

# Socialism's Marvelous Growth In Germany

**T**HE great show of strength by the Social Democrats of Germany at the recent elections in that country has aroused not only Germany but the outside world to the realization of the growing power of socialism. From 219,000 votes in 1871 to more than 3,000,000 in 1933 is a giant stride, but that is just the stride taken by the German Socialists, who have thus fulfilled the predictions of their brilliant leader, Ferdinand August Bebel, that the balloting would prove that socialism now has a stronger hold on the hearts of the German people than it ever had before. The magnitude of the party's victory is emphasized by the fact that owing to peculiar suffrage laws many Germans are disfranchised while the vote of a rich man or a member of some privileged class counts not as one vote, but many. It is thus evident that the Socialists would have polled thousands more votes under such election conditions as are found in this country, for example, and their representation in the reichstag would have been correspondingly greater. In fact they might have gained a majority of the seats. As it is, however, they are rejoicing; they have given the kaiser pause.

Just what policy William II. will now pursue toward the ever growing party is problematical, though there are not a few who incline to the opinion that he may come off his figurative high horse and extend the hand of friendship to the Socialists. It will be remembered that there was a time when the kaiser interested himself mightily in the amelioration of the laboring classes of his empire, but his enthusiasm soon died away, lasting, indeed, little more than two years, since which time he has applied some rather harsh terms to the very people for whom he was planning to accomplish much.

The cause of his changed attitude is said to lie in the fact that William II. had hoped to scotch socialism by kindness, whereas the Socialist party grew steadily in numbers and influence. It may now very easily happen, according to the argument of certain quarters, that the kaiser will return to his two year policy, but from a very different motive—the realization that as socialism has apparently come to stay it will be futile for him to attempt to thwart the Socialists' higher aims and that, by arriving at an understanding with them, he may be able to dislodge them from or to moderate their more extreme demands. The kaiser above all things desires to maintain the integrity of the empire and has already gone to great lengths to bring warring elements together. It would be but a fitting cap to these efforts to see him acting as peacemaker between such opposites as the Conservatives and the So-

cial Democrats. Of course it might seem a little incongruous after the hard words he has used, but to a man of the



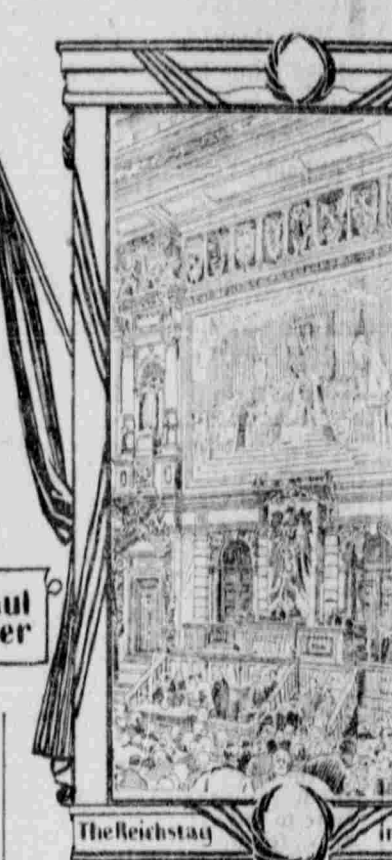
Paul Singer

kaiser's temperament words do not amount to so much after all, and the Socialists could not very well refuse to accept his outstretched hand.

It is certain, nevertheless, that they will be a long time forgetting the treatment accorded them by official Germany during the past quarter of a century. The Social Democratic party was formed in 1863, but it was some time before it became even an insignificant factor in German politics. When its leader, Liebknecht, together with Herr Bebel, was elected to the reichstag as representing the working classes, Bismarck, who was then in the flush of his predominance, did not grasp the full meaning of the event and went so far as to encourage the Socialists as a thorn in the side of the Progressist party. But after Bebel and Liebknecht had so comported themselves as to be charged with an attempt at high treason, the Iron Chancellor began to view the party in a different light and when, two years later, nine Social Democrats were elected to the imperial parliament the government began to feel seriously alarmed.

This was in 1874. In 1877 the party elected twelve members, winning two

seats from Berlin. Bismarck began to feel himself. His efforts to discipline the Socialists had been blocked to some extent, but in the excitement occasioned by an attempted assassination of the emperor the chancellor succeeded in dissolving parliament and electing a majority that would do as he wished. A stringent censorship law was at once passed, Socialist clubs and journals were placed under a ban, all meetings were strictly prohibited and efforts



The Reichstag in Session

were made to drive the leaders out of the country. Despite this when the next election took place—in 1891—the Socialists captured twelve seats, to the amazement of the authorities, who had gone so far as to arrest Socialists for distributing ballots. Three years later the party gained twelve seats more and has been steadily adding to this number election after election. Bismarck, he it noted, sought to offset the influence of the Socialists by adopting a scheme of governmental insurance for working people, and William II. has likewise caused to be passed a number of measures socialistic in tendency, but neither the Iron Chancellor nor the militant sovereign stemmed the tide in the slightest. In fact, the more the Socialists gained the more they sought to gain.

The Socialists must not be confound-

ed with the anarchists, however. As expressed by the founders of the party, the ultimate object of the Social Democrats is the abolition of the present forms of government and the substitution of a form in which labor interests will be supreme; the abolition of private competition, its place being taken by associations of workmen; the equitable distribution of production among the producers, and the vesting of the ownership of land and capital in



Ferdinand August Bebel



GEORGE H. VOLLMAR (SEATED)

the people, associated as a co-operative commonwealth. There is thus a distinct aim in view, as opposed to the shadowy aspirations of the anarchists. So far the Social Democrats have labored chiefly to promote legislation for the betterment of the laboring classes.

There can be no doubt that in Germany there was and still is plenty of room for improvement in this direction. The masses work long hours for

poor pay, are crushed by taxation and the system of compulsory military service, have to subsist on scanty fare and are harshly treated by the government and the higher classes alike. This accounts largely for the steadily heavy emigration to the United States and England, the two most significant factors being the food and military problems. The former is looming vast on the horizon of German politics today, so vast, in truth, that the question of securing cheaper food for the millions can no longer be evaded. Those who are inclined to the belief that the kaiser will effect a rapprochement with the Socialists base their views largely on the fact that he may feel compelled to turn to the one party which is in favor of speedy action in dealing with the urgent needs of the people.

Undoubtedly the most interesting member of this party today is Ferdinand August Bebel, who has played a leading part almost throughout its history and was a member of the first reichstag of the German empire. Originally Bebel had little sympathy with the Social Democratic movement, but under the influence of Liebknecht he rapidly adopted socialistic views and soon became famous as a great political organizer. Indeed, although he ranks as one of the most brilliant debaters in the reichstag, his predominance in his party rests more upon his faculty for marshaling and directing his followers. Bebel has not grown rich out of his political activities, and for years after he was sent to the reichstag used to hasten to his carpenter shop as soon as the debates were at an end. He has frequently been imprisoned for less majesty and spent two years in confinement as a result of the high treason charge formulated against him and Liebknecht. As a speaker Herr Bebel has a clear, resonant voice and an eloquence that never fails to win the admiration even of those who are most bitterly opposed to him.

Other prominent members of the Socialist group in Germany are Singer, Vollmar, Bernstein and Auer. Singer is a Jew, a millionaire, a shrewd business man and at the same time a noted philanthropist. Vollmar is a harem, tall, fine looking and of great personal magnetism. He served in the Franco-Prussian war, receiving a wound that crippled him. The government at one time deemed Vollmar the most dangerous member of the Socialist party. Bernstein is a distinguished lawyer and writer. Auer is a harness maker, who ranks among the brainy men of the party. All four have given of their time and money in furthering the interests of the Social Democrats, against whom the kaiser, in a speech delivered at Breslau, proclaimed war to the death and with whom, by the irony of fate, he may soon find himself in line.

H. ADDINGTON BRUCE.

## HOW ELECTROCUTION MAY BE PREVENTED.

The peculiar gauze dress worn by the subject of the accompanying illustration is the invention of a German scientist, who claims that it will render a man immune from shocks by electricity. It is made of thickly woven wire gauze and is intended to be worn while working in a high tension labora-



tory. The assertion is made that a current of electricity sufficient to kill the wearer can pass through the dress for some seconds without any ill effect. If the inventor is right it will now be possible for the scientific operator to perform the most dangerous experiments in electrical research.

## HIS WEIGHT IN GOLD.

The ancient ceremony of weighing the maharajah of Travancore with gold was performed with great pomp in that city recently, his majesty being a devout Hindu and a great stickler for the rites of his religion. Months before the ceremony his government bought a great quantity of pure gold, the greater part of which was converted into coin. After presenting an elephant to the shrine the maharajah entered the temple and mounted one of the scales, his sword and shield being laid in his lap. In the other scale the newly struck coins were put in by the first and second princes until the maharajah rose in the air, the priests chanting Vedic hymns. In addition to this the band played and the guns fired. Afterward the coin used was distributed among about 15,000 Brahmins.

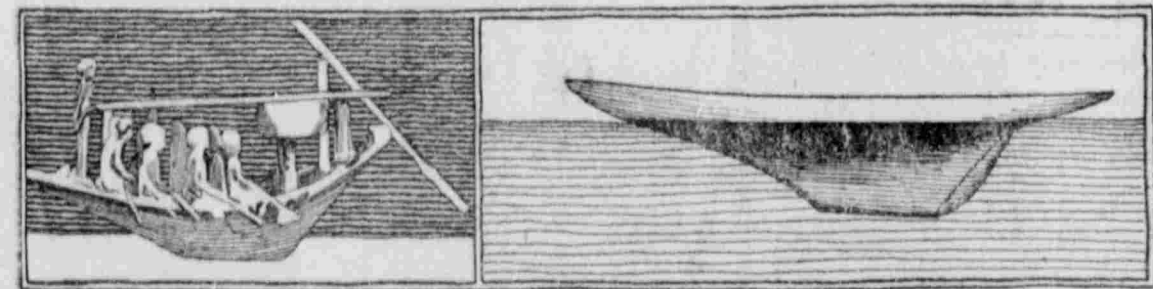
## INTERESTING PERSONS, SCENES AND THINGS OF NOTE

### CHARLIE GATES IN WALL STREET.



Charles Gates, whom the camera has caught in a characteristic pose, has for some time been prominent in the doings of Wall street. He is the son and right hand man of John W. Gates, who is not so very long ago "put it all over" J. Pierpont Morgan in a battle for control of the Louisville and Nashville railroad.

### A FOUR THOUSAND YEAR OLD RACING MODEL AND THE VALKYRIE II.



EGYPTIAN MODEL.

VALKYRIE.

There has recently been discovered in an Egyptian tomb a model boat that, although at least four thousand years old, bears a remarkable resemblance to the racing boats of today. Although the boat is only a toy it affords unmistakable evidence that the yacht designers of Pharaoh's land were thoroughly up to date and that the so called "revolution" in yacht construction is not such a revolution after all. The boat is interesting also in that it dispenses of the old time controversy between England and America regarding the invention of the fin keel. It now appears that to neither country belongs the honor of having invented it, since both have unconsciously copied the idea from old Egypt.

### SIR HECTOR MACDONALD'S SUCCESSOR.

The successor of the unfortunate Sir Hector MacDonald in command of the British troops in Ceylon is Colonel Gordon Lorn Campbell Money, D. S. O., who bears the reputation of being a very gallant soldier. He fought in the



COLONEL GORDON MONEY.

Sudan campaigns of 1894-95 and 1895-96, and in 1895 was honorably mentioned in the official dispatches dealing with the battles of Atbara and Omdurman. In both of which he participated. Colonel Money was born in 1848 and entered the Seventy-ninth foot in 1868.

### WOMAN'S VIRTUES.

A French paper has just taken a plebiscite on the question, "What are the six most essential virtues in a woman?" The readers of La Presse voted for the following virtues in the order given, the numbers being the votes accorded to each quality: Economy, 1,420; fidelity, 1,357; modesty, 1,337; kindness, 1,182; maternal love, 528. Cleanliness and patience are last on the list.

### NOVEL ADDITION TO THE EQUINE WORLD.



The zebule is the name given by Professor Cossar Ewart to a strange animal he has evolved by crossing zebras with horses. He claims that the zebule will prove very valuable for army purposes, as it is stronger, more vigorous and more intelligent than the ordinary mule. The Indian government have bought two of his finest zebules, which they will test in mountain battery work. Baron de Parana of Brazil has bred and trained several zebules and claims that these animals will be the mules of the twentieth century.

### A UNIQUE TIMEPIECE.

There are many curious clocks in existence, but probably none that is so novel as the timepiece shown. A metal drum with an axle of metal stuck through it is upheld by two strings in such a way that the latter gradually unwind, allowing the drum to descend, but, thanks to an ingenious device, it takes exactly twenty-four hours for the drum to go from top to bottom. Radial partitions interiorly divide the drum into a series of compartments into which some water is put. The partitions are pierced by pinholes, allowing the water to pass from one compartment to another as the drum descends, but it is very hard for the drum to revolve, as in revolving it has to lift the water and can therefore only go round as fast as the water is admitted through the pinholes from an upper compartment to a lower. Its speed is thus regulated with great exactitude, the drum falling the same distance every hour, and as the hours are indicated by pegs the owner of the clock can tell at any moment what the time is. This timepiece hails from Japan.



### EDNA MAY'S LATEST PICTURE.



Americans will soon have an opportunity of seeing Edna May, the popular actress of Syracuse, N. Y., in her latest success, "The School Girl," which has been creating such a furore in London, where it was put on at the Prince of Wales' theater. "The School Girl" is a musical comedy, and the leading character, Lillian Leigh, is said to suit Miss May to perfection. The accompanying illustration was made from the actress' latest photograph in the role.

### THE NEW PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA.

The little republic of Liberia, on the west coast of Africa, has recently been electing a new president, the choice of the populace turning out to be Arthur Barclay, a capital portrait of whom is herewith reproduced. Liberia was founded by the American Coloniza-



ARTHUR BARCLAY.

tion society, which was organized at Princeton in 1811 with the object of settling in Africa freedmen and recaptured slaves. Liberia is in every sense a black republic, its constitution being modeled after that of the United States. One of its peculiar election qualifications is that the president must be at least thirty-five years of age and have real property to the value of \$500.

### PERSONALS FROM ABROAD.

The kaiser has made, on an average, two public speeches a week during the last ten years.

Hari Spencer takes pleasure in telling his friends of the ghost which wanders about the corridors of his Northamptonshire seat, Althorp park. It is the figure of a stable boy carrying a lantern. His lordship has never been able to catch a glimpse of this ghost, although he and several of his royal visitors have watched for it.

Mr. Kendal, the actor, has spent a small fortune on his hobby, the collection of sketches and engravings. He is himself an artist of no mean order.

The only lady admiral in the world is the queen of the Hellenes. She is passionately fond of the sea, and for that reason the late Czar Alexander III. made her an admiral in the Russian navy instead of appointing her to the honorary colonelcy of a regiment.

Mr. J. M. Barrie, the popular author, is clever with the pencil as well as with the pen. He is a good draftsman.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain and Mr. John Morley are alike in one respect—they both abhor physical exercise and

never walk more than a few yards if it is possible to ride. They hold that a man who works hard with his brain does not need great physical exercise.

Mme. Jane May, the clever French actress, is the owner of a tobacco shop in Paris.

The Duke of Newcastle is an enthusiastic amateur photographer, and has many times risked his life to obtain a snap shot of a wild animal in Africa.

He has traveled over a goodly portion of the dark continent for this purpose.

Hamish McCunn writes all his music standing. The stooping position, he says, is so bad for the health.

Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria is possessed by a curious belief or superstition. He has the famous horse ridden by Prince Alexander of Bulgaria at the battle of Slivnitza, and he is convinced

that so long as he treats the animal well he will never lose his position in the principality.

Mr. Leslie Ward, better known as "Spy," the caricaturist, comes of a stock of artists. His father and grandfather were royal academicians, and through his mother (herself an artist) he is connected with two other R. A.'s.

Whenever she visits her native country—Denmark—the dowager empress of

Russia has some Danish black rye bread served to her every day. She has a great liking for this bread, which forms part of the rations of the Danish soldier and is not very inviting to the majority of people.

One of Queen Wilhelmina's treasures is a private journal or notebook, adorned with pen and ink sketches. She and her friends add to these sketches from time to time.