

MAJESTIC ABOLISH THE AX

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Germany Still Clings to the Ancient Methods.

BEHEADINGS ARE POPULAR IN FRANCE

That is, With All, excepting the Victim—Hanging is "More Re-fined"—Though Less Spectacular

BERLIN, April 21.—Agitation has been started in Germany to abolish the axe and the block, of all civilized and cultured peoples, Germany is the only country in the world today which has retained and still clings to this ancient form of executing the death sentence of the law. Even Russia, so often characterized as benighted, has adopted hanging. France, often termed the most enlightened nation, also still clings to its traditionally gruesome beheadings in preference to the less spectacular and more refined form of hanging, adopted by the greater portion of the civilized world, and to electrocution in vogue in the United States. But France makes some claim for refinement in the tragedy of a human life by the fact that it executes the law's sentence with a machine, the mechanical guillotine, by human agency. The machine does the rest.

In Germany society still rids itself of undesirables by the simple, tho' primitive operation of severing the head from the body with an axe swung by brawny arms, just as was done in England in the days of Mary, Queen of Scots, Queen Elizabeth and Henry VIII. The human butcher block has long been abolished in England. In Germany the idea has been and still is to a great extent that in order to make human execution a check upon crime and to prove a deterrent to murder, it should be surrounded with as much horror as possible. Advocates claim that the glistening axe and the black-robed block are a greater symbol of that terror of the final act of the law, than the hangman's noose.

In Germany the law provides that the sentence of death must be executed through decapitation or beheading. It leaves to the different states the choice between the guillotine and the headsman with his axe and block. Many of the German states have selected the guillotine as less brutalizing and the lesser of two evils. The axe and block have played no such part in German history that they have in England. Perhaps therein lies one of the reasons that there has not been popular revolution against their use. For centuries beheading by an axe in the hands of the "public executioner," has been the legal means of putting condemned humans to death in Germany. Yet today it is safe to say that not one person in twenty-five, could give the name of the public executioner. The same could hardly be said in France where "Dablier" is a national character.

Prussians of the aggressive ruthless type who made Prussia the main factor in the empire, oppose the abolition of ancient forms of Prussia executions. They claim that the German axe and block method is no more inhuman than the forms of executions in other countries. It is contended by some that the axe is more humane than the rope. In German beheadings, the condemned man has little opportunity to see anything of his executioner or of the means employed. In Berlin the executions take place in the courtyard of the Plötzensee penitentiary.

A large flat flagstone on which the headsman stands in order to have a firm footing marks the spot. When the hour arrives, warders enter the cell of the condemned man and quickly cut away the collar of his shirt in order to leave the neck bare. He is led outside. As he enters the court yard through a small door, he is quickly wheeled about so that his back is toward the fatal spot and he faces two officials who read to him that the sentence of the law is about to be executed.

He is seized by two strong warders who half carry, half drag him backwards to the block. Instead of being forced to kneel down in front of it, the condemned man is thrown face down on a bench-like block to

which he is strapped. His chin and head fit into a semi-circular hole in the end of the block. The headsman, immaculately clad in black evening suit, walks quickly to the victim, polishes an immense axe for a moment about two and one-half feet above the end of the log block and with jutting arm drops it upon the neck. It is over. The axe is of razor-like sharpness and is so heavy that its edge sinks deep into the log-like block with a crunching sound.

Perhaps one reason that there has been no movement toward abolishing the axe lies in the fact that details of executions are never printed in the German press. Usually an execution is told in two or three lines. The public rarely learns of any harrowing details.

It cannot be said that the mass of German people are opposed to the axe and block except the socialists who oppose capital punishment in principle. The present movement, which as yet is merely beginning, comes rather from among educated class. The first step in that direction is the recommendation of the Commission for the revision of the penal code, recommending that the imposing of death sentences or life imprisonment be left to the discretion of the trial judge. Murders are very frequent in Germany and in many cases get lighter sentences than usually imposed for similar crimes in the United States. Hoff, the wholesale poison murderer of Frankfurt and Wagner, the school teacher of Luedlhausen who killed a dozen people in one night, including his own wife and four children, are the most recent candidates for the block.

Penny Suffragettes Open Campaign

HARRISBURG, Pa., April 21.—Suffragettes of Pennsylvania today began a four weeks campaign to force candidates for nomination to the State House of Representatives to come out into the open on the question of providing for a vote for the electors of the state on the matter of woman suffrage. Candidates of every political party will be informed that a refusal will be considered as opposition to woman suffrage, and that the women will fight all candidates who do not declare themselves.

Fans To Cheer Wolgast.

ST. PAUL, April 21.—Ten special trains carrying 2,500 fight fans will move out of the Twin Cities at 6 o'clock tonight for Hudson, Wis., where Johnny Tillman meets Ad Wolgast in a ten-round go. While Tillman has shown promise in all of his recent bouts and has no more hesitancy about mixing things than Wolgast, it is believed he has been over-matched and the betting is slightly in favor of the Michigan brawler.

McAlister vs. Grande.

OAKLAND, Cal., April 21.—Bob McAlister, the clever coast heavy-weight today declared he is confident he will easily whip Sallor Grande in their scheduled twenty-round fight here tonight. McAlister today slightly over 170 pounds.

ROYAL GLITTER

Dazzles Eyes of the French at Paris.

KING AND QUEEN VISIT REPUBLIC

British Monarch Received With Great Pomp By Paris Population. First Visit of English Royalty to France

PARIS, April 21.—King George V and Queen Mary of England, accompanied by a numerous suite, arrived here at 4 o'clock this afternoon. They were met by President Raymond Poincare. For the next three days they will be official guests of the French Republic. The British foreign minister, Sir Edward Grey, accompanied the King, and though there is nothing unusual in the fact that the foreign secretary should accompany a monarch on a trip outside his country, it is generally believed here that advantage will be taken of the occasion to bring France and England to a better understanding. During just the past two years French diplomats have repeatedly asked themselves just what France might expect from England in case of a serious European war. Sir Edward Grey, it is believed, will supply an answer while here. Though retaining its old name of Entente Cordiale, it is rumored that what amounts practically to an alliance will be terminated by the representatives of the two powers here within the next three days.

Others in the royal party are the King's chamberlain, Lord Acton; his private secretary, Lord Stamfordham; his aide-de-camp, Colonel Lambton; his eunuchs, Sir F. Ponsonby and Major Lord Charles Satriani; the Queen's lady-in-waiting, the Duchess of Devonshire; a maid of honor, Lady Desborough; Lord Shaftesbury, her chamberlain; and Sir William Tyrrell, private secretary to Sir Edward Grey.

In spite of the stirring political campaign and the stirring elections next Sunday, the British King and Queen's stay will be marked by a brilliancy never surpassed on similar occasions here. Coming by way of Dover and Calais, the crossing being accomplished in less than an hour aboard the royal yacht, the party arrived by a special train, representatives of the French government meeting France's guests at Calais where the shore batteries boomed a salute. In Paris traffic was turned into other streets than those traversed by the King and Queen in their transit from station to their quarters at the French Foreign Office, and a magnificent array of troops lined the two sides of the thoroughfares from beginning to end of the journey.

This is the first official visit paid to any country by King George and

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The Leader

Queen Mary. It is also the first time that a British royal couple ever paid a state visit to the French Republic. It is estimated that at least \$100,000 will be spent on the special features of the entertainments provided for the couple and the apartments at the Foreign Office, Quay d'Orsay, have specially furnished and decorated for their Majesties.

GET THEM!

You should have Dike's Kidney Pills in your home. Take them regularly. They keep the kidneys in a healthy condition and prevent serious kidney trouble. We recommend them.

You can't afford to neglect your kidneys. If they are weak they should be given immediately.

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