

That the "sure customer" for whatever you have to sell is a reader of the want ads. is one of the safest guesses you can possibly make in an uncertain world.

# DESERET EVENING NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

PART FOUR-49 TO 64.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1904. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

Many of those who are advertising in the classified columns today for the first time will develop, in the course of a year, into regular and successful advertisers.

FIFTY-FOURTH YEAR.

## The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.

### FACTS ABOUT ENGLAND'S NAVY.

Some Queer Information Regarding the Mysterious Department of Great Britain.

### DOUBTFUL ABOUT ITS DUTIES.

Land End of Maritime Affairs Is Decidedly Very Much at Sea.

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—"There must be something the matter with our army," said England after the Boer war was nicely started; "but our navy—that's all right." Then after the navy had finally muddled through the Boer war certain reformers rose up and said: "The navy is as much enmeshed in red tape as the army is or ever was, and if a first class power should happen to collide with that navy we British folk would not come out of that collision half so well as has been generally supposed."

Then what a stir there was in Whitehall, where, from the dingy but dignified old admiralty building, the navy has been managed ever since the days before there was any United States! Even the stolid, fat sea horses over the archway seemed to take on an expression of heavy contempt for reformers and critics generally. Admirals and rear admirals and vice admirals—mostly retired—wrote letters to the Times saying patriotic things about "England's bulwarks," and all that, and inviting any two powers on earth to sail up and see what they could do with the finest navy on earth.

The result of it all was, however, a rather careful examination of the British navy's claims to be "quite all right" with an ultimate conclusion that whereas that portion of the navy which happened to be afloat was indeed a navy to be proud of, yet the admiralty—that portion which ran the show from musty offices in Whitehall—was in need of having its burlesques scraped off. Luckily for John Bull that scraping process began before Admiral Rodjestvensky and his Baltic fleet won their memorable and glorious victory over a handful of British frigates in the Doggerbank.

Under the pressure of public opinion and the influence of such men as Admiral Sir John Fisher and Lord Charles Bessford, commander of the Channel squadron, the admiralty has taken up and is doing harder and better work than it ever did before. But its organization continues the same as that which in the past frequently has allowed the British navy to lapse into a deplorable condition of inefficiency. Its constitution affords no guarantee that it will not do the same thing again when public vigilance is relaxed or its personnel is changed.

The admiralty is controlled by a board. "Boards," says Sidney Smith, "are only meant to act as a screen." As a screen to conceal from the public what goes on within the admiralty, for which British taxpayers are now paying nearly \$150,000,000 annually in salaries to heads of departments, minor officials and clerks, it is a most effective device. It is based on negation of direct responsibility, the very principle which is found essential to the successful management of any business enterprise.

At its head is a cabinet minister with the official title of first lord of the admiralty. In the old fighting days this minister was frequently a naval officer, but for many years a politician has been selected for the post. He may not have given one hour's serious study to the navy before he accepts office. And under the English system of political preference he is almost invariably a man absolutely devoid of business training, one who has never undergone the salutary experience of having to make his own living. He receives a salary of \$22,500 a year, nearly three times what an American cabinet minister gets, and an official residence to live in. If he does not happen to be a peer a peerage is generally bestowed upon him when he retires from office. He is the spokesman of the board. Though he has none of the expert knowledge of some of those who are associated with him, with the exception of one or two civilian like-minded technical experts, he is the only member of the board who is not officially muzzled and forbidden to write and talk about the navy.

The present holder of the office is Lord Selborne, who had the good fortune 21 years ago to marry a daughter of the Marquis of Salisbury and thus attached himself to the house of Cecil, whose members the marquis always did his best to provide with royal political billets. However, Lord Selborne is reputed to be a conscientious, fairly capable and energetic man. Like the rest of the admiralty officials, he has for some time had a "move on." He has been known to spend a holiday in the otherwise empty admiralty building, working out schemes for the betterment of the navy, while Prime Minister Balfour and other members of the cabinet have taken themselves to golf and other pastimes remote from the cares of empire.

Special Correspondence.

BERLIN, Dec. 8.—After considerable difficulty, it has just been possible to secure the accompanying portrait of Madame Wilhelmina Hartert, the usurious and matrimonial agent, whose surprising career in German high society was recently exposed in the Berlin criminal court. Sent with this article, too, is a portrait of Baron Nettelbladt, the young German nobleman who preferred to commit suicide rather than comply with the terms of the adventures, to whom he owed money. These were that the baron should marry an heiress indicated by Madame Hartert, and settle his debt out of his wife's dowry. At her trial it was proved that the usurers, who kept up a superb establishment in Berlin, had made half a



MADAME HARTERT. The Adventuress Who Made Half a Million Dollars by Lending Money to Young German Noblemen at Usurious Rates and Taking Her Pay Out of the Dowries from Marriages Which She Obligated Them to Make.

million dollars by getting young aristocrats into her clutches, and then arranging marriages for them and taking a "rake off."

### SHE SOARED RAPIDLY.

Considering her low birth, lack of education and refinement, and initial impetuosity, the rapidity with which Madame Hartert forced her way into Berlin society and secured an influential social position is truly amazing. She is the daughter of a street scavenger, who piled his unsavory occupation in the German capital for 30 years, while her mother began her career as maid-of-all-work in a common lodging house and ended it as a washer-woman. Madame Hartert gained her education partly in the public state-schools, where attendance is compulsory up to the age of 14, and partly in the vice-laden streets of Berlin. Following her mother's footsteps she began as a domestic servant and drifted at an early age into the employment of smart single women

things running. The figures show that the salaries range considerably higher than those paid similar officials in America.

From the point of view of the efficiency of the navy the most important members of the board are, of course, the naval lords, because they know best, or should know best, what the requirements of the navy. But with the exception of the third naval lord, who is controller, is charged with the superintendence of construction, their duties and responsibilities never have been defined. In a general way the senior naval lord is supposed to act as the chief naval adviser of the first lord (the politician), and the second and junior naval lords are supposed to look after the personnel. But they are pinned down to nothing in particular and it is all supposition. What goes on within the admiralty is a jealously guarded secret. There is a conflict of opinion as to whether the first lord is the superior, or the equal merely, of the senior naval lord, and whether the second, third and junior naval lords are the equals or inferiors of the senior naval lord. It is all muddle and perplexity.

The confusion that exists among the officials concerned was well brought out in the inquiry of the House of Commons. One of the members of the board at the time, Admiral Lord Hood, said: "All the members of the board are equally responsible with the first lord for the strength of the navy." One of his colleagues on the board, Admiral Sir A. Hoskins, declared: "It is a moot point whether it is in part of the first lord or whether it is in part of the naval lords to state to the first lord what they consider the naval requirements of the country to be, and though it is within their competency to do so it is an act of patriotism rather than a duty." Other members of the board gave testimony equally at variance as to what they were paid to do.

The Hartington commission made its report and suggested the obvious remedies: That the members of the board should have specific administrative duties charged with the management of their performance. That was 14 years ago. The report was received and pigeon-holed; and nothing was done.

The same muddle exists today in the composition of the high salaried admiralty board charged with the management of England's naval supremacy, as a working machine, with such zealous, wide awake naval lords as now form part of it, it is fairly efficient. Judged by the present state of the navy, but the system, or rather the lack of system, by which it is regulated holds no assurance that that efficiency will be maintained. Suppose Admiral Sir John Fisher and the sea graduates associated with him, in whom the country places such implicit confidence, should be replaced by fogies, men dis-

### Checkered Career of Wilhelmina Hartert.

The Daughter of a Street Scavenger, and the Widow of a Waiter, Who Managed to Secure an Influential Position in Berlin's "Four Hundred"—Got Money for Young Men of Title at Usurious Rates, and Took Her Pay Out of the Dowries from Marriages Which She Forced Them to Make.

who lived alone without chaperones. In these luxurious houses, the future Madame Hartert gradually became familiar with the manners and customs of men and women about town. She observed how formal and informal calls are made, how people behave in smart society, how a table is laid for dinner, in brief, how a household is conducted on fashionable lines. At the age of 25 she married a waiter named Hartert and accompanied him to Lon-

don, where he lived alone without chaperones. She contrived to persuade the owner of the house that she was a wealthy woman in momentary financial difficulty, and having secured the house was equally successful in inducing tradesmen to furnish it and fit it up in a sumptuously luxurious manner on credit. Having progressed thus far it was comparatively easy to obtain dresses and the best of everything on the same system. Finally, by pledging the contents of her house, which, of course, were not hers to pledge, Madame Hartert borrowed \$5,000 from a professional money-lender to use as working capital in her projected occupation. Her next move was to secure admittance into good circles of society. She rented a pew at a fashionable church, and was unfailing in her attendance on Sunday mornings and evenings. She subscribed to charities, and took an active part in bazaars arranged for benevolent purposes. Soon people began to take an interest in the widow whose dress was immaculate and who seemed to have command of unlimited supplies of money. But Madame Hartert was playing a dangerous game. The \$5,000 which she had borrowed approached exhaustion at a very early stage of her career. She paid \$500 towards her house rent, \$1,000 for her dressmakers and \$1,500 on account to her furnisher, leaving only \$2,000 to launch herself into society.

### SHE WAS A GOOD FELLOW.

Her efforts were successful in that direction, however, and in a remarkably short period of time, Madame Hartert's house became the resort of numerous men and women belonging to the upper classes of society. There were plenty of penniless young men of noble birth who offered themselves as candidates for the hand of the supposedly wealthy widow. It was among this class of visitors that Madame Hartert secured her victims. Posing as a good friend who was inclined to help them out of their financial embarrassments, Madame Hartert offered to procure loans for them from professional money-lenders, offering herself to be their security. A typical case of this kind was exposed in the course of the recent trial. One of Madame Hartert's victims was Baron Maltzahn, a lieutenant in the German army, who soon confided to her that he was threatened by ruin because he could not pay debts amounting to \$15,000. Madame Hartert said to Baron Maltzahn: "I cannot lend you this amount myself, but my credit will enable me to borrow it from a money-lender for you. Your own credit is so good that you cannot possibly borrow the money yourself. I will give the money-lender a promissory note and you can give one to me for the same amount. I feel quite safe in doing you this favor because I know that you are an officer and will certainly pay your debts to a lady."

### HEAVY INTEREST.

Madame Hartert then borrowed \$15,000 from a money-lender, giving him a promissory note for \$17,500 in return. Two days later she informed Baron Maltzahn that she had been compelled to give the money-lender a promissory note for \$25,000, payable in three months. Baron Maltzahn, who was a careless young fellow, accordingly gave her a promissory note for \$25,000, and the two became better friends than ever. As the time approached for the repayment of the sum to Madame Hartert, Baron Maltzahn, whose expectations in other directions were disappointed, began to grow extremely

### AUDACITY DID IT.

Disappointed in her efforts, she conceived the idea of exploiting the weaknesses of high society with which she had become acquainted before and after her marriage. By pure audacity she succeeded in taking a large house in a fashionable street in the most aristocratic quarter in Berlin, though she had not

posed to avail themselves to the full of the opportunities their billets offered them to shirk work and responsibility, what might not happen then? That is the question which naval reformers in England are now agitating. They want to see the admiralty run on the same business lines as England's big steamship companies.

Another matter on which naval reformers are all agreed is that the naval lords should be no longer muzzled; that the men who are best qualified to report on the condition and requirements of the navy should be allowed to do so—compelled to do so, in fact. At present the nation is in the main dependent for official information of this sort on the utterances of the politicians of the board, men who when they take office may have difficulty in discriminating between a battleship and an ocean tramp. It is a fact, incredible though it may seem, that at Washington, from the reports of the naval intelligence bureau, more accurate and detailed information can be obtained about the British navy—the ships and the guns and everything else connected with it—than even a member of the house of commons can procure from the British admiralty. The foreign naval attaché easily gets the information that is denied the British taxpayer. He keeps his own government posted, but it is not of his business to wake up John Bull and keep him awake.

The civilian first lord is the official mouthpiece of the whole administration. He may or may not represent the views of the experts who are supposed to advise him; he may or may not, in the annual program he submits to parliament, embody the measures which the admiralty considers necessary to the welfare of the service. On this point the nation knows nothing. As long as the naval lords are in office their lips are sealed. Only by resigning do they acquire the privilege of slipping off their muzzles and speaking out.

It will not be soon forgotten how Lord Charles Bessford, the fighting colonel of a fighting house, preached efficiency at Whitehall until he tired of it, and then threw up his post as a naval lord that he might show up the admiralty and the navy. The strongest navy in the world needed strengthening, and after giving his reasons he coolly asked for 70 ships. The civilian head of the admiralty laughed in his face. Many in the house of commons laughed at him, too. But in a short time the government saw a great light, and within 12 weeks the naval defense bill was passed. Bessford triumphed by the simple process of telling the truth about the navy.

To enable the British public at all times to get at the truth about the navy is the chief object of the men who are in the vanguard of the fight for naval efficiency. The people have always shown themselves willing to make any sacrifices to support the navy when assured that the money is needed and

uneasy and Madame Hartert carefully fostered his distress by telling him that she could not possibly repay the money-lender, and that all her furniture would be distrainted unless he fulfilled his obligations at the appointed time. One day when Baron Maltzahn was confessing the impossibility of hiding the money Madame Hartert remarked to him: "Your only chance is marriage with a wealthy woman. If you are willing to extricate yourself



ONE OF MADAME HARTERT'S VICTIMS. Baron Nettelbladt, the Young German Nobleman, Who Committed Suicide Rather Than Let the Adventuress Force Him Into a Loveless Marriage.

from all your difficulties and to save me from ruin in this way I will arrange through some matrimonial agent to have you introduced to houses where there are heiresses eligible for marriage." Baron Maltzahn accepted the proposal and Madame Hartert persuaded another friend of hers, named Count Koenigsdorf, to introduce him to the house of a wealthy Jew named Rosenfeld. Madame Hartert told Baron Maltzahn and persuaded him to believe that the matrimonial agent, who actually did not exist, had compelled her to give him a written promise to pay him \$25,000 on the day on which Baron Maltzahn married the heiress, Miss Rosenfeld. Baron Maltzahn accordingly gave Madame Hartert a written promise to pay her \$25,000 on the day on which he married Miss Rosenfeld. In due course Baron Maltzahn proposed to and was accepted by Miss Rosenfeld and the wedding took place after a brief engagement. Miss Rosenfeld received a dowry of \$300,000, half of which, according to the

terms of the marriage contract, was immediately paid to her husband, Baron Maltzahn immediately paid \$25,000 to Madame Hartert for the phantom matrimonial agent and another \$25,000 for the money-lender whom Madame Hartert was only obliged to pay \$17,500. Madame Hartert consequently secured a clear profit of \$32,500 on this astute double transaction.

### DEALT IN MATRIMONY.

Madame Hartert followed the same method with such modifications as were necessary to individual cases for many years. All this time she lived in truly royal luxury, and her house on the Stagedorfer Platz was the center of much brilliant social activity and the scene of numerous social successes. For a long time each one of her young victims believed that she was conducting financial and matrimonial transactions for him alone, and no one had the least idea that she was playing a thriving trade as a financial and matrimonial agent. She was universally

### RUSSIA'S MAD WAR JINGOES.

Who and What the Party is that Seeks Trouble With Johnny Bull.

### THE BRITISH QUEEN'S SISTER.

Strange Part Played by Her in an Effort to Stir Up a Big Fuss.

Special Correspondence.

S. T. PETERSBURG, Dec. 2.—During the whole period of the recent Anglo-Russian crisis it was evident to all close observers that there was a strong force continuously at work in St. Petersburg striving by all possible means to precipitate a conflict of arms between Russia and England. It was clearly evident that this force was working in direct opposition to the will of the czar and the declared policy of the foreign minister, Count Lamsdorff. This force was the pressure of the war party, which is the most powerful outside influence brought to bear on the czar in Russia. Many of the apparent inconsistencies between the czar's principles and theories and the actual methods by which he governs Russia have been due to his inability to carry out his own will in opposition to that of the Russian war party.

This Russian war party is a fearful and a wonderful organization. The imperial court, the ministries of state, the army and navy, the civil service and high society, in brief, all classes which are able to exercise any effective influence on the Russian government, are honeycombed with its adherents. The party is headed by the czar's mother, the Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna, and by a group of grand dukes of the imperial family. One of the most remarkable features in Russian politics is the far-reaching influence which the dowager empress exercises on the course of public events. It is a puzzle why the dowager empress, who came to Russia from the most democratic court in Europe, should have become more Russian and more Slavonic than the members of the Russian and Slavonic imperial family into which she married. It is incomprehensible how a princess educated in free and enlightened Denmark could become the most reactionary of all the reactionary forces at work at the court of the Russian empire.

### TRANSFORMATION OF A GENTLE QUEEN.

It is strange how the royal lady who, as Princess Dagmar of Denmark, was the most benevolent, softhearted and gracious member of her sex, became transformed as the Empress Maria Feodorovna into a harsh, merciless, relentless, and even cruel mother. Nevertheless it is a fact that the influence of the czar's mother has invariably been exerted on behalf of aggression and active hostility toward other nations. In this respect the influence of the czar's mother always has been opposed to the interests of the Russian empire, which she has remained unspayed by the evil atmosphere of the Russian court. The czarina is as much in favor of conciliation and peace as the dowager empress is inclined to aggression and war. This fundamental difference in their characters and tendencies has repeatedly caused friction and open quarrels between the two imperial ladies, and the czar, in addition to his normal burden of troubles, frequently has been called upon to mediate between his indignant wife and his angry mother. They are more difficult than that set for The Hague conference to accomplish. Unfortunately the influence of the dowager empress has generally proved more powerful than that of the czarina, and the czar has too frequently accepted the imperious behests of his mother when it would have been better for his country and for humanity if he had followed the gentle advice of his wife.

Prominent among the grand dukes who belong to the war party are Vladimir, Alexis, Sergius, Michael, Nicholas, and Alexander. These members of the imperial family belong to the war party because they are convinced that Russia is more likely to fulfill her mission in the world by savage aggression than by civilized methods. They are not only patriotic Russians, but also enthusiastic Pan-Slavs, who implicitly believe that the Romanoff dynasty is destined to rule over a vast Slavonic empire, extending over the greater part of the earth, with Russia as its core.

### HAS AN EYE TO THE THRONE.

The motive of patriotism which inspires them all is supplemented by other motives arising from personal ambitions, opinions and prejudices. Vladimir likes and dislikes Grand Duke Vladimir belongs to the war party chiefly because the czar is inclined toward peace. Vladimir's main motive is personal antagonism to the czar. He is the head of that branch of the Romanoff family which hopes to see the crown of Russia devolved from the direct line of succession on to the hands of its own members. Only three lives, those of the czar, the czar's infant son and the czar's brother, stand between Vladimir and the Russian throne. None of these lives is worth much from the viewpoint of an insurance company, and Vladimir confidently reckons that assassination or death will transfer the imperial crown to his own head or to that of his eldest son, Cyril. When the time comes for himself or his branch of the family to rule over Russia, he desires that the Russian empire shall be bigger, more powerful and altogether more impressive than at the present date.

Meanwhile, Vladimir outrides his aggressive, hawk-like patriotism as much as possible on the public notice, because he is convinced that he will thereby increase his own popularity at the expense of the czar. This successful plying the way for his own accession to the throne was the most audacious conspiracy of Vladimir's, and was warmly supported by his three sons, Grand Dukes Cyril, (Continued on page 56.)

### LOUISE AND THE CHILD SAID TO BE GIRON'S.



PRINCESS LOUISE and YOUNGEST CHILD

Until the recent proclamation of King Frederick, of Saxony, that it was impossible that there could be a reconciliation between himself and his wife, Louise was said to be living near the Saxony border hoping for a reconciliation. Louise is said to be growing more beautiful with the passing years.

will be wisely expended. But experience has shown that the people will never learn the truth about the navy out of the mouths of partisan politicians.

C. McHardy, who was for many years in the admiralty employ, has written a very interesting book about the navy, in which he proves, by quotations, facts and figures, that every political spokesman has, as he bluntly puts it, "lied about the navy." Admiral Sir Spencer Robinson, who was for some time one of the naval lords, in milder language, says in effect the same thing. "None of us can forget how often things told us by the authorized spokesmen of the navy—things not authenticated or corroborated by the silent members of the board—proved to be wholly incorrect."

Sir William Harcourt, in a speech in parliament, stated that the "professional" advisers of the admiralty consider the existing state of things with respect to the navy satisfactory. Next day, to his amazement, these same professional advisers—the naval lords—called on him and told him that if he did not take that statement back he would resign. In vain he expostulated with them. In their blunt sailor fashion they retorted that a politician might lie as he pleased on his own hook, but they would be dashed if any politician could make them stand for a lie. And so Sir William Harcourt had to take it back. The result was that some unimpeachable truths about the navy leaked out, and up went the naval estimates in response to popular clamor.

In his book on "Naval Administration"

tion" Sir John H. Briggs, who was for many years chief clerk to the admiralty, and therefore knew all about it, says:

"My official experience justifies me in stating that nothing is so difficult to obtain as really accurate information; the country never gets it; the house of commons very seldom; and it is doubtful if the prime minister himself is honestly furnished with what he requires." In another passage he states: "One of the most serious complaints that can be brought against our system of administration is that we do not tell the truth to the English people. And again: 'It is really for the interest of the country that some measures should be adopted by which the responsible naval advisers of the admiralty should have their opinions made known.'"

"The folly and absurdity of imposing silence on the most capable men in the admiralty is so patent as hardly to admit of argument. 'Jackie' Fisher, as his friends call him, knows infinitely more about the navy than Lord Selborne will ever find out. As he is not a politician, it is reasonable to suppose, a statement from him that the navy is all right, or that it needs this, that or the other thing, would carry far more weight than any amount of rhetoric from the first lord."

"What should be done," said Mr. Hardy to the writer "is what is done by the navy department of the United States. The naval lords should have definite functions assigned to them. The first lord, whose position corresponds to that of the secretary of the navy in America, should make an annual report to parliament. That should be accompanied by separate reports from each of the naval lords on the condition and working of the particular branches of the service under his immediate control. In this way we should learn just how the navy stands and where to place the responsibility when things go wrong. Politicians would then no longer be able to hamboozle the public."

"It is especially indicative of the slowness with which the British admiralty adapts its organization to modern requirements that the naval intelligence and mobilization department, a most important one, was created only 18 years ago. His serene highness Prince Louis of Battenberg has been at the head of it since 1902. His salary is \$72,000 a year. Singular to relate he is personally credited with earning it too, for, although a prince, he is really a competent and hardworking officer. But he would never have received the appointment over the heads of various admirals and rear admirals, while still only a captain in the navy, had he not had the good fortune to marry in 1884 his cousin, Princess Alice, a granddaughter of Queen Victoria. Of course he is a naturalized British subject. He owns no property in England but has a castle and estate at Arosa, Germany."

E. LISLE SNELL.