

BARRIER BETWEEN NOBILITY AND TRADESMEN NARROWING IN FRANCE

Trade and Industry No Longer Considered Out of Way by Members of French Aristocracy—Champagne, Automobile and Banking Business Source of Immense Incomes to Noblemen.



PARIS, Dec. 24.—(Special).—In one of Scribner's vaudevilles there is a ruined nobleman who asks forgiveness of his ancestors prior to turning ironmaster.

How distant already do the days seem—and yet it is only 50 or 60 years ago—when to engage in trade or industry was considered in France unbecoming to a gentleman. Without going so far back as the French Revolution, countless instances might be given of the pride of birth which forbids a ruined noble to turn up his sleeves and work. True, many an emigre became a dancing-master, but most preferred to starve. Of late years, however, and especially since the overthrow of the Empire, which debarred the French aristocracy as a class from entering the army, the navy, the Chamber and the Senate, and the service of the state, generally as privileged individuals, the gulf fixed between them and trade has slowly but gradually narrowed.

Thrown on their own resources, the more enterprising members of the aristocracy have tired of brooding over their destiny in their country estates. Exploration, travel and sport, arts and letters appealed to many, but even then there remained more who chafed at enforced inactivity. Such men were bound, sooner or later, to follow the example set them by the younger sons of the British nobility and turn bankers, merchants, manufacturers or colonists as their tastes and opportunities decided.

The magnificent example of successful enterprise set by America and the romance of wealth that has attended it has completed the conquest, and now a long roll of noble French names can readily be quoted in finance, industry, agriculture and trade.

Champagne-Making Popular.

It is quite remarkable that many of the great champagne houses owe their fame to the enterprise of noblemen. There are the Duc de Montebello, Comte Werle, the Marquis and Comte de Mun, Comte Chandon de Briailles and M. de Mumm, who, by the way, is a Frenchman by adoption. A truly grand seigneur, the Marquis Guy de Polignac, whose name was so prominently before the public as president of the organizing committee of the great aviation meeting of Reims, who was rewarded for his public spirit by the Knight's cross of the Legion of Honor.

and who did not deem it derogatory to his dignity to receive it at the hands of a republican government, must not be forgotten.

The Polignacs are of the "fine fleur" of French aristocracy. Armand, the first of the house, lived about the year 800, in his feudal manor at Le Puy, whose ruins proudly look down on the Cathedral of Notre Dame, whose bishop was for centuries the hereditary enemy of the house. The Polignacs have been among the most illustrious of the servants of the state. They have been grand justiciars, statesmen, ambassadors, archbishops and men of letters and science, and of course, soldiers.

Armand the 22d, who was Prince of Furstenberg and Duke of Polignac, and lived through the Revolution, was the great-grandfather of Marquis Guy de Polignac, whose vineyards in Champagne are among the most valuable of that coveted territory. The Marquis draws annually a third of the profits of Pommery, his income from this source alone being \$200,000. At the great official banquet, which terminated the Reims week, it may be noted, the marquis did not set Pommery before his guests, but a special brand called the Aero Club, dried or the dry, whether this was Pommery in disguise may be left to the speculation of the reader.

Motoring Source of Revenue.

The advent of the motoring age has come as a boon to this type of French aristocrat, and it must be admitted that the astonishing development of the new science is due in no small measure to the spirit of enterprise latent in a few men of blue blood. Chief among them is the Marquis de Dion, part owner of the famous Dion-Bouton machines. The Marquis is one of the hardest workers in France, and deservedly popular with his workmen. Close behind him comes the Duke d'Uzes, who devotes a goodly portion of his days to the firm of Sisler & Naudin. Baron de Dietrich is at the head of a flourishing firm, and Count Gerard de Ganay is a prominent figure in the motor "bus" industry.

Among the directors or managing directors of other companies could be named at least 20 noble French names, such as Comtes d'Aubigny, d'Alarconcourt, Gautier, de Bertier, de Sauvigny, de Pourtales, etc.

It is hardly necessary to mention in

ballooning and aviation the Comtes de La Vaulx and de Lambert.

A goodly number of French noblemen are at the head of insurance and other big companies, but especially the former. The National's president is Comte Pilet-Will; Comte de Levis-Mirepoix is president of Le Patrimoine; Comte de Bagnoux of La Providence; Baron de Neulise of the Assurances Generales; de Batville of Le Fenix. Others are managers and assistant managers of other well-known insurance companies. Baron de Courcel is President of the Orleans Railway Company; Prince d'Arenberg of the Suez Canal Company, on the board of which Viscount de Vogue also has a seat. Viscount de Segur-Lemoignon is vice-president of the Wagons-Lits, and so on.

Of the big banking firms Baron Brinard is one of the vice-presidents of the Credit Lyonnais; Lieutenant Colonel Walewski is staff manager. Prince Poniatowski, who married an American wife, threw up his commission in the army in order to devote himself to finance and developed such rare qualities that he is now president of the Banque de France. Among the governors of the Bank of France are Baron Hottinguer and Baron de Neulise. Comte de Gerny is managing director of the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, Baron de Bussiere of the Credit Algerien, and so on. In fact, it may be said that these men of ancient lineage show a marked talent in finance.

Commerce Is Productive.

The head of one of the biggest grain houses is M. de Vilmorin, who comes of an ancient family. In the mining industry I may mention Barons Xavier and Amedee Rellie and the Marquis de Solages; in the working of metals the Wendel family. Comte de Franquet is a big cotton spinner in Alsace. At Bordeaux may be mentioned the great wine merchants de Lutz, who are related to the de Bethmann banking firm, and through them to the Chancellor of the German Empire.

Ladies of title in business are far rarer in France. Among the other sides of the Channel, but nevertheless there is one, and she is the Comtesse de Savigny de Moncorps, who is at the head of a big perfumery works in the South of France.

These examples suffice to prove that the old barrier is crumbling. No broken-down Eton gentleman would think nowadays of hanging up his sword in his barn before going out to make his fortune in the wide world, only to take it down again when he returned, years later, with the coveted gold. Nor does he, like Scribner's nobleman, ask forgiveness of his ancestors, for he knows that they, on the contrary, will look down approvingly on him, for honest work no longer dishonors the parchment of nobility.

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tory, populated largely by men whose business interests are in the city, shows a gain of 41.1 per cent. Real estate men say that this big suburban increase is largely in anticipation of improvements that are only just beginning to come into use, and they doubt if the ratio will hold up during the next decade. Within the past year or so, many land companies operating in the suburbs have found it impossible to dispose of vacant realty, because the community has lost its taste for speculation, even though purchases can be made on the installment plan.

London Mail Becomes "Yellow."

New York newspaper men are much interested in the recent "yellow" enterprise of the London Mail. This was demonstrated during the recent "hurry trip" of the Mauretania. The big liner was scheduled to remain here for 36 hours, and the stunt that the Mail man had cut out for him was to visit Washington and call upon President Taft while the ship was in port.

The National capital is 225 miles from Manhattan, and anyone who could not make a round trip in 36 hours ought to be discharged. But the London Mail took no chances. Its representative was met at quarantine by a special tug, hurried aboard a special train, saw Taft, and had lots of time to buy a "yellow."

A real down-to-date "stunt" would have been to see how far the man could have traveled during his time on land. For example, with the proper railroad accommodations, the Englishman could have gone practically to Chicago and back, and a round trip in 12 days would have been a world's record. But the London Mail test was valueless except to give a hard-working newspaper man an enjoyable outing.

The Cafe de l'Opera, under its new management, is open again, and its advertisements arouse much comment among the Parisian visitors. They state among other things, "No restrictions as to dress, and many people do not know what to think of this. It does not seem an effort to wear bathing suits, but simply does not draw the 'full-dress line,' which was the rock upon which the old restaurant was wrecked. The one experiment has convinced restaurant men that the New York public does not care to be told what kind of clothes it shall wear. In this, of course, we are still far behind dear old London."

Unemployed Army Increased.

The army of unemployed domestics was never larger in the history of the present time. This does not apply to butlers, ladies' maids or high-class help generally, but to what is classified as "general houseworkers." There have been many efforts to explain the reason, and the generally accepted theory has been that hard times have caused it. Another and more novel theory, however, is advanced by the proprietress of one of the largest employment agencies.

"Too many middle class people are buying automobiles," is her view of the case. "Men in moderate circumstances purchase a machine and then find that the only way to keep it running is to trim down on other expenses. The wife, who enjoys the dignity of having her own auto, is always willing to help under the circumstances. The result is that Pa does the work of a chauffeur, Ma does the housework, and the maid is forced to look for another job. The family dignity is kept up, seem to be worth the cost."

It proves that many of these persons live in mighty cheap parts of town, and do not pay over \$30 a month rent. And a couple of speed-laws would put them out of business for good, or, at least, have a skimpy effect on their table.

"Monster" Parade Planned.

Petitions, arguments in the newspapers and speeches having failed to induce the Board of Estimate to step lively in the matter of more subways, the citizens intend to try to soften the heart of Mayor Gaynor by indulging in a "monster parade."

The word "monster" does not apply to the character of the marchers but to the size of the crowd. It is hoped to have 132,000 in line.

The arrangements are in charge of the Central Federated Union, which includes all the labor organizations in Manhattan. A committee has been named to ask the Mayor to get busy, and if he spurns them, then the parade will follow, probably early next month.

If the parade is really held the men in line will be lucky if the Mayor does not snub them when they line up outside the City Hall.

For our chief executive is growing more peevish every day. Only a short time ago he received a letter from a resident of Brooklyn complaining that the streetcars in that borough were not heated. To which Gaynor replied with the advice that the man walk to and from work, as he (Gaynor) did.

For Gaynor fails to realize there are weak men and frail women who are unable to walk miles in any old kind of weather.

Besides, many of them live much farther from the City Hall than he does.

Peasants Burn Forest to Stop Shivering of Satan.

BUDAPEST, Dec. 24.—(Special).—An earth-tremor for which there was no precedent in Hungary, recently started the inhabitants by ringing the church bells in a small country township. The terrified peasants did not know what to make of it, so they consulted the "wise woman" of the community, who attributed the agitation of the earth to a chilly falling in the anatomy of the devil, who was, she said, so hungry that he couldn't keep warm.

The superstitious people thought the best thing to remedy the unpleasant sensation from which they suffered was to provide food and fire for his Satanic Majesty, so taking several calves and goats they threw them down a fissure in the rocks, and burned a forest belonging to their bishop.

The result of these panic-stricken measures has been different from what was expected, for the woman and her consultants are now waiting in the local jail until the law determines what is to be done to them.

HEIRS WIN LARGE ESTATE

French Count Allows Disinherited Relatives Million Francs.

PARIS, Nov. 26.—(Special).—A curious case has just been decided by the Civil Court of the Seine, which has pronounced against the State, and in favor of two natural heirs. Two years ago the Vicomtesse de Batneville, who was of Russian origin, died, leaving the Archbishop of Paris sole legatee of her fortune, amounting to a million francs. The Archbishop having refused to accept the fortune, and the lady's natural heirs having been disinherited by her will, it fell in the ordinary course of things to the state, and pending the final arrangements, a curator was appointed.

Such was the situation when the sister



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and nephew of the deceased came forward to claim the property. Their counsel argued that Madame de Raimville, having remained Russian at heart, and strongly disapproving of the policy of the Republic, it was preposterous that her money should go to the state. On the other hand, a learned barrister, on behalf of the curator, maintained that, as the deceased lady had deliberately disinherited her relatives, they had no right whatever to claim any advantage from the fact that the million francs had been declined by Monsignor Amette, to whom that sum had been bequeathed.

The court, however, has pronounced in favor of the two natural heirs.

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Big Hotels Have Christmas Trees, Night Court Enjoys Concerts—Fat Policemen Under Ban—City Grows; Unemployed Army Also—Mayor Is Peevish.

BY LLOYD F. LONERGAN.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—(Special).—Of the many beautiful Christmas trees displayed all over the city tonight, undoubtedly the finest and most expensive are those that are on exhibition in the big fashionable hotels.

Five years ago, the custom was absolutely unknown. Then the Waldorf made the experiment, but Proprietor Boldt afterwards confessed that the innovation was due more to the advertisement than to any idea that there was a field for Santa Claus in the big caravansaries.

The experiment, however, was a great success. Children cried for it, and other hotels found that if they expected to keep their juvenile trade it was necessary to fall into line. Naturally they did, for hotelkeepers are nothing if not progressive.

The Christmas festivities are much alike in the various hotels. The big tree, of course, is the center of interest. Then there is a Santa Claus, sometimes an employe of the house, at other places a specialist who is brought in from the outside. Santa brings a present for every good little boy and girl (and all whose parents pay their bills) and there are vaudeville performers as additional attractions, and all in all the tiny guests have a most pleasant evening.

ships. The presents aggregate fully \$2 apiece in value.

The Night Court is in session each evening from 8 o'clock until 2 in the morning, but there is always a recess from 11:30 until 1 A. M.

The other evening at the time for recess, Magistrate House gravely invited the court officers and newspaper men to attend a musicale in a vacant court in the same building. Much surprised, they went with him.

Emil Kunzli, one of the clerks, was the "programme." For nearly an hour he played on his either the masterpiece of the great composers. Then everyone trooped back to court, and, after business had been wound up for the night, there was another concert.

Kunzli is famous as a player on the sither. He came to this country from Switzerland many years ago, and was engaged by Theodore Thomas for his celebrated orchestra in the early '80s. For years he has not appeared in public, but there is another side to the picture. He is a clerk employed at regular wages. The other men in similar city positions do the same amount of work that he does. But when they have completed that, they are through. Kunzli, however, is compelled to play during the time that his fellow clerks are sitting at their ease and commenting, more or less enthusiastically, upon his work.

heard to remark the other evening while Kunzli, in a fine perspiration, was coming down the home stretch.

Fat Policemen Worried.

How much do you weigh? "How tall are you?" are the two important questions in police circles at present. For no is the time that every policeman is interested in them.

For the traffic and mounted squads are being reorganized, and these two details are regarded as being far superior to "pounding the pavement," at least the men think so.

Under the revised rules no man under six feet in height can be placed on the traffic squad, unless the supply of big men fails to equal the demand. And horsemen who weigh in excess of 185 pounds, unless they are remarkably expert riders, are not wanted in that branch of the police service.

The advantage of being on the mounted squad is that a bluecoat does not have to worry very much about the lynx-eyed sergeant or lieutenant. On the traffic detail, the patrolmen have all day work and are not held on reserve except in exceptional times. Besides there is some pleasure in blocking the path of auto-mobiler, and scaring the life out of normally profane truck drivers.

Some interesting statistics, not furnished in detail by the Government figures, have been supplied concerning the growth of New York.

These show that while the five boroughs in the city itself have gained 27 per cent, the surrounding terri-