



KING OF BELGIUM ALARMINGLY ILL

Relapse Comes Close on Convalescence.

SPECIALISTS ARE CALLED IN

Affection of Abdomen is Grave Complication.

DROPSY ANOTHER FEATURE

Members of Royal Family Gather at Leopold's Bedside, and Physicians and Archbishop Remain All Night.

BRUSSELS, Dec. 12.—King Leopold, who has been seriously ill for a fortnight, but who was said to be convalescent, suffered a relapse today and his condition is considered alarming.

The official bulletin says: "The rheumatic pains have disappeared, but the King is suffering from a disquieting affection of the abdomen."

Supplementary information indicates that the affection is obstruction of the intestines. There is present also a dropsy of the leg.

King Told of Grave Situation. Two specialists called into consultation did not disguise from the King the gravity of the situation, although they do not regard it as desperate.

Prince Albert Leopold, heir presumptive, and Prince Albert and M. Scholten, the Premier, did not leave the bedside of His Majesty tonight, and Princess Clementine, his third daughter, is expected soon.

The physicians later held another consultation, at which Baron Goffinet announced the King was somewhat better than in the morning. He suffered less pain, his pulse was sufficient and there was no fever.

Archbishop Stays All Night. The physicians and Archbishop Mechlin remained in the bedchamber all night.

King Leopold's condition remained unchanged at midnight. Cardinal Mercier, archbishop of Mechlin, will administer the sacrament tomorrow.

The King had a light sleep in the early part of the night. His physicians will hold a consultation at 7 o'clock in the morning to decide upon the advisability of an operation.

There is a feeling current that the "mad old King" is on his deathbed. For many years Leopold has been the strangest figure on any European throne. His excesses, his extravagances, his cruelties, his passions for women, for fine houses, for money, have furnished an endless amount of gossip and the world has become so accustomed to his vagaries as to be willing to credit the wildest rumors.

He is a man of contradictions, but through all his characteristics the love of self runs as an undercurrent, shaping his policies of state, governing his business dealings, even permeating his love affairs.

The business acumen that has made him the richest monarch in Europe and a power in the money markets of the world is the characteristic that stands forth most prominently always. Close to a point of parsimony in a business deal, niggardly with allowances to his family, for himself he has been willing to spend vast sums to gratify his love of luxury and to satisfy the whims that with advancing age have increased in number and peculiarity. Yet with all his thrills his prodigality has made on his fortune, his wealth is counted in the tens of millions.

King Begins to Show Age. During the past two years signs of age and mental derangement have increased in Leopold. He is now in his 74th year, and the handsome face, with its long, flowing, prophetic beard and the upright figure, are showing marks of disintegration. At one time Leopold was accounted the handsomest monarch in all the world. His manners matched his appearance, for he was cultured, even-tempered and courteous. Now he has become irritable, careless of appearance and prone to such fits of passionate anger as to make official intercourse with him almost an impossibility.

Added to this, he has become utterly indifferent to public opinion, disregarding the respect and good will of his fellow sovereigns and also of the reigning houses of Europe, by whom he has been ostracized, and is glaringly defiant of all the conventionalities and even the proprieties of life. He seems to desire to be a despot and an autocrat, a feeling altogether out of keeping with the spirit of the times in his country, for Belgium has become a republic with socialism, so much so that it is a debatable question whether the monarchy will be allowed to continue under the King's nephew, Albert Leopold, or whether a republic will be formed.

Even in the boyhood of Leopold his cold-blooded selfishness was strongly marked. It turned his father against him in indignation, which grew to such an extent that at the death of the old King he left the greater part of his property to his younger son, Philip, Count of Flanders and to his daughter, Charlotte.

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AVIATOR HITS WALL; LIVES; CAR WRECK

M. BLERIOT HAS ANOTHER NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH.

Sunday Flight at Constantinople, Made Not to Disappoint People, Has Serious Ending.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 12.—M. Bleriot, the French aviator whose flight across the English Channel was one of the most remarkable achievements of the year, and who has had more narrow escapes from death than any other aviator, met with another serious accident here today.

He was giving an exhibition in the presence of an immense crowd when his aeroplane collided with a wall. The force of the impact turned the machine completely over and Bleriot fell to the ground.

He was injured on the left side and, it is feared, internally hurt. His machine was wrecked.

Bleriot, who was using an aeroplane of the cross-channel type, did not wish to disappoint the crowds that had gathered to witness his exhibition, although a strong wind was blowing.

No sooner had he ascended than he was carried away a mile and a half by the wind. He endeavored to tack and return, but was unable to do so. His machine was driven against a wall and overturned, falling 25 feet.

Bleriot remained in his seat and was caught in the wreckage. He was conveyed to the French Hospital. His wife reassured the crowds that besieged the hospital. She reported the condition of her husband to be fairly satisfactory, but said that nothing definite could be known until tomorrow.

DOUBLE TRACK IS PLANNED

Union Pacific Improvement to Cover Whole System.

OMAHA, Dec. 12.—Announcement is made by the Union Pacific Railway that all future orders for passenger equipment will be for steel cars. Recently these cars have had a trial by the road and it has been decided to do away with wooden cars. Extensive orders for new steel cars have been placed.

In adopting this policy officials of the road declare that it is in line with the general policy to do away with equipment which is susceptible to easy destruction in wreck or fire. The new steel cars, it is asserted, will afford greater comfort to passengers.

Simultaneously comes the announcement that within two years virtually the entire line of the Union Pacific will have been double tracked and equipped with the block signaling system.

COGS DRAW MAN TO DEATH

Workman Caught in Machinery at Globe Is Mangled.

SOUTH BEND, Wash., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—His hand caught between cogwheels of mill machinery at Globe yesterday, Joseph Sletof was drawn toward the machine, his head being ground to a pulp before the machinery was stopped.

At the time of the fatality Sletof was the only workman at the end of the shop, and his cries were not heard until too late. A widow and child survive him.

689 BOYS, GIRL FOR EACH

Every Laddie Can Have His Lassie Now in Albany.

ALBANY, Or., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—There are exactly as many girls in Albany as boys.

The enumeration of school children in the Albany district reveals this coincidence. It shows there are 1378 school children, 689 of each sex.

MARINES ARRIVE IN CANAL ZONE

700 Men Now on Way to Panama.

HURRY CALL FOR MORE

Washington Issues Orders for Cruiser Prairie.

ZELAYA RIDING FOR FALL

Panama Report Made Public to Effect That Nicaraguan Has Been Working Deliberately for United States Intervention.

COLON, Dec. 12.—The United States transport Dixie, with 700 marines aboard, which sailed from Philadelphia December 6, arrived at 6 o'clock this morning.

The Dixie proceeded to dock 11, Cristobal, where cars were in waiting to transport the men, provisions and ammunition immediately to Panama.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—A hurry call for marines to proceed with the cruiser Prairie on her interrupted trip from Philadelphia to Colon was made upon the three New England Navy yards today.

ZELAYA WANTS INTERVENTION

President of Nicaragua Prepared for Fall, \$20,000,000 to Good.

PANAMA, Dec. 12.—It is the opinion here that President Zelaya, of Nicaragua, is riding for a fall; that he is deliberately working to bring about intervention by the United States, having chosen this form of humiliation in preference to the greater one of suffering defeat at the hands of the revolutionists.

For the 16 years in which Zelaya has been in power in Nicaragua, it is said, Nicaragua has been ruled by a group of eight daring and conscienceless men who have looked upon the country as their own personal property. This group has grown enormously rich by a systematic pillage of the revenues of the state and of individuals. It is estimated that Zelaya is worth about \$20,000,000 gold, most of which he has invested in Brussels and London.

It is said to be well established that the chief cause of the present revolution was the failure of Zelaya to distribute among his seven associates a loan of \$5,000,000 obtained recently in Europe.

This is the view of the situation as taken on the Isthmus where, to be sure, there are many Nicaraguans naturally opposed to the present administration in their country. They are of the opinion that Zelaya's game is up and is anxious to make his departure in safety. He would rather stand in the eye of the world as having been forced out by the United States than by his own people, and this is why he has provoked reprisals by the brutal shooting of Groce and Cannon.

The statement issued by Zelaya to the effect that the revolutionists had employed the two Americans to mine the San Juan River, and that they were captured after they had planted one

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NEW YEAR'S NUMBER, 1910.

Central Oregon, the great district that is soon to have railroad connection with the outside world, is to be made a feature of the New Year's edition of The Oregonian, which will be issued January 1, 1910.

Preparation is being made to publish the most complete description of this largely undeveloped section that has ever been compiled. The race of rival railroad systems—Harriman and Hill—for this empire, the character of the land to be developed, its products and possibilities, will be considered in this number.

There will be articles on dry farming, on irrigation, on opportunities for entry under the homestead laws, and on many other phases of conditions there. Staff writers and photographers have followed railroad construction up the Deschutes and visited the Central Oregon towns in order to obtain for this edition data that could be secured in no other way.

The New Year's Oregonian, however, will not be confined to Central Oregon. There will be the usual complete review of the steady progress made by the state as a whole and by Portland, the metropolis.

AVIATOR BRINGING FLEET

Paulhan to Tour Orient After Los Angeles Meeting.

PARIS, Dec. 12.—Louis Paulhan, French aviator, accompanied by his wife, two pilots, Mason and Miseraol, who recently distinguished themselves at Pau, and four mechanics, will sail for the United States on December 18 with two Bleriot across-channel machines and two of the latest type of Farman machines.

Edward Gleary, who is managing the aerial combination, announces the party will leave New York by special train for Los Angeles January 2 and will arrive there the day before the opening of the aviation meet, which will continue from January 29 to 30. After participation in this meeting the combination expects to give exhibitions at San Antonio, Galveston, New Orleans, Birmingham, Atlanta and a few Northern cities. A tour of Japan, China and India then will be made.

RAIL PIERCES CAR, 2 DIE

Track Rips Through Smoker, Decapitates One, Injures Four.

CHICAGO, Dec. 12.—Two immigrants were killed and three men and one woman injured in a peculiar accident to a northbound Chicago & Northwestern passenger train in the northern part of the city today.

The track had been elevated recently, and, as the train passed, a rail was torn loose. It ripped through the floor of the baggage-car and through the smoker. In the smoker the torn-up rail decapitated one of the immigrants, and killed another. The engineer and fireman were injured. An immigrant woman and man were also injured.

TAFT PLANS BUSY WEEK

President Goes to New York Today; Tuesday at New Haven.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—President Taft will leave Monday morning for New York, where he will speak at the diamond jubilee of the Methodist-Episcopal Church.

Tuesday morning the President will go to New Haven to attend a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Yale University. He will leave New Haven at midnight, returning to Washington Wednesday.

DEATH BARS LAST GOOD-BY

Aberdeen, Wash., Boy Dies Before He Reaches Home.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Alone, save for the hope that he might reach his home in Aberdeen, Wash., to greet his loved ones once more, William C. Betz, 26 years old, died at the Arcade Station yesterday, just after being carried from a Southern Pacific train.

Betz had been in Phoenix, Ariz., where he had gone to get relief from tuberculosis. When he knew that he could not hope to live much longer, he expressed a desire that he might be permitted to die among his relatives. He was without funds, but sympathetic strangers bought him a ticket and gave him money for the incidentals of his trip.

As the train pulled into the station here, it was seen that he was at the point of death. A physician was summoned but death called first. Relatives in the Northwest have been notified.

TIDE CREEPS, MAN SAVED

Unknown Caught in Slough, Yells, Found in Nick of Time.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Dec. 12.—(Special.)—With his feet stuck fast in the mud of the bottom of a slough, in which the tide was rising rapidly, an unknown man was rescued in the nick of time early yesterday morning by residents living in the vicinity of Jefferson and Hume streets.

The man's cries for help roused the residents from their beds and brought them, bareheaded and in scant attire, to the rescue. The tide had almost reached the man's neck when assistance arrived.

SPIRITS' ADVICE OBEYED

Viscountess Churchill Disappears With Two Children.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—A sensation has been caused in society by the mysterious disappearance of Viscountess Churchill, sister of the Earl of Londsborough. Lady Churchill arrived at St. Pancras station with her son and two daughters November 28. She has not been seen since, although advertisements have been published to trace her.

According to rumors Lady Churchill recently consulted a spirit medium, who assured her it was her duty to leave her husband, Viscount Churchill, and take her children away.

FIRE CRY FATAL TO THREE

Women Crushed During Panic in Cleveland Theater.

CLEVELAND, O., Dec. 12.—A cry of "fire" that started when a woman fell downstairs from the balcony of the Majestic Theater tonight caused a panic in the crowded house and the death of three women.

Mrs. William Richter, Miss Mary Corrigan and Miss Mary McCafferty were crushed in the crowd and died in ambulances. Many other women and a number of children sustained minor injuries. It took the efforts of squads from nearby police stations to stop the struggling of the mob.

THEFT OF JEWELS REACHES \$300,000

New York Apartment Scene of Robbery.

POLICE CAN FIND NO TRACE

Most of Booty in Room Only a Short Time Before Stolen.

DONE IN BROAD DAYLIGHT

Mrs. John William Jenkins Absent From Fifth-Avenue Rooms Only Few Hours—False Key May Have Aided Thieves.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—(Special.)—Diamonds and other jewelry valued at \$300,000 were stolen from the apartments of Mrs. John William Jenkins on the eighth floor of the Lorraine, Fifth avenue and Forty-fifth street, Saturday afternoon.

The robbery is the largest of the kind that has occurred in this city in years. Police and detective agencies have been unable to obtain trace of the lost property or the proof against any persons suspected of having stolen it.

Few Trinkets Left. Since Mrs. Jenkins and her husband went to live at the Lorraine, July 1, her diamonds have been regarded as the most valuable collection of gems owned in the hotel. Except a diamond bracelet and two diamond rings, all of the jewels, including a brooch which had been added to the collection by Mrs. Jenkins a few hours before the robbery, are missing.

The jewels were stolen from the apartment between 2 o'clock and half past 5 o'clock. Mrs. Jenkins was absent from the hotel between those hours and her companion, Miss Russell, also was away from the apartments part of the time.

When Mrs. Jenkins returned at half past 5 o'clock she found drawers in a dressing table in disorder and jewels which had been in them, including the most valuable part of her collection, which had been in a black leather jewel case, were gone.

Detectives Are Baffled. Inspector McCafferty, head of the detective bureau, took charge of the case as soon as Mrs. Jenkins and the manager of the Lorraine reported the robbery. Mrs. Jenkins also called in private detectives.

It is thought that the thief gained entrance to the apartment by means of a false key, or that Miss Russell, leaving the apartment in the absence of Mrs. Jenkins, inadvertently left the door unlocked.

The clerk on duty in the office of the hotel and the other employees, told the police they had not seen any stranger Saturday afternoon in the part of the hotel in which Mrs. Jenkins lives.

Eighteen Gems in One Necklace. Mrs. Jenkins left her gems in a jewel case in the safe in the office of the hotel every time she left the building, but after Mr. Jenkins left New York on business, November 1, she ceased to deposit her jewels there, believing they were safe in her apartment.

One of the diamond necklaces that was stolen contains 18 large perfectly matched diamonds. It was this necklace in which Mrs. Jenkins took most pride.

COMET THRICE AS LARGE AS EARTH

DANIEL TELLS ABOUT LATEST VISITOR HE DISCOVERS.

Gases and Vapors, However, Make Up Large Part of Body Now 56,000,000 Miles Away.

PRINCETON, N. J., Dec. 12.—Sixty-six million miles away from the earth, 56,000,000 miles from the sun and more than three times as large as the earth in diameter—these are the facts that have been determined by Zaccus Daniel, 1908, a graduate student of Princeton, about the new comet discovered December 6.

Mr. Daniel holds the Thayer fellowship in astronomy, the annual income of a gift of \$10,000 by Mrs. William Thaw, of Pittsburgh. The comet discovered by him last week was his third. The first, discovered in June, 1907, is the most famous of the three.

Regarding the new comet, Mr. Daniel said: "Of course, while the new comet appears about three times as large as the earth, according to measurements estimated from the computation of its orbit, it does not contain one-thousandth part of the amount of solids which the earth does. Gases and vapors appear to make up a large part of it."

COPPER COMBINE DENIED

New York Lawyer Declares No Consolidation Is Planned.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—Samuel Untermyer, who has been credited with conducting negotiations for the proposed merger of the Navy Copper Company with the Boston Consolidated Copper Company and others, said tonight: "There is no basis for the report that the proposed purchase by the Utah Copper Company of property of the Boston Consolidated Copper Company, or its proposed merger with the Navy Copper Company is part of a general merger of copper properties. The properties of the Utah and Boston companies adjoin one another. This negotiation to put them together has been under way for three years. Although it is said that the annual copper production of the enlarged company will be about 200,000,000 pounds, that represents less than 15 per cent of the domestic production without taking into account the large foreign output with which the company must compete."

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The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 55 degrees; minimum, 50 degrees. TODAY'S—Rain, breaking away during the day; moderate south wind.

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RULER OF BELGIANS, WHO NEARS DEATH'S DOOR, AND NEPHEW, WHO IS THOUGHT TO BE HIS PROBABLE SUCCESSOR.



KING LEOPOLD.



PRINCE ALBERT LEOPOLD.

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