

Sir John was not averse to talking about a few of the varied experiences that entered into his long career. He spoke of his interview with the



kaiser.

"The kaiser's interview created a good deal of interest at the time and, indeed, since," he said, "When the interview was put into writing it fell to me to secure that, if it were published, it would not be challenged. I knew quite enough of German politics and German ministers to realize that it was very likely to be challenged and possibly denied. So we had a doucument prepared to be submitted to the Emperor William for his verification and singnature. The doucument came back direct from Berlin carying the personal authority of the kaiser and with his signature attached to it. Without that safeguard the interview would not have been published."

The difficulties of news transmission in earlier days were vividly pictured by Sir John when he told of his "covering" the German entry into Paris-a story on which the Daily Telegraph "scooped" all other Lon don papers. "There was extraordinary excite-

ment about the German entry." he said, "for it was rumored that the Germans would be fired upon. We had been sending messages by balloon to Calais and telegraphing from there. But there was no balloon until about 12 o'clock at night, and the train left at 12 and took 12 hours to get through.

"I learned a contemporary had ar ranged for a special train from Paris to Calais. It/was impossible for me to get a duplicate train, but I found that I could telegraph directly from Lille to London, and I procured a special train from Paris to Lille.

"I marched with the Germans from the Avenue de la Grande Armee down to the Place de la Concorde. They were not interfered with. During the journey from Paris to Lille I wrote the account of the day. I had previously stationed a courier at Lille, with instructions to be waiting with a telegrapher to transmit what I handed in. That was how the first news of the entry of the Germans into Paris reached London."

How Stanley's African Trip Started.

How Stanley came to undertake his expedition to Africa was related by Sir John. He had become acquainted with Stanley in Paris after he had returned from the Gordon Bennett expedition to rescue Livingstone Stanley came to Sir John's office in London, and the subject of the discoveries yet to be made in Africa was discussed. Lord Burnham, then own er of the Telegraph, was consulted and was willing to co-operate, but Stanley was under contract with Bennett. A telegram was sent Bennett asking him to join with the Telegraph in promoting the expedition. Bennett accepted, and the plans were drafted.

"That," said Sir John, with the nonchalance of the true reporter, "is how Stanley's great expedition across Africa was conceived and decided upon. It was merely a morning's work.

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