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THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE.

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Political and Social News of the Old World Reported by Special Cable and Correspondence

HIGH PRICES HIT MOTHER ENGLAND

Bacon, Beefsteak and Other Foods Take Big Jump Toward the Top Notch.

WAIL OF PROTEST RAISED

Many Housewives Are Inclined to Blame the Americans.

PRINCESS MAUD MAKES DEBUT

She is a Winsome Little Maid, Just Sweet Seventeen.

ROYALTY TO CROSS THE OCEAN

Duke of Connaught Decides to Make a Visit to Canada—Prevents Him from Serving as Umpire-in-Chief.

BY PAUL LAMBETH.

LONDON, May 14.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—England is feeling the pinch of the high prices of food as well as America. Bacon and beef, the great English food staples, have jumped from 4 to 6 cents a pound; mutton, cheese and butter are going up, too. In fact, the British housewife finds everything on her bill of fare kiting skyward, and a wail of protest is being raised from Lands End to John o' Groats.

In the minds of many the idea prevails that the bad Americans are responsible in large part, if not altogether, for this condition, although the more sensible recognize the fact that England is simply feeling a world-wide movement towards higher prices.

I asked one authority to what he ascribed the trouble. This is what he said:

"The introduction of cold storage, which has enabled the great trusts to store thousands of tons of perishable commodities for practically indefinite periods, and to hold them over so as to stiffen prices, has been advanced as one reason. And it may have something to do with it.

"But the main cause is that the world is fast filling up. America, for instance, sends us less and less beef, butter and cheese every year. Her constantly increasing population needs all it can grow and make for its own use. Twenty years ago the prairies of the middle west were merely gigantic grazing farms for cattle. Now they are covered with small homesteads, with the result that while local production has been lessened, local demand has been increased.

Princess Maud's Debut.

"And we, here in Great Britain, are feeling the pinch and are likely to feel it."

Society is greatly interested at the moment in the forthcoming debut of Princess Maud, the younger daughter of the Princess Royal, and the duke of Fife, which, as at present arranged, will take place at the final court of the season. The young princess recently celebrated her seventeenth birthday, but, owing in a great measure to the delicate health of her mother, she is almost entirely unknown outside her own family.

She is a winsome little maid, and a general favorite with all with whom she comes into contact. Like her elder sister, Princess Alexandra, she is devoted to an outdoor life, and her chief happiness is found in roaming about the delightful highland scenery in the neighborhood of Mar Lodge. Two Princesses were never more simply brought up than have been the two daughters of our princess royal, and when one meets this bright and vivacious girl it is difficult to realize that she stands eleventh in direct succession to the throne at the present time.

The duke of Connaught has decided to pay a short visit to Canada before the end of the year. He has intimated to the authorities of the Canadian National exhibition that he will pay a visit to the display at his earliest convenience. It is understood that this proposed visit to the dominion will prevent the duke from accepting the position of umpire-in-chief at the autumn maneuvers this year, but no definite announcement on this matter has yet been made.

There seems to be small doubt that the next "craze" of society will be aviation and already several well-known people have ordered flying machines of one description or another. Among these is the duke of Westminster, who was one of the first in this country to purchase a Wright biplane. The duke is taking up the science of aviation seriously and hopes to accomplish some notable flights before very long. Lord Howard de Vahlen is likewise credited with a desire to indulge in flying and it is understood that he recently ordered a Farman biplane.

Craze for Roller Skating.

The craze for roller skating which has seized the officers of the navy is, it is stated, responsible for a good deal of discontent on the battleship Vanguard. Indeed, so serious is the discontent of the lower deck that steps have been taken to draw the attention of the admiralty to their grievances. It is the establishment of a "marine skating deck" upon the deck of the Vanguard that is responsible for the trouble—to that and to the fact that in ships of the Dreadnought type a new method of berthing the crew has been adopted. In older ships the crew were berthed forward and there was a forecastle, which was the especial province of the crew. In the Dreadnoughts the crew are berthed aft and there is no forecastle. The quarter deck is in all warships sacred to officers and instead of being aft it is placed forward.

Now, in the other Dreadnoughts the quarter deck occupies about half of the upper deck, and the men are free to come and go, to take the air and amuse themselves on the other half, there being no forecastle. But in the Vanguard, so the lower deck complains, the officers have not been content with half. They wanted a skating rink, so, to secure room for their pastime, they have appropriated three-quarters of the upper deck, thereby greatly diminishing the space available for the crew. Moreover, the line of demarcation is rigidly enforced—so rigidly that two of the hatchways usually available for the men to ascend or to descend from the deck are forbidden to them. All the Dreadnoughts carry large crews. The Vanguard has nearly a thousand, and they complain that when they collect on deck during their leisure hours they have scarcely room to move.

KAISER PROUD OF AIR FLEET

At Forthcoming Maneuvers Each Side Will Have Airship at Its Disposal.

ADVENTURE WITH A TIGER

German Battleship Establishes a Record in Rapid Coaling—Dresden Opera House Stage to Be Rebuilt.

BY MALCOLM CLARKE.

BERLIN, May 14.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—Kaiser Wilhelm is proud of his air fleet. It is understood that at this year's imperial maneuvers each of the opposing sides will have an airship placed at its disposal. The Parseval and Gross types will be employed, the size of vessels of the Zeppelin class, making them difficult to deal with under campaigning conditions.

After the recent review of the aerial fleet at Hamburg, the first of the kind ever held, his majesty inspected closely the great machines questioned the officers and men and expressed himself as greatly pleased with the high state of efficiency reached.

Starting from Cologne at 11:30 with a favoring northwesterly wind, the squadron of military airships which has been maneuvering in the Rhine region for the last fortnight—the Gross I, Zeppelin II and Parseval III—sailed away in the direction of Frankfort-on-Main, lying as the crow flies 100 miles southeast. The squadron, keeping formation as perfectly as battleships, reached Hamburg a few minutes after 4 o'clock, having accomplished a journey without a mishap at an average speed of twenty-two miles an hour.

Zebelin Lands Easily.

The great white Zeppelin landed easily and without incident, and the Parseval descended at the very feet of the kaiser's party. The Gross experienced some difficulty in descending, and suffered mishap so serious that the vessel was prevented from landing where it desired and came down more or less involuntarily at another spot some hundreds of yards distant.

Awaiting the squadron's arrival on the plain adjacent to the railway line between Frankfort and Hamburg were the kaiser, the kaiserin, Princess Victoria Louise of Prussia, and a brilliant entourage. Before landing the three vessels executed a serious of picturesque maneuvers above Hamburg, to the intense joy of the imperial party, especially of the kaiser and his daughter.

Aboard the Zeppelin were General Baron Von Lyncker, chief of the transport department of the German army and General Von Sperling, the military governor of Cologne. They were able to assure the supreme war lord that the cruise was successful in every respect. The kaiser escorted his wife and daughter over the airship, the princess making good practice the while with her camera.

It is stated that army airship M. 3, during a recent long-distance flight made an important experiment in the discharge of explosives in the form of aerial torpedoes from airships. The experiments are being continued.

Including the victims of the Pommern disaster on April 3, eight balloonists have been killed in Germany in the last few weeks. Minor mishaps are events of daily occurrence and pass almost unnoticed. The frequency of accidents in aviation has stirred the Imperial Aero club, the leading German aeronautic authority, to take action on behalf of those interested in the navigation of the air, and the club has decided to issue a code of rules and advice to balloonists. Every large town has now a balloon club and ascents are so numerous that the frequency of accidents is less surprising than appears at the first glance.

Tax on Unearned Increment.

As a part of the German Imperial financial settlement last year, it was enacted that the government should within a given period introduce a bill establishing a tax on unearned increment to produce at least $5,000,000 a year. It provides that the tax shall apply only to real estate. It will be payable on the sale of property, and is to be collected by municipalities and rural authorities, many of whom already have local taxes on unearned increment. Local authorities will be required to hand over 6 per cent of the yield of the tax to the Imperial treasury, which expects to net $5,500,000 yearly from the impost.

All forms of property other than real estate are exempted from the operation of the tax, on the ground that the inclusion of securities, etc., would impose an intolerable burden on trade, drive capital abroad and keep foreign capital out of Germany, with a resultant depreciation of German State and other securities, and loss of revenue from stamp duties.

Adventure with a Tiger.

A wild beast trainer, named Henricksen, was exhibiting a dozen lions and tigers at Busche's circus, Berlin, and had introduced a favorite chimpanzee into the cage. He was rehearsing with the latter animal, and for a moment took his eyes from a particularly ferocious tiger. Suddenly the tiger sprang upon the trainer's back, but before he had time to claw him the chimpanzee sprang like lightning on the tiger's back. This so astonished the beast that he loosed his hold and retired to a corner of the cage snarling. Henricksen was taken out unhurt.

The German batleship Schleswig-Holstein claims to have established a record in rapid coaling. The crew on a recent occasion shipped 700 tons in one hour and twenty-nine minutes, of which 558 tons were shipped in the first hour.

A sum of 1,450,000, it is stated, is to be spent on rebuilding the stage of the Dresden opera house. The king of Saxony is asked to contribute $1,000 and the Diet to vote the rest.

BRITISH GET RAIL CONTRACT

Line to Be Built in Chili Will Require Four Years for Construction, it is Estimated.

VALPARAISO, May 14.—(Special to The Bee.)—The contract for the construction of the northern section of the Chilean longitudinal railways, which has been awarded to the representative of a British banking syndicate, was competed for by several other British and American interests. It is expected that the work will be finished in four years' time.

This railway, when completed, will run from north to south, from Africa to Santiago de Chili, a distance of 1,501 miles, and will form a junction with the proposed Pan-American railway, and thus bring Santiago and New York within a 10,000-mile railway journey of each other.

IRELAND STIRRED BY SCANDAL TALK

Revival of Pigott-Le Caron Case Sets Emerald Isle at Fever Heat.

SIR ROBERT IS CONDEMNED

Michael Kelly, Dan Hogan and James Daly Have Their Say

SOME HOT WORDS ARE PASSED

"An Outrageous Lie," is an Extract from the Oratory.

PREACHER DROPS HIS COIN

Row Boats Are to Be Prohibited on Killarney Lakes in Interest of Public Safety the Coming Season.

BY THOMAS EMMETT.

DUBLIN, May 14.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—The revival of the Pigott-Le Caron scandal by Sir Robert Anderson's reminiscences has stirred Ireland and Irishmen as they have not been stirred for many a day. Even the great fight in the British Parliament has taken second place in the public mind. In one notable instance at least the renewal of the discussion has led to a regular Donnybrook fair free-for-all fight. At the Castlebar Urban District Council the other day Mr. Michael Kelly moved a resolution expressing the council's "entire condemnation" of Sir Robert, which Mr. James Daly duly seconded. The row began when, in the middle of Mr. Daly's reminiscences of "Commission" days, Mr. Dan Hogan, vice chairman, interjected the remark that "once again Judas was on his feet."

In answer to protests, Mr. Hogan went on to say that he was at the railway station when Mr. Daly stood on the bridge there and called for groans for Parnell as he passed to Westport five days before his death. Mr. Daly retorted that the statement was a deliberate falsehood, and bitterly denounced the chairman for allowing him to be insulted. After a heated exchange of personalities, in the course of which Mr. Hogan declared that Mr. Kelly told him he saw Mr. Daly groan Parnell, a statement which Mr. Kelly described as "an outrageous lie," Mr. Daly formally tendered his resignation as a member of the council "owing to the wilfully villianous attack allowed by the chairman to be made upon me by an unmentionable character, who by accident was made a member of this board."

"Do you deny that you denounced Parnell?" queried the irrepressible Mr. Hogan. For answer, Mr. Daly tried to strike him with his stick, but the blow was intercepted by a gas bracket. Presently, however, he rushed at his traducer, who sat beside the chairman, and dealt him four or five blows in the face with his fists. Then he brought his heavy walking stick into action. His first blow caught the chairman across the fingers. The next three or four were received by Mr. Hogan across the arms, while one caught him square on the head. Another councillor, who intervened, received a bad blow on the arm. Mr. Daly was then pushed towards the back entrance, and was ultimately prevailed upon to leave the room. He was followed by most of the other councillors and the meeting abruptly came to an end.

No More Row Boats.

At last the Killarney lakes are to be set free from the thraldom and peril of the old rowing boat, which was the cause of so many disasters and loss of life when battling with the waves in the sudden storms for which the place is notorious. The first steam and motor vessels will be placed on the lakes for the coming season.

At the recent meeting of the council of the Dublin Industrial Development association the attention of the council was directed to the proposed pilgrimage to Ireland this year of very large numbers of Americans. It was stated that the pilgrimage of Irish-Americans would likely aid the industrial movement. It was agreed to place before them through the Irish and American press, the desirability of them insisting on any purchases they make being branded with the Irish trademark so as to ensure their being of genuine Irish origin. It was also agreed to get into communication with Mr. Kilkelly, the secretary of the pilgrimage committee in America, and place before him the council's suggestion.

Preacher Drops Money.

An amusing scene was witnessed in Dame street, Dublin, where an accident held up the traffic in a very busy center for a long time. A cab had just turned out of Parliament street, when the bottom fell clean out of it and with it a sack of money, of not less than seven or eight stones weight. The material of which the sack was made was burst by the fall, and the money—all pennies and half pennies—was scattered on the roadway. The money, which represented collections in one of the city churches, was being conveyed by a clergymen to the bank. The clergyman jumped out of the cab as quickly as possible, and a big crowd soon collected, many of whom helped him to collect the scattered coppers. A number of boys, however, seized the opportunity to disappear with hands full of coin.

STRANGE THEATRICAL IN ANTWERP POLICE COURT

Pair of "Leading Ladies" Are Made to Put On an Interesting Official Show.

ANTWERP, May 14.—(Special to The Bee.)—There was rather a peculiar theatrical performance at police headquarters the other day. The performance of an unpopular review was stopped by the police. They raided the Theater Moderne and arrested the entire company. The manager of the theater and the author of the "revue" were likewise apprehended at the box-office and taken, with the actors and actresses, to the police station.

At the police headquarters two of the leading actresses were ordered to go through their parts before an auster and unpreciative audience of police officers. The program lasted for two hours. One of the performers, being a Belgian subject, was then released on bail. The other, a Parisienne, was consigned to the prison.

"I Came, I Saw, I Conquered."

From the Spokesman-Review.

KING VICTOR TO RUSSIA

Date Will Probably Be Within the Month of August.

ITALY IS AGAINST AUSTRIA

Pope Will Probably Appoint Two American Cardinals at the Forthcoming Consistory in Rome.

BY CLEMENT J. BARRETT.

ROME, May 14.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—King Victor Emmanuel intends to pay a state visit to Russia during the summer. The date has not yet been definitely fixed, but it probably will not be before August. Italy is deeply interested in the near eastern situation and her sympathies are with Russia rather than Austria, despite her membership in the triple alliance. It is not unlikely that the whole Balkan and Turkish situation will be gone over when King Victor meets the czar.

The impression gains strength among American churchmen here that the pope has decided to appoint two American cardinals at the approaching consistory. The only thing which stands in the way is said to be the determined opposition of Cardinal Mevy del Val and his faction. The papal secretary of state is bitterly opposed to all things American. I am told that he strenuously objects to any further honors being conferred on the American church, on the ground that already there is a too evident disposition on the part of American churchmen to assert independence along certain lines, and if other American cardinals are appointed at this time he fears this spirit of independence will be fostered.

It may be that the opposition of Mery del Val will prevail and the two red hats will not go to America, but the present feeling is that he will be over-ruled. It is known that the Holy Father does not share his secretary's distrust of Americans. On the contrary he has repeatedly indicated his high regard for his trans-Atlantic children in the faith, and he believes the church there is entitled to greater representation in the sacred college. The opinion is almost universal that if American cardinals are created the prizes will fall to Archbishop Ireland of St. Paul, and Archbishop Farley of New York.

The largest barometer in the world was recently set up in the town of Faenza, the birthplace of Torricelli, who discovered the barometer and the "vacuum" which perpetuates his name. The liquid used is purified oil rendered free from air, and this gives a column over eleven metres in height. Owing to the very small amount of evaporation an oil barometers is much more accurate than one filled with any other liquid except mercury, and the long column makes it very sensitive.

Preparations already are being made for the reception of the pilgrimage of the American Knights of Columbus, this summer, and the visiting knights may feel assured that they will be given the best time Rome is capable of giving them. Churchmen will not be alone in the entertainment. Practically the entire American colony will join in the reception and entertainment of the visitors.

Italy is deeply interested in the situation in Abyssinia which recent advices indicate is lapsing into a condition of anarchy. Powerful chieftains are struggling for supremacy and combinations are being formed which presage a most devastating civil war.

This cannot fail to affect adversely Italy's African possessions. The African garrisons are being quietly strengthened and everything is being done to be prepared to protect Italian interests when the outbreak comes.

MAYBE HE'LL SETTLE NOW

Notorious Crown Prince of Servia Takes Unto Himself a New Bride, Princess Sultana.

BELGRADE, May 14.—(Special to The Bee.)—The crown prince of Servia, whose doings of late have earned for him notoriety, has chosen as his bride Princess Schadis Sultana, fourth daughter of the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid of Turkey.

Death Story is Left on Record in Ill-Fated Boat

Lieutenant in Command of Japanese Submarine Writes Description of Fatal Accident.

TOKYO, May 14.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—The loss of the Japanese submarine, with three officers and a crew of eleven, while engaged in maneuvers off Port Kure, has had a dramatic sequel in the finding of a detailed account of the accident written by the lieutenant in command of the ill-fated boat.

This message from the dead describes the cause of the accident and the steps taken to endeavor to raise the submarine to the surface. The lieutenant expresses regrets at losing the boat and at the loss of the lives of brother officers and the crew, of whose heroism he speaks in the highest praise.

Towards the end of this tragic document the writer states that he had then reached such a state of asphyxiation that he had the greatest difficulty in breathing.

The last words of the brave lieutenant were a touching request that the emperor should succour the families of the officers and men.

Cut Like Melon, is Threatened Fate of China

Situation in Flowery Kingdom is Unsettled—Like India Before the Big Mutiny.

HONG KONG, May 14.—(Special to The Bee.)—The situation in China is, in some respects, not unlike that in the Indian empire shortly before the great mutiny. In all sections of the empire circulars are seen, stating in varying ways that China is to be carved up this coming spring like a melon and divided among the foreign powers. To avert this calamity all students and other loyal Chinese are called upon to enrol themselves as volunteer soldiers, to learn the use of arms and prepare to fight the foreigner and drive him, bag and baggage, from the coast of China.

It is feared serious trouble is ahead which may call for foreign intervention.

HE'S 74, BUT STILL A WIRY OLD SPORTSMAN

Lord Brassey, Despite His Advanced Age, Accepts a Strenuous Undertaking.

LONDON, May 14.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—Lord Brassey's acceptance, at the age of 74, of the mastership of the Bexhill Harriers, has caused a great deal of interest among sportsmen everywhere. In spite of his years, Lord Brassey is one of the "youngest old men" in the kingdom. His vitality and energy are, in fact, quite extraordinary, and two years ago he astounded his friends by mastering the difficult German language in ten days. At the end of that time he could read Prince Hohenlohe's memoirs. All who have studied German will realize the uniqueness of this feat.

NEW CARGO SERVICE BEGINS

New Zealand Steamers Move Out Under a Subsidy of $170,000—Three-Year Contract.

WELLINGTON, N. Z., May 14.—(Special to The Bee.)—The new cargo service between Canada and Australasian ports was inaugurated today by the sailing of the steamer Eakala, a vessel of 2,060 tons, net, from Montreal. The service is to be a monthly one for three years, and the annual subsidy is $170,000. The New Zealand Shipping company's steamers are to be employed.

MUST COUNT COST OF WAR

Belligerent Nations Are Advised to Make Due Calculations.

ARMY IS EXPENSIVE LUXURY

Great International Sport Exhibition is Opened in Style by the Emperor—Big Floods in Servia.

BY EMIL ANDRASSY.

VIENNA, May 14.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—Nations must count the cost when they go to war these days. In the debate on a new war loan to cover the cost of the preparations for trouble following the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovnia, Field Marshal von Georgia declared the amount asked for, $40,000,000, was trifling as compared with the cost of actual warfare. He then proceeded to give an interesting calculation as to what the cost of a future campaign would mean for Austria-Hungary. The daily expense of each soldier, judging from previous experience and allowing for the natural rise in prices, might be calculated at about 10 shillings, not including pensions for disabled men and widows and orphans, the outlay for replacing weapons, uniforms and war material, and for compensation for other losses sustained. Reckoning, upon a basis of 2,000,000 armed men, the daily expenses would reach $5,000,000, and a campaign lasting six months would mean about $300,000,000.

The great International Sport exhibition was opened in style last Saturday by the emperor. It is perhaps the greatest exhibition of the kind ever held. It was hoped President Roosevelt would be able to be present. It was impossible. The great American hunter, however, has sent some of the trophies of his African trip. Much interest is shown in the American exhibits which are not, however, as many as American visitors would like to see.

It is denied here that there is any agreement with Germany under which that power may buy the Austrian Dreadnoughts in case she needs them.

The question of the vote of money for the Dreadnoughts will probably be referred to the Austro-Hungarian delegations next autumn if the delegations meet. In political circles here it is known that the Austrian members of the delegations will make no difficulties regarding the vote, while very little trouble is anticipated from the Hungarian members. Should the delegation, however, refuse the money, Austria would build the fleet independently. The desire to possess a fleet is so strong in Austria, since the events of 1905, that there is no doubt the money will be found. All reports that the Stabilimento Tecnico might sell its Dreadnoughts to other powers are entirely without foundation.

It is announced that the emperor has decided to pay a visit to Bosnia next June. The news has caused a sensation, since the last visit which his majesty made to Bosnia was so far back as 1885.

Floods have devastated the southern and central portions of Servia. Reports from the inundated districts depict the situation as very critical, and so extensive is the damage done that the floods are regarded as a national catastrophe.

On learning of the devastation King Peter expressed a desire immediately to visit the flooded districts, but the cabinet induced him to remain in Belgrade.

A national subscription in aid of the sufferers has been opened, the king heading the list with a large contribution.

HE DEFIES THE BRITISH RULE

Claims to Be Incarnation of the Diety and Starts Much Trouble in Chota Nagpur.

CALCUTTA, May 14.—(Special to The Bee.)—Trouble is feared among the aboriginals in Chota Nagpur, who, acting on the instigation of a man claiming to be the incarnation of a deity, refuse to recognize British rule. The center of the disturbance is close to Ranchi, where war drums have been beaten on the hilltops. So far, no act of active hostility has been committed. Troops and police are watching the gathering.

VAST OUTLAY IN FRENCH CAPITAL

Paris to Spend Three Hundred Million Dollars in Extensive Municipal Improvements.

ECLIPSES ALL OTHER SCHEMES

Wonderful Circle of Inner Boulevards is Proposed.

IDEA OF BARON HOUSSMANN

Proceeds of Municipal Loan Are to Be Devoted to the Enterprise.

TAKES TEN YEARS FOR THE WORK

Romance in the Theatrical Marriage of the Governor of French West Africa—A Fortune Teller Puzzle.

BY PAUL VILLIERS.

PARIS, May 14.—(Special Dispatch to The Bee.)—Not content with being the gayest city in the world and the most beautiful, in the minds of all true Parisians, Paris is preparing to spend some $300,000,000 in the improvement and embellishment of the city.

It is doubtful if any city in the world has ever seriously undertaken so ambitious a scheme of betterment.

The present plans for these improvements is simply to complete the scheme of Baron Haussmann. This great "demolisher" conceived a Paris of which the two axis would intersect at right angles—the Rue de Rivoli and Rue St. Antoine and the Boulevards de Sebastipol, du Palais and St. Michel. This Paris, in his plan, would contain a circle of inner boulevards, the great boulevards, popularly so-called, and the Boulevard St. Germain. Radiating highways would bring the inner boulevards into communication with the outer, and with the center. Finally a triple girdle of highways was projected, to consist of the boulevards laid out under Louis XVI, the military boulevards and an almost uninterrupted series of wide streets connecting these two lines and forming a curved highway, especially noticeable on the left bank, where it bears in succession the names of Rues de Tolbiac, d'Alesia, de Vouille and de la Convention.

One-half at least of the money which is to be raised by the new loan is to be devoted to the piercing of arteries of communication, to the improvement of the old streets and to the demolition of some scores of the ancient highways in quarters which have remained untouched since the period of Henri IV or of Louis XIII. As far back as last December a bond issue of $180,000,000 was authorized for this work.

When the floods devasted the city it was supposed that a portion of the municipal loan might be utilized for the relief of the sufferers and for the repair of the damage caused in the capital and in the suburbs. State and private contributions will suffice, however, to meet those needs. Moreover, to divert a single farthing of the loan from its original purpose an act of Parliament would be necessary. No such step is contemplated. The Municipal Council, indeed, not content with the $180,000,000, is gradually voting some $120,000,000 more for further improvements.

It will take something like ten years to carry out this work. When it is finished it is confidently believed that no city in the world will approach the French capital in symmetry and beauty.

Culmination of a Romance.

Paris is enjoying the clumination of a typical French romance in the marriage of Mlle. Juliette Thaldy, a pretty young actress, to M. Merland-Ponty, governor of French West Africa.

Engagement, courtship and marriage were rapid and dramatic. It all began last September, when a company of Parisian stars, homeward bound from South America, put into Dakar to fulfill a promise made by cable from Rio de Janeiro that they would give a performance at the local theater.

The boat was delayed by terrible weather and instead of 6 in the evening did not arrive until past midnight. As the manager of the company had promised they should perform, he determined to give a theatrical representation at all hazards. He rallied his sleepy company and they were rowed ashore by the native boatmen in the dead of night and hurried to the theater. At 1 o'clock the performance was ready to begin.

By 2 in the morning the audience began to assemble in the theater. M. Merland-Ponty, rubbing his eyes, went forward, with many apologies, to express his personal regret to the company. His rank carried him behind the scenes and there he came face to face with Mlle. Thaldy, quite one of the minor actresses. It was love at first sight, at any rate on the governor's part. He never took his eyes off her during the performance and at the subsequent supper, or breakfast—it was given at his house towards 6 in the morning—paid the pretty lady marked attention. At 8 the entire company went abroad and the governor saw the object of his sudden passion sail at sunrise on a storm-tossed ocean.

As soon as he could M. Merland-Ponty obtained leave, traveled to Paris, married the lady, who had accepted him by letter already, and took his fair bride back to Dakar.

Fortune-Teller Question.

A curious case which has arisen in Paris suggests the query, does the fortune teller warrant the fulfillment of all his predictions, or at least of those which are favorable. An astrologer who had customers by the score until quite lately gave general satisfaction. Some of his customers were, however, disappointed. The pleasant things foretold were not realized, with the result that these discontented people lodged a formal complaint with a magistrate. A police officer was appointed to inquire into the case and the first discovery which he made was that the fortune teller had a vast "practice." He had as many as 15,000 customers in all ranks of society. When applied to he would readily, and without exacting a fee, cast the horoscope of the applicant. If more was wanted the price was $10 for a complete "fortune," $5 for one less complete, $3.50 for a period of fifteen years, $2.50 for a period of ten years, for five years $1.25, etc.