

# A FEW MEN OF THE MOMENT

Some Have Sought Publicity, Others Have  
Had It Thrust Upon Them



**REV. DR. SHELDON JACKSON**, general agent of the United States in charge of education in Alaska, has had notoriety thrust upon him in a manner that has been anything but agreeable. The doctor, however, makes a flat denial of the charge that government funds have been diverted toward the support of sectarian missions in Alaska and that he is responsible for the official crookedness. The accusation was made by Frank C. Churchill, a special agent of the interior department, who was sent to Alaska to investigate. No one, not even the officials of the government, believes that the doctor—an estimable man—is anything more than the victim of an unfortunate mistake.



**DR. CARL MUCK**, the new director of the Boston Symphony orchestra, is one of the few great orchestral leaders in the world. He is the conductor at the Royal Opera, Berlin, and he comes to America by special permission of the kaiser on a leave of absence of one year, beginning Oct. 1. The doctor is a native of Darmstadt and is now in his forty-seventh year. He was started by his parents in a mercantile career, but he developed such a passion for music that in 1880 he made his debut as a concert pianist. He developed a wonderful technique, but he soon took up the broader work of conducting and became famous as a leader. Dr. Muck has been in Berlin since 1891.



**PROFESSOR GOLDWIN SMITH**, who has recently celebrated his eighty-third birthday, is one of Canada's grand old men. Sixty years ago he was a contributor to the London Saturday Review, and forty-eight years ago he was a professor at Oxford, where he had for a pupil the present king of England. Professor Smith is a native of Berkshire, England, but he has always manifested the greatest interest in new world institutions and about thirty years ago took up his residence in Toronto. When Ezra Cornell founded his university at Ithaca, N. Y., Goldwin Smith was made honorary professor of English and constitutional history and delivered several courses of lectures.



**AUGUSTUS THOMAS**, who made the address of welcome at the Bryan reception at Madison Square Garden, New York, had already obtained considerable reputation as a playwright. On the occasion above mentioned he leaped into almost instant popularity as an orator. It had been current among his intimates that Mr. Thomas was the possessor of oratorical powers which would some day burst forth and astonish the world, and it seems that their opinion was not far out of the way. The inspiration afforded by the opportunity of standing before so many listening thousands was sufficient to put on his mettle, and the result was an oratorical outburst which was really worth while.



**JOHN H. CONVERSE**, president of the great Baldwin locomotive works and one of the best known and most philanthropic citizens of the Quaker City, is one of the victims of that dignified municipality. He is one of the directors of the wrecked company and in common with the other members of the board had such implicit confidence in its late self-deposed president, Frank K. Hipple, that he permitted himself to become hypnotized into a feeling of security, the like of which the world has seen but rarely. That is all the criticism that can be urged against Mr. Converse. All his friends believe him to be the personification of integrity.



**PRINCE AUGUST WILHELM** of Prussia, fourth son of the kaiser, seems to be a likely lad. He is in his nineteenth year and has always shown a disposition to look at life seriously and to prepare for living it properly. He is a member of a crack company of royal footguards and has been prepared carefully for college by private tutors. He will go to the University of Bonn, which is so highly favored by the Hohenzollerns, and will also take a supplementary course in some other German university. It is rumored persistently in Berlin court circles that the kaiser has decided to send this son to America to finish his education at some representative new world seat of learning.



**WADE H. ELLIS**, attorney general of Ohio, is one of the most active opponents of the attempts of the Standard Oil trust to have things all its own way in that commonwealth. He makes it his business to see that the trust conducts its affairs well within the meaning of the law, and he is on the alert to head off all efforts to obtain discriminating legislation. Mr. Ellis is a Kentuckian, born just across the Ohio river from Cincinnati, where he received his early education. Although he was admitted to the bar in 1890, he did not practice for several years, but went into journalism, at one time being editor in chief and business manager of the Commercial Tribune of Cincinnati.

## The Shah of Persia and His Constitution

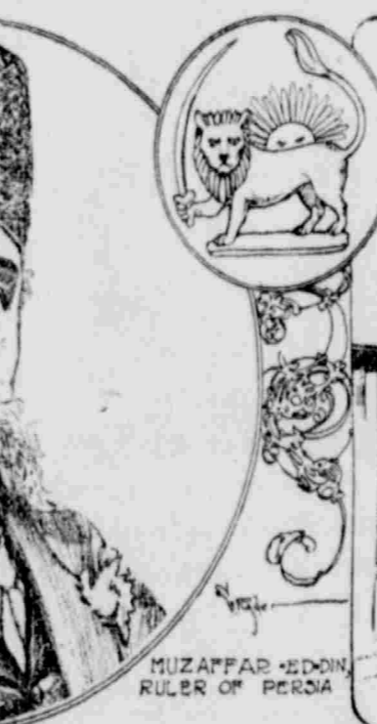
**R**ECENT events in Persia must have interfered sadly with the pessimistic theories of those who have been asking so long and so pathetically, "Can any good come out of Asia?" Muzaffar-ed-Din, shah-in-shah—which seems to mean king of kings—has granted a constitution to his people. Incredible as it may seem, this benevolent monarch has yielded to the rather crudely defined wishes of his subjects and is going to make the government of Persia a thing of the future. The news came almost with a shock to the outside world. Until the beginning of August the shah ruled his country as absolutely as did his remote ancestor, the famous Darius. Persians to that time he was privileged to address his subjects in the tone of a monarch laying commands on his vassals. The march of time and the progress of world civilization had imposed upon him neither religious nor secular restrictions. Elective and representative institutions had not intruded on his majestic absolutism. There was no specified check upon the royal prerogative. Muzaffar-ed-Din, however, has not failed to take note of the signs of the times. He is wise even for an oriental, and he has seen for himself the advantages that come from a representative government. He has traveled much, and he has emancipated himself from many of the absurd traditions that were a portion of his heritage. His observation and his historical study have taught him that absolutism has become exceedingly unfashionable, even in Asia, and he has



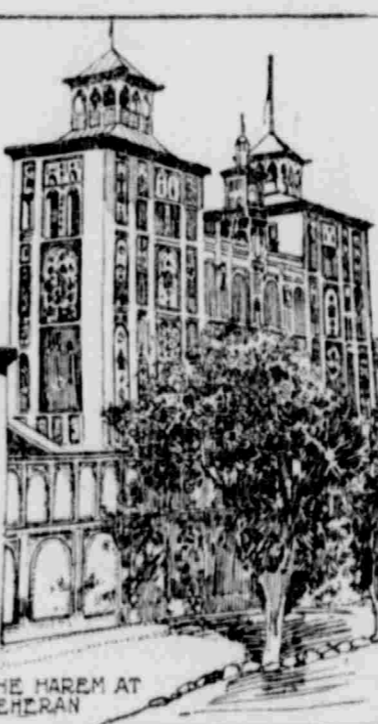
anticipated possibilities that might have proved to be unwholesome by promulgating a constitution. It is not to be denied that there may have been other reasons for his action. Since quite early in the spring there seems to have been considerable unrest and perhaps some agitation among the inhabitants of the shah's capital city of Teheran. Strangest of all is the fact that the chief instigators of the dissatisfaction—it never amounted



to more than that—were the mollahs, or priests. In ordinary times and under ordinary circumstances this privileged class has been the sovereign, most of them shopkeepers and small traders, "sought sanctuary" in the grounds of the British legation. That was their ingenious method of expressing their disapproval of the way in which things were going. The shah did not feel much alarm over the situation. He paid little attention to the demonstration, but in



the machinery of revolution. Incited by the complaints of the mollahs, about 7,000 of the good citizens of Teheran, most of them shopkeepers and small traders, "sought sanctuary" in the grounds of the British legation. That was their ingenious method of expressing their disapproval of the way in which things were going. The shah did not feel much alarm over the situation. He paid little attention to the demonstration, but in



time announced that he had been intending all along to grant a constitution to the kingdom and that the present was as good as any other time to make the experiment. Whereupon those mollahs who had gone into hiding came forth at once and the citizens who had camped out in the garden of the British embassy returned to their homes and resumed the business of living. Then Muzaffar unfolded his scheme.



Ever since his accession, he declared, he had been intending to introduce reforms in all branches of the government. Now he had decided that a national council should convene at Teheran. This was to be composed of representatives of the princes, clergy, nobles, merchants and tradesmen. Their representatives were to be elected by popular vote. This council, the shah agreed, should discuss all important affairs of state

and should have the right and power to express its views with freedom and full confidence with regard to all reforms necessary to the welfare of the country. His majesty promised that he would sign any measure that looked toward actual reform. All of which is remarkably liberal for a Persian shah, a man, too, who is thoroughly oriental in all his ways of living. In spite of his familiarity with western ways, Muzaffar has shown no disposition to apply them to his own personal use. He inhabits a typically oriental palace in the center of Teheran. This palace consists of various buildings within a high surrounding wall. Those who have been permitted to enter this royal residence speak of it as a spot which recalls the splendor of the "Thousand and One Nights." The shah is also the possessor of three famous thrones, all in his Teheran palace. The most wonderful of all, though possibly not the most historic, is the so-called "peacock" throne. For a long time this has been supposed to be the great peacock throne of Delhi, but recent research seems to establish the fact that it is of Persian construction. The real East Indian throne, reconstructed from the original throne of Delhi, which was badly damaged before it was taken to Persia, is also to be seen in this storehouse of marvels. Scarcely less precious than the others is the marble throne of Kerim Khan Zand. It does not resemble in any way the western conception of a throne, but consists of an elevated platform surrounded by a pierced marble balustrade. JAMES R. BENTLEY.

## Spread of the Mania For Financial Plunging

**A**PROPOS of the recent looting of the Real Estate Trust Company of Philadelphia by Frank K. Hipple, with its depressing accompaniment of suicide and widows and orphans brought to penury, and of the wrecking of the Milwaukee State bank of Chicago by Paul O. Stensland, it may be affirmed that it is but another result of the mania for financial speculation, so called, which has seized the race. It is neither new nor a reappearance under a new name. It is a breach of the eighth commandment pure and simple, after a fashion that is made possible by the changed business conditions of the period. Before the coming of the American multimillionaire there was vastly less of it. Previous to the civil war a breach of trust was a rarity, and the term "embezzler" had not yet come into fashion. The vast fortunes accumulated at that period by methods that were questionable are responsible for much of the frenzied finance of the present day. Men began to realize what might be done, and they have been doing it ever since. As a prototype of the reckless financial manipulation that has developed in recent years the instance of the rise and fall of Ferdinand Ward may be cited. He was the earliest "Napoleon of Finance" who bore the title as if it were his just right. His career was indeed meteoric, but his Waterloo was later and complete. It occurred to him that with the name of General Grant as a bolt he might cast his net into the financial ocean with an absolute certainty of securing an almost enormous draft. It was a masterly scheme, and for awhile everything went his way. The great soldier, a reliable child in business matters and an unsuspecting of his fellow men as



was the primitive American, fell a victim to the specious sophistry of the financier. His consent obtained, the remainder was easy. Before the bubble burst the great original Napoleon of Finance had secured \$14,000,000 from his dupes. When the crash came there were absolutely no assets and there remained only the poor satisfaction of putting the wrecker behind the bars. Ward had set the fashion, and a mad riot of crookedness followed. The fate that overtook this great original financial juggler and some of his im-



mediate successors in the art of making something out of nothing did not prevent the spread of the disorder. Within a few days of the Grant & Ward collapse John C. Eno, president of the Second National bank of New York, disappeared and a shortage of \$2,000,000 was found in his accounts. Then they fell in like dominoes. William Schreiber, a clerk for a German concern and a German company, originated a system for stealing from the bank and obtained over \$100,000 before he was found out. His sys-



tem has never been discovered. George W. Valentine, cashier of the Middlesex County bank, Perth Amboy, N. J., was another who was Napoleon of Finance. He appropriated \$200,000 to which he had no right and made false entries. Undeterred by the certain and swift punishment meted out to like sinners in the neighboring state, Gideon W. Marsh, president of the Keystone National bank of Philadelphia, wrecked that institution and caused the downfall of John Bardsley, the city treasurer, who sunk \$500,000 of the city's money. Marsh made way with \$1,000,000 and was a fugitive from justice for seven and a half years. In May, 1897, Charles W. Spaulding wrecked the Globe Savings bank of Chicago and caused hundreds of business failures and aching hearts by the operation. He had posed as a religious enthusiast and was esteemed highly. Shortly afterward Charles H. Cole of the Boston Globe bank disappeared with \$1,000,000 which belonged to others.



While Cassie Gladwick was wrecking an Ohio bank by her frenzied financial plunging, in 1904, Frank G. Bigelow, president of the First National bank of Milwaukee, was looting his bank of millions, and Edward J. Smith, tax collector of San Francisco, was having what he believed to be a royal good time on the funds which belonged to those who had elected him to office. Mrs. Chadwick's stealings are estimated to have amounted to more than \$12,000,000, exceeding those of any



other criminal manipulator of the age. Bigelow was the social and financial lion of Milwaukee, honored and respected by his associates and trusted by the public at large. He had wealth and honor in abundance. His inordinate greed for wealth was the cause of his downfall. As a further illustration of the widespread prevalence of the embezzling habit it may be stated that in five months of 1905 more than \$5,000,000 was lost through forced or voluntary liquidation on the part of financial institutions. In every instance those wrecks carried with them men supposed to be beyond reproach in business and financial dealings. In that brief period four banks lost this great sum from speculation on the part of trusted officials. Of the men who were responsible for these financial disasters one committed suicide, one died from shock and shame, two were sent to prison and ten others were indicted. Bigelow's downfall uncovered a chain of financial crookedness which extended over the country. He was president of the American Bankers' association, and his opportunities for the dishonest acquiring of money were excellent. He secured the connivance of his cashier and manipulated the books so as to cover up his operations. He was a constant and bold speculator in the wheat pit, and in Wall street was admired greatly by the younger men who frequent those markets. Hot on the heels of the Bigelow crash came the scandal of the Denver Savings bank. It had been looted by conspirators among whom were included several officers and ex-officers of the institution. The bank had \$900,000 depositors, and over \$1,700,000 had been stolen from them. PORTER SMILEY.

### ODDS AND ENDS.

One of the oldest buildings in the city of London is being demolished to make way for an extension of the National bank premises in Old Broad street. Probably not one in a thousand of the people who throng this busy part of the city day by day know about the place. A century ago it was owned by two old ladies, one of whom lived on the proceeds of the rent, while the other extorted, at the expense of the taxpayers, in the workshop. The National bank, looking about for a building site, saw this cottage and its garden and bought the lot for \$2,500. They pulled the garden and left the cottage

standing. It has been occupied all the time and faces into one of the quietest courts in London. The ground then sold for \$2,500 is now worth a fabulous sum, for \$50,000 has been offered for the cottage alone, exclusive of the site of the bank. Among the queer instruments in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, are a cane violin and three cane flutes. The former is a peculiar, narrow instrument of small size, but perfect in every detail, made in imitation of a walking stick and furnished with an ornamental knob handle. The strings are held by small iron pins and

are tuned with a key. When not in use a small bow slips within the stick and a round cover, held by metal hands, conceals the clever little instrument. The length of the violin is two feet eleven inches, and its greatest width is one inch, and three-quarters inches. It is a German contrabass and dates from the nineteenth century. Like the cane violin, the cane flute is also of German make, but it dates from early in the eighteenth century. The flute is in C and is made of a light wood, ornamented with turned bands of the same color and finished with a knob. The lower joint is solid. It has six finger holes and one flat brass key. The instrument is blown at the side like the

transverse flute and is an excellent sounder. It is three feet long, and it requires a close inspection to see that the cane contains a flute. Europe has a longer coastline in proportion to its area than any other continent. The error of the Gregorian calendar is less than one day in 4,000 years. The Pens lie from four to sixteen feet below highwater level of the German ocean. The speaker of the house of commons has no vote except in the case of a tie. Tobacco was introduced into Europe by a Franciscan friar named Ramon Pane, who accompanied Columbus on

his second voyage to the West Indies in 1494, but tobacco was not cultivated in Europe until 1560. The sap of the birch tree is convertible into wine, spirit or vinegar. During the middle ages red, not black, was the color of mourning. Besides the import duty, a general tax of 5 shillings per 1,000 will henceforth be levied on cigarettes in Germany. Sunday island, in the Pacific, is really the tallest mountain in the world. It rises 2,000 feet out of five miles of water and is thus nearly 30,000 feet from base to summit. The North Carolina department of labor and printing has issued blank let-

ters for views from representative people of the state of the "child labor law," enacted by the legislature of 1905, and also suggestions relative to the needs of wage earners and views on immigration. The railway engines of the big express running at full speed can pick up 5,000 gallons of water in fifteen seconds. Queen Anne's speech to parliament in April, 1710, was probably the first royal speech ever printed upon handkerchiefs and so distributed. Cholera first appeared in India in the year 1717. In Borneo, when a child falls sick its name is changed, the idea being to de-

ceive the evil spirit which is supposed to be tormenting it. It is not generally known that Lord Kitchener served as a volunteer under the French flag in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870. President Roosevelt's address to his supporters before his last election was printed in no fewer than twelve different languages. Wick has the greatest extremes of climate of any British town, and Falmost probably the most even and mild climate. Rural deans, of whom there are just over 600 in Great Britain, receive no pay for their supervision over parochial clergy.