

GERMANY SOLD-AGE PENSIONS

Popularity of the System of Workingmen's Insurance in the Empire.

RECENT CHANGES MADE IN THE LAW

How Business is Conducted—Gratuities in Pensions—Beneficiaries More Plentiful in the Country Than in the Towns.

The revision of the invalid and old-age pension law at the recent session of the Reichstag was carried by a practically unanimous vote. The fact was commented upon by the German press as a most striking proof of the popularity of the system of workingmen's insurance.

For some years it has been evident that a revision of the system of workingmen's insurance would be necessary, for the operation of the system had brought out some facts as to the population movement, and the earning capacity of the laboring people in the different parts of the country that were not fully known.

But besides much greater longevity and a higher percentage of invalidity, the agricultural offices have relatively much smaller incomes, since farm laborers and other working people in their territory receive very low wages.

In two other respects it was seen that a reform of the law is desirable. It is found that the money collected in premiums of the pensions paid and that the work of administration could be facilitated by local pension boards composed of laborers and employers.

In recognition of the above facts the imperial government laid before the Reichstag in February, 1897, a preliminary bill for the reform of the law in the directions indicated. This bill, however, was not passed; it was introduced merely to provoke discussion and clear up the lines upon which the latter revision would be possible.

The bill as introduced by the government, proposed to equalize the tax burden as between the various offices, by treating three-fifths of the income of each office as a common fund, and reserving two-fifths as the special fund of each office—the common fund to be divided in equal shares upon a national basis and without regard to geographical lines.

The amount of the pensions is raised moderately. In the old-age pensions the lowest pension is now 106, 4 marks; a year; in future it will be 110 marks; a year; the new 150 marks. In the future it will be 220.

New law is more liberal than the old. The old law requires complete loss of the capacity to earn a living before the insured person is entitled to a pension.

Another important change in the law is the extension of compulsory insurance to certain classes that have hitherto been shut out. These include master workmen and technical artists not employed in factories, silversmiths and teachers.

The pension offices have hitherto undertaken, within certain limits, to have insured persons treated in hospitals, particularly in cases of tuberculosis, before the disease had advanced so far as to render the affected person an invalid.

It is not believed that the present reform of the invalid insurance law (this is now its official title) will be final. The former state secretary, Von Boetticher, declared in the Reichstag, two years ago, that the present law should be replaced by a single insurance office for the whole empire, and many experts are of the same opinion.

TALK ABOUT THE CENTURY.

Which Country Will Enter It First?—Some Calculations. When do we enter the twentieth century? In 1900 or 1901? The dispute is not a new one.

And yet, says Camille Flammarion, the famous French astronomer, the answer to the question is simple enough. Ten is the sum of ten units, and the number ten is one of them.

Later on it was found that the little monk had made a big mistake, and that, thanks to him, the Christian era had been started not at the birth of Christ, but four years and seven days later.

The German astronomer of 1699 mentions this in his pamphlet, but the error, though he knew it, was not corrected. The origin of the great impetus of the age came from the Anglo-Saxon stock.

On the other hand, if we make the same reckoning moving westward, we find that precisely at the same time it will be 7 p. m. in New York, 6 p. m. in Chicago, 4 p. m. in San Francisco, 2 p. m. in Alaska, 1 p. m. in Honolulu, and finally, exactly noon of December 31, 1900, in the Chatham Islands.

GREAT MEN OF THE CENTURY

Conspicuous Leaders in Various Branches of Human Progress.

ENGLISHMEN, AMERICANS AND GERMANS

Stephenson and Morse Foremost in Making This a Railroad and a Telegraph Age—Notables in Other Lines.

Who are the ten greatest men of the century? At first glance this question appears more difficult to answer than it really is. It would be hard to choose the ten greatest inventors where there are many of world-wide celebrity; the ten greatest literary men would be still more difficult to select.

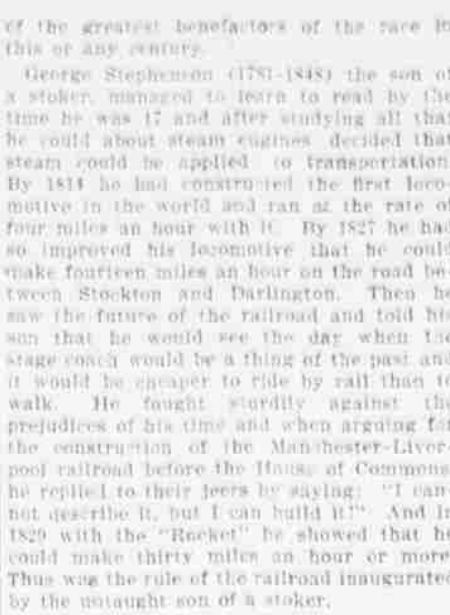
In natural science it is just as plain that the directing influence has come from the powerful originality of Charles Darwin, and in philosophy the majestic mind of Herbert Spencer must be acknowledged foremost.

properties of electricity, but the credit of the first important application will belong to Samuel Morse for all time to come. First Kindergarten. Friedrich Froebel (1797-1852) had no children of his own, but claimed the children of the world for his.

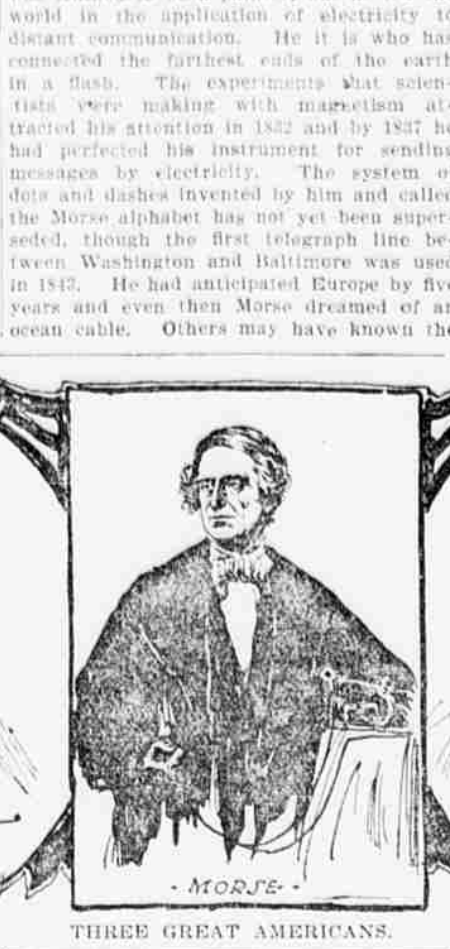
In such wise as to overlook the achievements of the leaders of Europe, Napoleon, greatest general of all time, belongs more properly to the last century, if not altogether in time, certainly in methods.

Man Who Conquered Smallpox. Edward Jenner (1749-1823) did more to ward the prevention of disease than any other physician before his day or since.

Charles Darwin's Works. Charles Darwin (1809-1882) gave the century not only a theory, he gave it a principle. Take away evolution from the thought of our age and it is robbed of its richest treasure.



THREE GREAT AMERICANS.



THREE GREAT AMERICANS.

Swift cuts us to the quick with his irony! He is all the greater because thereby, Becky Sharp will live as a creature to be abhorred when Rob Roy is forgotten, and Eugene Aram has long passed away.



TWO GREAT GERMANS.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) father of symphony and sonata, reformer of orchestra and the theory of music, one of the most fruitful of all composers and most widely imitated, he stands as the undisputed leader of the musical genius of the century.

BattleShip Ready for Trial. SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 2.—Work has so far advanced on the United States battleship Wisconsin that it will make its official trial within the next two weeks.



FIVE GREAT ENGLISHMEN.

about publishing his theory, for he knew that it would arouse a storm of opposition, and he was naturally of a retiring and peaceable disposition.

William Makepeace Thackeray (1813-1863) by right of realism, psychological analysis, the depicting of character, faculty and satirically, the leader of our novelists.

Henry M. Stanley, The World's Greatest Explorer, "The Unexplored Regions of the World." In this story of the undiscovered, the world's greatest explorer describes some of the tasks which the geographer of the 20th century must solve.

Dr. Cyrus Edson, Famous Chief of New York Health Department, "Medicine in the Closing Year of the Nineteenth Century." A rapid and fascinating survey of the recent astonishing accomplishments in medicine and surgery.

Dr. Frederick A. Cook, Famous Antarctic Explorer, "Walking to the Pole." Dr. Cook believes that the pole will finally be reached by a sturdy party of Americans on foot.

Prof. N. S. Shaler, Famous Geologist of Harvard, "The Earth's Deepest Depths." This article promises to be of much more than ordinary interest.

Immediately following Prof. Shaler's article, there will be articles by Sir Norman Lockyer, England's greatest astronomer; by Prof. John Dewar, the famous chemist, who was the first to liquefy hydrogen; and by several other men equally celebrated.



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WRITE FOR THE BEE ON THE "Edge of the 20th Century"

To begin the new year, 1900, THE BEE announces a number of great special articles, fully illustrated. Each of them is written by a man celebrated the world over, each discusses a topic of universal interest, each reviews in some degree the progress of the century now closing.

W. T. STEAD, Editor of the "English Review of Reviews," "Breaking Through the Veil."

Beginning with a brief review of the progress of the century in science, Mr. Stead leads upward through the marvels of the material world, telegraphy, telephone, X-Rays, the telescope and wireless telegraphy.

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Dr. CYRUS EDSON, Famous Chief of New York Health Department, "Medicine in the Closing Year of the Nineteenth Century."

A rapid and fascinating survey of the recent astonishing accomplishments in medicine and surgery, with an invaluable summary of the very latest methods of treatment of some of the more important diseases. "Can typhoid fever be cured?" "What are the chances of recovery in pneumonia?" "Does Pasteur's inoculation really cure rabies?"

Dr. FREDERICK A. COOK, Famous Antarctic Explorer, "Walking to the Pole."

Dr. Cook believes that the pole will finally be reached by a sturdy party of Americans on foot; he gives in this article the reason for this belief; tells what equipment is necessary and how long a time will be necessary to complete the expedition.

PROF. N. S. SHALER, Famous Geologist of Harvard, "The Earth's Deepest Depths."

This article promises to be of much more than ordinary interest. Immediately following Prof. Shaler's article, there will be articles by Sir Norman Lockyer, England's greatest astronomer; by Prof. John Dewar, the famous chemist, who was the first to liquefy hydrogen; and by several other men equally celebrated.

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BROWN'S Bronchial Trochies. I think them the most wonderful medicine for all bronchial affections. - Hon. Mrs. FERRY, Castle Grey, Ireland.