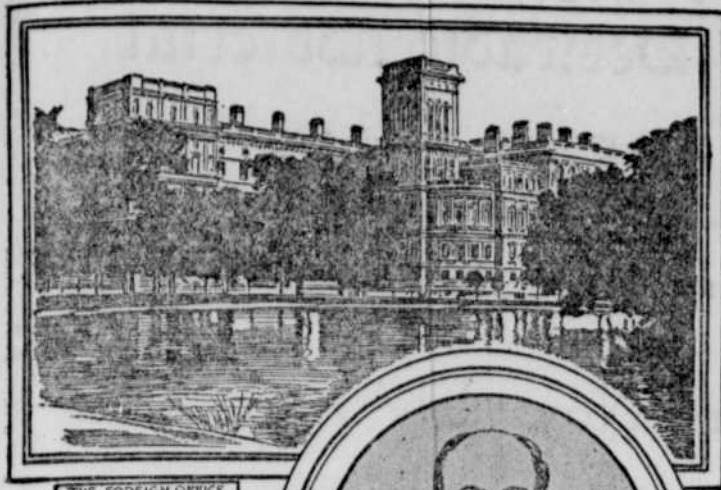


## THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE WORLD.



THE FOREIGN OFFICE.



THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE.

HERE is one man in England whom all the world watches, for it is he who can keep still or let slip the dogs of war. He controls more than any other individual the foreign relations of one-quarter of the globe. This prominent and powerful individual, who plays such an important part in the great game of English politics, is known as "the Foreign Secretary."

By virtue of his office he is the most powerful man in England, "the lay king of the British Empire." He has, indeed, no throne—only a leather chair and a mahogany table in Downing street, but he has the best organized and equipped kingdom in the world. His legions are found in every quarter of the habitable globe.

No department of the British government is burdened with so much mechanical work as the Foreign Office. The birth of a prince, the marriage of a princess, the death of a monarch, the fall of a government, the outbreak of a revolution, the overthrow of a president, anything and everything important among royal personages or governments, occasions work at the Foreign Office.

Even the giving of a medal for saving life at sea comes under its notice, and the Foreign Secretary must deal with all the complaints of harsh and unfair treatment of British subjects in foreign countries, and issue passports when required for travel by those owing allegiance to the throne. It is his duty to nominate all ambassadors and consuls and control the countless changes in. He is in touch more or less with 5,000 people.

The Foreign Secretaries from 1830 to the present time number twelve, and are as follows: Viscount Palmerston, the Earl of Aberdeen, Earl Granville, the Earl of Malmesbury, Lord John Russell, the Earl of Clarendon, the Earl of Derby, the Marquis of Salisbury, the Earl of Rosebery, the Earl of Idlesleigh, the Earl of Kimberley, the Marquis of Lansdowne.

The present occupant of the office has a slight, dapper figure, and is always neatly and carefully groomed. Always serene, always suave, with a rare, but very pleasing, smile, he is the embodiment of repose and self-possession.

He is not weak, but, on the contrary, very tenacious of an opinion. Entirely indifferent to popular influence, he can be at times cruelly polite, and is an excellent example of "the iron hand in the velvet glove."

### PEAT FOR FUEL.

Abandonment of Work in the Long-Abandoned Bogs of New Jersey.

When one thinks of peat, as a natural consequence one turns to Ireland. In the Emerald Isle, peat fuel is staple, and "bog trotting" is an industry which flourishes extensively. In Amer-

long, narrow sections, in removing which a peculiar implement, called a slain, is necessary. The slain, or turf-spade, is made of two steel plates fastened together at right angles, the edges being sharp for cutting. Each plate is five inches broad and sixteen inches long, so that when used a section of peat five inches square and



DIGGING IN THE PEAT BOG.

ica, however, where there has not been need of peat, and where latterly it is almost entirely unknown, it must of course be ranked as a novelty. It will be news to many that peat bogs are worked in New Jersey, where operations have been especially active since the scarcity of coal and its consequent high price. It is not, however, being yet cut for market. Those who own peat bogs are cutting the fuel for their own use and will be entirely independent of coal, either for heating or manufacturing purposes.

Peat is practically coal in embryo. It is composed of decayed vegetable matter which has become packed in a dense mass of its own weight, aided by the weight of soil on top of it. It lies in restricted areas, in bogs, and when taken out holds much moisture. If left for centuries peat becomes coal. In appearance it is black, with now and then a streak of red, caused by the bark of some tree which has not entirely decayed. When dried in the sun, peat becomes as hard as wood and much heavier. It ignites much more quickly than coal, burns freely and leaves little ash.

To cut peat properly requires a knack few possess. It must be got out in

about sixteen inches long is taken out. In beginning the operation, the top layer of dirt is removed from the peat, then the digging is started. It is done in sections about three feet in width and as long as is desired. The peat in the Columbia meadows at Morristown is six feet in depth, and under it is a layer of blue clay. Three "levels," as they would be called in coal mining, are worked. That is, the turf-spade can be sunk down for three times its length before the peat is exhausted.

As fast as the oblong blocks of turf are taken out they are piled on a board and a horse draws them from the bog to high land, where they are laid in rows to dry. When partially dry the blocks are stacked up, so that the sun and wind may get at all sides and drive out the moisture more quickly. It takes about three weeks to dry the peat properly.

It is measured by the cord instead of by weight, as coal is. The blocks become much broken before they are finally dried, but the peat burns, whether in large or small chunks.

A man's wealth isn't known by the taxes he pays.

### SILK MADE BY CHEMISTRY.

Science Has Found a Way to Create the Favorite Fabric.

Synthetics loom large even now, although it is true that attention has chiefly been turned to the synthesis of drugs. But there is no reason why equal success should not attend the efforts of the chemist to build up articles of food, drink and clothing from their elements in the same way as mere chemical compounds have been constructed. It is only a question of the growth of knowledge of the constitution of matters. Already the synthesis of many articles of common daily occurrence has been effected. The aniline coloring matters are practically synthetics; indigo and madder are common products of the laboratory, and sugar and alcohol may be prepared from the elements which compose them.

The latest achievement of the building chemist appears to be the artificial production of at any rate the most important constituent of silk. Chemists have long known that the chief constituent of silk—insects' cocoons and spiders' threads—is an insoluble protoid, behaving very much in the same way as protoids in general, of which the albumins are types. Mulberry silk in particular consists of over 70 per cent of a protoid substance termed fibroin, associated with 22 per cent of a yellowish transparent substance resembling gelatine in composition and character and known as sericin. These two albuminous substances occur in silk with about 3 per cent of wax and 1 per cent of mineral matter. It is sericin, however, or rather its derivative by hydrolysis, serine, which has been successfully synthesized, and inasmuch as silk owes its peculiar and delightful character largely to this substance, there is no doubt that an important step toward the artificial manufacture of silk has been made.

Day by day synthetics are forcing themselves upon our notice and are threatening to take a place somewhere or other in man's ordinary routine. The question has still to be settled whether a synthetically or artificially prepared substance—that is, one which is identical as far as can be judged with the natural product—gives precisely the same satisfactory results. Most people, we are sure, will confess so far to a sneaking preference for the thing which nature takes time to elaborate rather than for the product conjured up, so to speak, in a few hours in the laboratory. But already it is getting difficult in some directions to obtain the natural article. It is so, at any rate, with indigo, and it is just possible that in the near future it will be no uncommon experience to hear in the shops a customer precise in his demand for either the synthetic or natural article in accordance with his choice.

### THE BICYCLE FAD.

Some Regrets Over the Fact that It Has Vanished.

The reorganization of the bicycle trust upon a conservative basis is declared by a financial writer to mark the evolution of the bicycle business from the fad state into a steady, legitimate enterprise. That is measurably true—more's the pity.

When the bicycling fad was at its height hundreds of thousands of people took healthful and agreeable exercise daily. When the fad waned these people ceased to take exercise. Nowadays the bicycle, with few exceptions, is used in a business way. People ride it to and from their work to save carfare. Bill collectors use it in their business. So do book agents and solicitors. Children are now about the only people who ride for the mere pleasure of riding. That is to be regretted.

Never has there been another form of exercise which was available to so many people. The bicycle required no athletic training. A child or an octogenarian could ride. Women found the wheel easy to learn and easy to ride.

Bicycling, like golf, brought people into the open air, but, unlike golf, it required no especial tract of ground for its exercise. Any fairly good road was the sole requisite. The whole continent lay open to the adventurous cyclist. The wheelmen and wheelwomen of 1895-98—the period of the greatest bicycle boom—saw more of the country in the vicinity of their homes than they ever saw before or will ever see again. The bicycle was a topographical educator.

The bicycle, in short, fulfilled two of the three traditional desiderata. It made people healthy and it made them wise. It made some people wealthy, too. (These, however, were the people who manufactured bicycles, rather than those who rode them.) It was a fad which conduced to the happiness and physical well-being of the population, and its disappearance is occasion for regret. There is nothing in sight to take its place.

### Saltiness.

"Some day you'll discover," said Miss Severe, reprovingly, "that this seaside flirtation of yours is not all sweetness."

"I've discovered it already," replied Miss Pert. "You'd be surprised how salty the sea breeze made George's mustache last evening."—Catholic Standard and Times.

### CUBA WILL ACCEPT.

Reciprocity Treaty with United States About to be Signed.

Havana, Oct. 18.—Business men who have been called in to consult with President Palma in the proposed Cuban-American commercial treaty feel assured that the cabinet will approve the proposition of the United States, and that it will be sent to congress within a few days for adoption. There is some fear that the radical element in congress will object to approving of coaling stations without being informed clearly of the intentions of the United States with regard to the enforcement of the Platt amendment.

The commercial treaty submitted to Cuba by Washington is practically the Bliss tariff schedule, which was drawn up just before the American military government withdrew from the island, and which leaves the present duty in force against all other nations, but gives the United States a differential from 20 to 60 per cent. In return the United States offers Cuba a reduction in duties of 20 per cent. This was considered too small in proportion to the benefit asked by the United States, and in the beginning there was a strong inclination to reject the proposition, but it was explained that, under existing conditions in the United States, and considering that the bill was passed by the house of representatives in Washington, more cannot be offered at present.

### WORLD'S COAL OUTPUT.

United States Now Leads the World—For 1901, 866,165,140 Short Tons.

Washington, Oct. 18.—The United States geological survey estimates the world's production of coal in 1901 at 866,165,140 short tons. The three great coal producing countries of the world are the United States, Great Britain and Germany. Austria-Hungary comes fourth, France fifth, Belgium sixth and Russia seventh. The last country, notwithstanding its vast area, produces only about 6 per cent as much coal as the United States. Prior to 1899 Great Britain led among the world's coal producers, but during 1899, 1900 and 1901 the United States has made such remarkable increases in coal production, due principally to the unprecedented activity in the iron and steel and other metal trades, that it now stands far in the lead of all competitors, with a production in 1901 exceeding that of Great Britain by 479,965,938 short tons, or 19 per cent. Up to the close of 1900 the coal production of Great Britain and her colonies, taken together, still exceeded that of the United States, the excess in 1900 being 3,368,825 short tons, but the enormous output of the coal mines of this country last year exceeded by about 26,000,000 short tons the entire output of Great Britain and her dependencies, including India and the Transvaal. Of the output in 1901, the United States produced 33.86 per cent; Great Britain and her dependencies 30.86 per cent, and Germany 19.42 per cent, or combined 84.14 per cent of the total production.

### SOUFFRIERE AGAIN.

Sand Showers on Island of St. Vincent, but No Damage Yet.

Kingstown, Oct. 18.—A terrific eruption of the Souffriere volcano commenced last night. During the preceding day earth tremors, apparently too slight to be considered important, were experienced in the central and northern part of the island. At 8 o'clock last night there were indications of an eruption. Rumbling noises were heard. They increased when the roaring volcano belched out its deadly contents. This eruption was followed by a brief lull. Then, from 10 o'clock till 4 o'clock this morning the upheaval continued. The outbreak was accompanied by an incessant and confused cannonading. There were incandescent clouds and sparkling matter ejected. After 4 o'clock the disturbance gradually decreased, but the noise of the boiling cauldron is still audible at a distance.

### New York Bank Fails.

New York, Oct. 18.—The failure of the banking house of Gilman, Son & Co., of 62 Cedar street, this city, was announced late today. The liabilities, it was said, are less than \$200,000, and it was added that no other New York concern would be affected. The business of Gilman, Son & Co. was largely in farm mortgages. The house was founded in 1860 by Winthrop S. Gilman, who came here from St. Louis and Alton, Ill. The failure was a complete surprise, the firm being noted for carefulness and conservatism.

### Shaw Buys Up More Bonds.

New York, Oct. 18.—It was reported on the stock exchange today that the Secretary of the treasury had bought government bonds to the amount of \$15,000,000. On the best of authority it was stated today that a syndicate had arranged to sell a block of \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 4 per cent governments to the secretary of the treasury. The price is believed to be about \$137.50.

## BACK TO WORK

Arbitration of the Coal Trouble Now Assured.

### LABOR RECEIVES JUST RECOGNITION

President Names Commission of Six Men, Who Will Adjust All Disputes Between Operators and Men.

Washington, Oct. 17.—The great anthracite coal strike is settled at last. A commission of six persons, with a seventh—Carroll D. Wright—as recorder, will adjust the differences between the operators and the miners. President Mitchell, of the Miners' Union, will take the necessary measures to call the strike off. The president will urge the immediate resumption of mining, and the operators are expected to begin next week.

Announcement that the great strike was off was made by Secretary Root with exuberant good humor at the White House shortly after 1 o'clock yesterday. Organized labor has a representative on the commission in the person of E. E. Clark, grand chief of the Order of Railroad Conductors, named as a sociologist. The president added Bishop Spalding, of Illinois, to the list of five members suggested by the operators. As named, the commission is perfectly satisfactory to both miners and operators. Assent of the miners was given through President Mitchell and Mr. Sargent, commissioner of immigration, and of the operators through Messrs. Rober Bacon and George W. Perkins, of the banking firm of J. P. Morgan & Co.

### Statement by Cortelyou.

Washington, Oct. 17.—The following is the official statement announcing the close of the great coal strike.

"After a conference with Mr. Mitchell and some further conference with representatives of the coal operators, the president has appointed the following commission to inquire into, consider and pass upon all questions at issue between the operators and miners in the anthracite coal fields:

"Brigadier General John M. Wilson, United States army, retired, late chief of engineers, U. S. A., Washington D. C., as an officer of the engineer corps of either the military or naval service of the United States.

"E. W. Parker, Washington, D. C., as an expert mining engineer. Mr. Parker is chief statistician of the coal division of the United States geological survey, and editor of the Engineering and Mining Journal, of New York.

"George Gray, Wilmington, Delaware, as a judge of a United States court.

"E. E. Clark, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, grand chief of the Order of Railroad Conductors, as a sociologist, the president assuming that, for the purposes of such a commission, the term sociologist means a man who has thought and studied deeply on social questions, and has practically applied his knowledge.

"Thomas H. Watkins, Scranton, Pa., as a man practically acquainted with the mining and selling of coal.

"Bishop John L. Spalding, Peoria, Illinois. The president has added Bishop Spalding's name to the commission.

"Carroll D. Wright has been appointed recorder of the commission."

### VETERAN ADMIRAL DEAD.

Thomas O. Selfridge, Sr., Oldest Living Officer of His Rank.

Boston, Oct. 17.—Rear Admiral Thomas O. Selfridge, Sr., U. S. N., retired, is dead at the McLean asylum at Waverly. He was probably the oldest living officer of that rank in any navy in the world, and there is no other navy which had two admirals, father and son, both retired. The elder admiral was born in Massachusetts, and was appointed to the navy from that state on January 1, 1818. The son, Rear Admiral Thomas O. Selfridge, was born February 16, 1836, and joined the navy at the age of 15. The second eldest son is Commander James Russell Selfridge, born July 11, 1849, and in the navy since 1864.

When the civil war broke out Commander Selfridge was too far advanced in years to accept active duty at sea, and he was assigned as commandant of the Mare Island navy yard, 1862-1864, and again in 1873. In the latter year all retired officers were withdrawn from active service, and Admiral Selfridge resided at Georgetown, S. C., but for many years he paid annual visits to San Francisco, where he had two sons residing.

### Army to be Reduced.

Washington, Oct. 17.—Orders will be issued by the war department tomorrow ordering that the regular army be reduced to the minimum authorized by law, 59,000 men. With the practical cessation of outbreaks in the Philippines, it is believed that this can be safely done. The present size of the army is about 67,000. The cavalry and artillery regiments will be reduced to the minimum base, except around Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where the commands will be kept to full size for educational reasons.