the last year or more. So far half a dozen of the forty or more boards in the London district have been investigated by local government board officials, and a startling state of corruption has been disclosed in each. At least half a dozen more boards have been designated for investigation, and it is said that practically every board of guardians in the United Kingdom is in need of investigation, and will come in for it before long. Already one contractor and five guardians have been sent to jail and there will be many other prosecutions.

JOHN BURNS RESPONSIBLE.

The one man to whom the credit for all this house-cleaning is due is John Burns, the ex-labor leader and Socialist who is now a member of the cabinet as president of the local government board. This board has jurisdiction over the work of all the local elected bodies and is expected to watch them and exercise a check on their expenditures. Until the advent of John Burns, however, it was chiefly conspicuous for its somnolence. Mr. Burns has had a long experience in local government and the first thing he did was to attack the system that has grown up. He declared that he does not intend to stop until he has eliminated the last vestige of graft from English public life.

The board of guardians is an institution peculiarly English. It is a purely local elected body and has jurisdiction solely over the administration of the poor law. It is independent of every other local authority and until recently was in practice entirely independent even of the local government board. It has the spending of a great deal of

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