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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1905. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

FIFTY-FIFTH YEAR.

PART TWO.

The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.

WILL THIS BE A SECOND BECK CASE?

Said that Young English Barrister Now Undergoing Sentence is Innocent.

MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE.

Convicted on Flimsy Circumstantial Evidence by a "Hayseed" Jury—A Remarkable Case.

Special Correspondence.
LONDON, Feb. 24.—While recollections of the Beck scandal are still fresh in the public mind, another case has come to light which presents strong grounds for the belief, expressed by so eminent a criminal authority as Sir George Lewis, that it constitutes an equally woeful miscarriage of British justice. Whether or no a judicial investigation—should one ever take place—shows that George Edalji is as innocent of the crime for which he is now serving a sentence of seven years' penal servitude as was Adolph Beck, the manner of his trial and the evidence on which he was convicted demonstrate conclusively the need of the establishment here of a court of criminal appeal similar to those which exist in America.

HARD TO WAKE UP.
It was hoped by the best judicial authorities here that such a reform would result from the exposure made in the course of the Beck investigation of the inadequacy of existing British legal machinery to ensure the impartial administration of justice in criminal cases. But it takes a lot to wake up a British government and make it move forward.

The main features of the Edalji case were set forth in this correspondence at the time of the trial, but to make clear the grounds on which a revision of the sentence is demanded a brief resume of some of the facts is necessary. On October, 1903, George Edalji was convicted on the specific charge of brutally mutilating a farmer's pony in the village of Great Wyrley, Staffordshire, where he lived with his father, a country vicar. The crime was one of a series which had created consternation for some months in the district. In several respects—the diabolical character of the acts, the absence of any intelligible motive and the long failure of the police to obtain any clue—the perpetrators—these outrages recalled the Whitechapel murders of a few years ago, the principal difference being that the victims were horses and cattle instead of women.

Mr. Edalji was a young man of exemplary character who, after passing with distinction through a law school and carrying off some valuable prizes, had entered upon the practice of his profession in Birmingham. Excepting on the theory that he is a monomaniac, he is the last man in the world who would be suspected of committing himself by going about the country at night inflicting a series of brutal and revolting outrages upon dumb animals. Equally opposed to probability was the hypothesis of the prosecution that for this purpose he had allied himself with a band of ruffians.

A "HAYSEED" JURY.
He was tried before a bench of rural magistrates and a jury of what in America is designated "hayseeds." The evidence against him was entirely circumstantial. No one saw the act committed. The police first assumed that the deed was done at 8:30 at night. When a competent veterinary surgeon, who saw the animal alive at 8:30 next morning, declared that the wound could not have been inflicted more than six

hours earlier, they shifted the time to 2:30 in the morning.

THE STORY.

Edalji, it was testified by his family, retired at 11 o'clock on the night previous. He slept in the same room with his father who, kept awake all night by lumbago, swore that his son did not leave the room until after 6 o'clock in the morning. The police obtained from his room an old coat on which an expert discovered a stain about the size of a one-cent piece, which he pronounced "mammalian" blood. Also a quantity of hairs which corresponded in color to that of the pony. Members of the family who had examined the garment when they handed it to the police swore that there were no such hairs upon it at that time. Furthermore there was no evidence whatever that he had worn the coat on the evening of the crime. The police found in the bedroom an old razor. This they introduced at the trial as the weapon with which the mutilation had been committed. There were no traces of blood upon it. For the defense a veterinary expert testified that it was almost impossible that the mutilation of the pony could have been done with a razor. In his opinion the wound was inflicted with some sharp curved instrument with a firm handle that admitted of a tight grip.

ANOTHER HORSE KILLED.

While Edalji was in jail awaiting trial another horse was butchered. The police declared that they had obtained a confession from a man named Green that he was guilty of this atrocity. He was not called by the prosecution and the defense was thus precluded from laying evidence before the jury tending to throw suspicion on a man who had confessed to a precisely similar crime. Indeed there is every indication that the police were particularly anxious that Green should not be prosecuted. They did not even place him under arrest and he fled from the country after retracting his confession and making a statutory declaration that it had been extorted from him by threats.

ILLITERATE LETTERS.

Apparently the evidence which weighed most strongly against the prisoner with the "hayseed" jury was contained in some anonymous and illiterate letters, several of which had been received by the police and one by Edalji himself, all implicating him in the series of crimes. Mr. Gurnie, the same treasury handwriting expert who utterly discredited himself by his egregiously blundering in the Beck case, testified that they were written by Edalji in a disguised hand. It is inconceivable that any man in his right mind would have written such letters to incriminate himself. On the other hand, it is precisely the device that ignorant men would resort to who wished to divert suspicion from themselves. The police advanced the extraordinary theory that Edalji wrote the letters that he might get in touch with them and find out what they were doing.

DENIED INSPECTION.

The defense was denied all opportunity of inspecting the letters before the trial and thus was debarred from introducing in rebuttal the opinions of rival handwriting experts which could easily have been obtained. It is almost inconceivable that English legal procedure should sanction and tolerate such flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of judicial fair play. Had a superior court been in existence, to which an appeal could have been taken, the flimsy character of the evidence against Edalji hardly admits of the vestige of a doubt that it would have ordered a new trial, if, indeed, it did not quash the conviction outright.

THE ENGLISH SYSTEM.

But under the English system the only recourse was an appeal to the home office for clemency. The report of the committee that investigated the Beck case stated, in effect, that there was not among the underlings of the department who sift such matters a single individual capable of appreciating the weight of legal evidence or making a concise and intelligent report thereon. The petition which Edalji's father—a converted Parsee—sent to the home office contained the signatures of 10,000 people living in the vicinity of Great Wyrley. The home secretary declined to interfere. The distracted father also ap-

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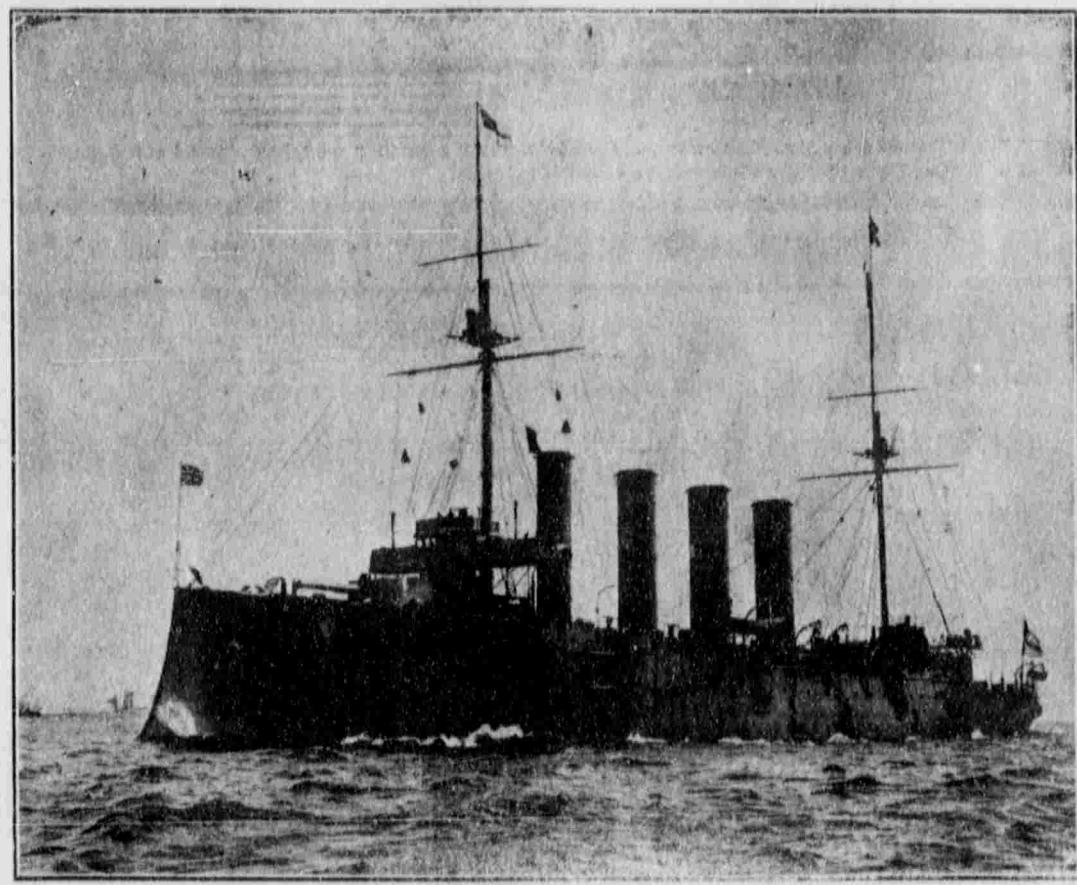
SERGIUS' WIDOW.



A strange fact is that the Grand Duchess Sergius, widow of the assassinated Grand Duke Sergius, is much beloved by the Russian people. She is liberal-minded and has long been in favor of greater liberty and reform. Though disagreeing radically with her husband, their married life was said to be happy.

British Squadron to Visit the United States

Rear Admiral Prince Louis of Battenberg, Who Married a Granddaughter of Queen Victoria, Will Command the Most Formidable Fleet That Ever Came to America on a Friendly Mission.



THE DRAKE, FLAGSHIP OF REAR ADMIRAL PRINCE LOUIS OF BATTENBERG. Of 14,100 Tons Displacement, Heavily Armed and With a Speed of 23 Knots, She is the Finest Type of the Armored Cruiser in the British Navy.

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—Prince Louis of Battenberg is going to pay a visit to the United States shortly, and his presence there is certain to arouse a lot of interest. For, in spite of the fact that his serene highness, as he still is called, is a German by birth, he will go to America as a rear admiral of the British navy, in command of the most formidable and fastest squadron that ever has called at the ports of the United States on a peaceful mission. Prince Louis was a Hessian before he became a British subject. He is the last survivor of three brothers in whom the late Queen Victoria took a motherly interest. The youngest of them, Prince Henry of Battenberg, who died in 1895, married the queen's youngest daughter, Princess Beatrice, while Louis became the husband of her favorite granddaughter, Princess Victoria of Hesse. The youngest of his wife's sisters married the Czar of Russia; another is the wife of the Kaiser's brother, Prince Henry of Prussia—Germany's sailor prince—and a third is the wife of Grand Duke Sergei, one of the most cordially hated representatives of Russia's dynastic despotism.

As regards cash and titles Princess Victoria made anything but a brilliant match when she wedded Prince Louis, for he possesses only a castle and a small estate in Hesse and has not much money beyond his naval pay; but with no affairs of state to worry over and free to do pretty much as she pleases she gets far more enjoyment out of life than any of her sisters. Had Prince Louis never married her it is questionable whether he would now be a rear admiral with one of the finest squadrons in the British navy as his flagship, but all the same he has fairly merited his rank by sheer hard work and demonstrated ability. If there should ever be a war between England and Germany the admiralty is confident that he would knock spots out of his wife's brother-in-law, Prince Henry of Prussia, at anything like even odds.

INFLUENCE HAS HELPED.

Of course influence has helped him. But he has mastered his profession in the most thorough fashion and has proved equal to every duty with which he has been entrusted. Though his family was German, he was born at Gatz, Austria, in 1854. Reading Marryat's sea yarns fired his boyish imagination with a desire to be a sailor, and his folks, seeing there was small chance that he would ever amount to anything as a German princelet, shipped him off to England where he obtained a cadetship in the navy at the age of 14. No special quarters were assigned to him; he had to be content with a very moderate allowance of pocket money, and fared just like the ordinary midshipman. He learned his seamanship in the days of masts and sails, before it had ever entered anybody's head that a Jack Tar should be a mechanic. He was officer of the watch on the old frigate Inconstant that went around the world under sail, but he was among the first to recognize that canvas is merely an incumbrance to the modern steam warship.

PETTYCOAT INFLUENCE.

He was made a sub-lieutenant in 1874 when he was 20 and a lieutenant two years later. That was still his rank when in 1884 he married the queen's granddaughter. Thereafter his promotion was not so rapid as to afford any good ground for the complaint that he owed it to the petticoat influence of a royal alliance. He was made a commander a year after his marriage, but six years elapsed before he became a full fledged captain. For the last few years he has been director of naval intelligence—a post of great importance whose duties consist in keeping tab of all that makes for progress in naval construction and equipment, and in general keeping out what the other powers are doing so as to be able to

Special Correspondence.



REAR ADMIRAL PRINCE LOUIS OF BATTENBERG. In Command of a Crack British Squadron, He Will Soon Visit American Ports.

keep ahead of them. It was not until a few months ago that he was gazetted a rear admiral.

NOT MUCH FIGHTING.

He has not seen much actual sea-fighting, for the British navy has afforded scant opportunities for that experience in recent years. It was at the bombardment of Alexandria where Lord Charles Dufferin so conspicuously distinguished himself, that Prince Louis received his first and only baptism of fire. He was then in command of a Gatling battery. His reputation for tactical skill was established at the Mediterranean maneuvers in 1902 when by a clever ruse he managed to outwit the make believe hostile fleet and escaped with a whole. As a naval officer he belongs to the progressive scientific school of which Admiral Sir John Fisher—"Jackie" Fisher in the service, now the first sea lord of the admiralty—is at the head. In conjunction with Capt. Scott, Prince Louis invented the first system of long distance signaling on ship board which immensely increased the scouting capacity of a fleet at sea. Another valuable invention of his in general use in the Royal navy is a course indicator—a device by which the officer of the watch can determine the course and bearing of the other ships of a fleet.

TALL AND HANDSOME.

Now in his fifty-first year, he is a tall, active, handsome, black-bearded fellow with none of the superfluous adipose tissue characteristic of royal satelletes, who are content with the inglorious role of ornamental figureheads. Thoroughly absorbed in his profession, he gives himself no airs on account of his title, and while he is a strict disciplinarian and will tolerate no slackness he is far from being a martinet, and is popular with both officers and men. The nickname "Batts" which was somewhat contemptuously bestowed upon him when he entered the service still sticks to him, but is now regarded as a term of endearment among his colleagues. He ceased to be considered a "blooming foreigner" long years ago.

HIS FLYING SQUADRON.

Prince Louis' flying squadron will consist of the six first class armored cruisers, Drake, Berwick, Cumberland, Cornwall, Essex and another vessel of

the "country" class yet to be selected. They all have a speed of 23 knots, which is one knot greater than any cruiser in the United States navy, and represent Britain's latest achievements in this type of warship. The flagship, the Drake, which was launched in 1901, has a displacement of 14,100 tons. Her armament consists of two 9.2-inch guns, 10 6-inch quick drivers, 14 12-pounders and 12 smaller rapid fire. She has in addition two torpedo tubes and is protected by a belt of 6-inch Krupp steel. She is in reality a combination battleship and cruiser, and an enormously costly vessel. There are three other similar ships in the British navy—the King Alfred, Leviathan and Good Hope.

OTHER CRUISERS.

The five other cruisers of the squadron are of 9,800 tons displacement. They are armed with 15 6-inch, 12 12-pounders and 13 smaller guns, while their armor plating is only four inches thick. By American naval experts their armament would be considered unqually light, and as fighting machines they are not equal to the Brooklyn and New York of about the same tonnage, which were launched several years earlier, although being one knot faster they could leave them astern. In gun power the ships of the American navy are generally superior to those of similar size and type in the British navy. This disparity has aroused much hostile criticism here in the past, but in the future comparisons in this respect will not be so unfavorable to the British ships. There are several cruisers now building which, with practically the same displacement as the Drake, will mount six 9.2 inch guns as against her two, and the secondary battery of 6-inch guns will be reduced to 10. The cruise of Prince Louis' squadron, which will last eight months, is the first that has been arranged since the recall of weak, non-fighting ships from distant waters and typifies the new spirit which "Jackie" Fisher has brought into the admiralty. Americans who will not allow themselves to be outdone in anything, are certain to welcome an opportunity to repay the splendid hospitality shown American officers when an American squadron last visited these waters. It will be recalled that on that occasion the officers were entertained by the King at Buckingham palace. It has not yet been decided definitely

ly when the squadron will start, but as at present arranged it will be some time early in March, and a tour will be made of the Mediterranean before crossing the Atlantic.

ENGLISH SCHEME TO EXTRACT GOLD FROM OCEAN

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—With recollections still fairly fresh of the colossal fraud perpetrated some years ago in Maine by which thousands were led to believe that huge fortunes could be made in investing in a scheme for extracting gold from the sea, the American public have probably placed little faith in the reports cabled over of the wonderful results achieved here by a new process for obtaining the auriferous metal from the ocean. The American scheme was a downright swindle. A diver placed in the accumulators at night the gold which Father Neptune was supposed to have deposited there with such reckless prodigality. The English scheme is not a swindle. At present it is simply a scientific experiment.

But the estimates made of the money that could thus literally be coined out of the sea transcended the fabulous wonders of the Arabian Nights, and by comparison made even Shihab's talley of diamonds appear an unattractive proposition to the credulous investor. Rockefeller's wealth seemed but a beggar's dole contrasted with the riches that would be amassed by the syndicate controlling the secret process.

While none of these gross exaggerations can be attributed to Lord Tweeddale, Lord Brassey, the Hon. Allan Gibbs, Maj.-Gen. Henderson, Maj. Combs, M. P., W. Keswick, M. P., and the other highly respectable gentlemen associated with the engineering and industrial trust which is backing the scheme, the fact that the reports had the effect of sending up the \$5 shares to \$250 would indicate that some of those who were let in on the ground floor found abundant opportunities to make a most profitable exit.

The trick appears to have been done by "monkeying" with the report made to the syndicate on the results of the gold extracting process by Sir William Ramsay, one of the most distinguished chemists and scientists in England. His name is one to conjure with. He was credited with having stated that the inventor's process had demonstrated that gold could be obtained from the sea in such large quantities that whether the cost of treatment was \$20 or even \$40 per ton of sea water, which was the outside figure, it made little difference.

It is, of course, impossible that a man of Sir William Ramsay's high reputation and attainments could have made such a ridiculous statement. With an expenditure of \$20 for every ton of salt water treated the syndicate would achieve bankruptcy faster than any company ever floated. Sir William's assistant, R. D. Littlefield, was quoted as having stated to the shareholders that they had only to decide how much gold they wanted a day and it could be produced. And on the basis of dealing with 400 acres of sea every 24 hours he estimated that the yield of gold would be over \$25,000,000 per annum.

It would be interesting to know just what Sir William Ramsay did report, but that information was refused me at the office of the company. However the facts told me by F. L. Rawson, the consulting engineer of the syndicate, and one of the highest authorities on new inventions in London, suffice to prove how utterly fallacious are the extraordinary claims that have been made on behalf of the new process.

It had been found by analysis, he said, that the gold held in solution in the Irish sea and the English channel varied from one-thirtieth to one-fiftieth of a grain per ton of water. This means, of course, that provided all of it could be extracted, from 50 to 60 tons of water would have to be treated to obtain one grain of gold which is worth 44 cents. Such figures of course suggest the possibility that the ocean will ever prove a formidable rival of the world's gold mining industries. Mr. Rawson frankly admitted that with the amount of gold held in solution being so minute, the problem of making its extraction from salt water commercially profitable was an extremely difficult one, but he was confident that it could be done. The syndicate, he said, was a private one formed for the purpose of supplying sufficient capital

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PLOWBOY PRIEST SHAKES THRONE.

Young Father Gapon Who May Yet Prove the Most Powerful Man in Russia.

HIS EXPERIENCE AS CHAPLAIN.

One After Another of the Prisons Helped Him to Develop a Very Strong Organization.

Special Correspondence.

S. PETERSBURG, Feb. 20.—Although so much has been cabled about Father George Gapon, the priest whose fame became world wide on Bloody Sunday, Jan. 22, the stories sent out about him have been as contradictory as the imaginary photographs of him which have been printed. An authoritative account, therefore, of this man, who has shaken empire and is likely to shake it again, may be of value. I am sending this letter through private channels.

Father Gapon is now 34 years old, tall and bony, with somewhat emaciated features that reveal traces of lifelong self-sacrifice and suffering. His hair is beginning to turn gray. His complexion is swarthy. His piercing dark eyes glare out on the world from beneath bushy black brows and are filled with the fire of fanaticism. He wears his hair—jet black except for the threads of gray—in flowing locks which fall down over his neck, and his beard, to all appearances, never has been trimmed.

He wears the long black robe of the orthodox Greek priest, that, reaching to the ground, exaggerates his height. Round his neck is a silver chain, to which is attached a silver cross, the emblem of his holy calling. Beneath this priestly robe Father Gapon wears the rough garb of the Russian peasant, consisting of coarse woolen vest and underwear, besides a pair of huge jack-boots reaching above the knees and weighing more than anyone outside of Russia would like to carry around. On his head Father Gapon wears the tall round black hat of his priesthood, which also exaggerates the impression that his stature is extraordinary.

Usually Father Gapon is silent and reserved, and his impassive features convey the impression of solemn obstinacy but when he is engaged in conversation on subjects which interest him his face lights up, his impassive demeanor gives way to excitement, and he becomes eloquent. Seen at close quarters, above the fire of enthusiasm burns within him, it is easy to understand the marvelous power which Father Gapon has contrived to gain over the dull masses of the Russian population. His fervor is infectious, his zeal is convincing and his words, illogical though they often are, contrive to reach the heart and feelings of his listeners. Thus it is that at a public meeting, when he is engaged in conversation with an audience, he is certain to arouse them to a pitch of excitement, so that if at the climax of one of his orations he were to call upon them to throw themselves against a stone wall they would be likely as not to carry out the suggestion without question. He is certainly the most interesting man in Russia, and the development of his career is awaited with interest by the whole civilized world.

BORN TO HARDSHIP.

George Gapon was born in a remote village in the Russian province of Pskov, his father being a liberated serf. His birthplace was a miserable little wooden hovel, consisting of two rooms, badly lighted, badly ventilated and unclean. His father earned a weekly wage of \$2 as a farmhand. The boy was the only child of his parents, and his fellow villagers declare that he gave evidence of unusual intelligence at an early age. He attended the village school, and at the age of 12 years he

MARKED FOR DEATH.



EMPERESS DOWAGER OF RUSSIA

The terrorists are said to have marked four of the Russian nobility for death, the first of whom to die was Gr and Duke Sergius. The Dowager Empress Marie is the most heartily detested woman in Russia. She has always been a reactionary and has long exercised a strong control over her son, the czar.