

see some ground for hope of a satisfactory solution of the Eastern problem in these very diplomatically worded utterances of Lord Salisbury.

The progressive inheritance tax, established by the Liberal Ministry in England in 1894, has yielded an even larger revenue than Sir William Harcourt estimated. The Revenue Commissioners have just published an analysis of the returns for the last fiscal year. These show a total revenue of nearly \$50,000,000, as against less than \$30,000,000 from similar sources under the old law. The only disappointing feature of the new act is the relatively small return from real estate. Under the old law framed by the landed aristocracy real estate was practically exempt. When Sir William Harcourt's act of 1894 put an end to this unjust discrimination, the Conservative landlords pleaded for a concession in the form of a grant from the National Treasury to lessen the local taxes resting upon their property. They have obtained a grant of \$10,000,000 a year, and this turns out to be more than all the taxes paid by real estate, city and country, under Sir William Harcourt's act. Only one-fifth of the property in the estates admitted to probate last year was realty; four-fifths was personalty. This disproportionate amount of personalty was probably due to the vast aggregate of foreign bonds and stocks held in Great Britain. Despite this one disappointment to the friends of the new act, it is perhaps the most successful progressive tax ever levied. The Commissioner's returns show the amount of property subject to the different rates of duty, which vary from less than one per cent. on estates less than £100 to eight per cent. on estates exceeding £1,000,000. From this table the tax paid by each class is easily reckoned. In a condensed form the results are as follows:

Size of Estates.	Number of Estates.	Total Value.	Total Tax.
Under £1,000.....	34,795	£14,400,000	£196,000
£1,000 to £10,000.....	14,460	51,800,000	1,554,000
£10,000 to £50,000.....	2,995	65,800,000	2,745,000
£50,000 and over.....	612	82,200,000	5,330,000
	52,862	£212,500,000	£9,825,000

In other words, the estates of less than £1,000 (or \$5,000) contained seven per cent. of the property, yet paid but two per cent. of the tax; while the estates above £50,000 (or \$250,000) contained forty per cent. of the property and paid fifty-four per cent. of the taxes. The new measure has the approval of Mr. Balfour and most of the leading Conservatives, as well as that of the entire body of Liberals. Inasmuch as the class of families having less than \$5,000 constitute ninety-two per cent. of the people and pay the bulk of the indirect taxes, the conscience of the nation approves of the heavier burdens placed on the large property-owners by the Harcourt act.

The third annual report of the Factory Inspectors of Illinois contains no perfunctory work. Mrs. Florence Kelley, the head of the department, has put into it her heart and conscience, giving the report a vital quality as valuable as it is rare. In one respect the report this year is more encouraging than its predecessors. The percentage of children employed in factories has fallen from 8.5 in 1893 to 4.5 in 1895. This gain is in part due to the fact that the rapidly falling prices of 1893 caused the wholesale discharge of expensive hands, and the substitution of children to do part of their work. In 1895 industry had partially accommodated itself to the new level of prices and wages, and the adult hands laid off were re-employed. In part, however, the smaller percentage of child labor last year was due to the efficient work

of the factory inspectors, who successfully prosecuted several hundred cases in which children were employed contrary to law. One glass company, which was the largest employer of child labor in the State, and which maintained that it could not carry on its business in conformity with the provisions of the law of 1893, is now achieving what it declared impossible. Unfortunately, however, in one trade where child labor is employed under peculiarly hurtful surroundings its employment has increased. This is the tenement-house garment trade. In this trade successful prosecutions have been numerous, but the number and irresponsibility of the employers, together with the difficulty of securing reliable evidence against them, makes the enforcement of the law peculiarly difficult. The Inspectors report that the compulsory education law is shamelessly unenforced. Nearly all the children under sixteen employed in the sweat-shops were illiterate. A majority of them cannot speak English, and among these are some children born in this country. The Inspector criticises keenly the decision of the Supreme Court of Illinois overthrowing the eight-hour law for women and children. This decision, she says, was not based upon any peculiarity of the Constitution of Illinois, but took the broad ground that the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, framed to prevent the oppression of the negro, precluded any State law restricting the hours of labor of adults. If this decision is sustained, she points out, the United States must fall behind European countries in the humanity of its factory legislation. The arguments upon which the Illinois Court based its decision were, she says, "advanced and rejected in the English Parliament in the fifties."

The magnificent harbor and water-front of New York always excite the pride of the citizen who possesses civic pride. To the same citizen, if he possesses any love of humanity, the magnificent water-front is a reproach. Why should the people's property be surrendered wholly to commerce? Why should the people be almost wholly shut off from enjoying the rights that nature has conferred upon her citizens? This question finally crystallized into a demand that certain piers be reserved for the use of the people in the crowded districts. Again and again has the demand been made. The demand finally took the form of a bill introduced in the Legislature, having the support of the best political organizations and private citizens of New York City. This bill became a law in 1892. It conferred certain rights and obligations on the Dock Board. The Board of Aldermen and different civic organizations have petitioned the Dock Board again and again to carry out the intentions of this law. At last public sentiment and pressure have been victorious. Plans have been submitted to the Dock Board that meet its approval, and, under the direction of the Board, which has secured the advice of a skilled architect, a double-decked house, three hundred and twenty feet long and fifty feet wide, will be built at the foot of East Third Street. The building is of wood and steel, and will have lavatories, seats, tables, and conveniences and space for a people's pleasure-garden. The Board has arranged to permit the selling of milk in this building, but will not permit the sale of intoxicating liquors. The contract calls for the building's completion May 1, 1897. The Board of Aldermen has asked for similar structures at other points on the East Side of the city, and several on the West Side, but the Dock Board considers the whole scheme as an experiment, and has decided to wait and see whether the people stifling in the near-by tenement-houses, whether mothers with sick babies, will come out and sit on the river-front where they

may get a breath of air! It is to be hoped that this effort to secure breathing-places on the river-front will not follow the same lines of development as in the case of the small-park movement. In that, children in arms became wage-earners before the intentions of their benefactors were accomplished.

The successor of Sir John Millais as President of the British Royal Academy is best known as a historical and genre painter, and by his interior decorations in St. Paul's. Edward John Poynter, R.A., is a man fifty years of age. He has been a profound student of art as well as a successful painter, and has written several treatises of value. He has filled the responsible positions of Director of Art in the South Kensington Museum and Director of the National Gallery. Among his best pictures are "Perseus and Andromeda," which has been widely reproduced and is well known in this country, "Atalanta's Race," "Solomon and the Queen of Sheba," "Nausicaa," and "When the World was Young." The design of his decoration for St. Paul's included an illustration of the Book of Revelation on an imposing scale and ambitious plan. The late Sir Frederick Leighton was associated with him in this work, for which the sum of \$250,000 was appropriated. Mr. Poynter's selection as President of the Academy was largely due to the executive ability he had shown as Director. As an artist pure and simple he hardly ranks as equal with at least two or three of the men generally spoken of for the position.



Changes in European Diplomacy

The readjustment of international relations in Europe is going on very rapidly, and promises to be as radical as that which has already taken place in the Far East. The rapidity with which events move would fill an old-fashioned diplomatist with surprise and consternation. The perennial Eastern question may not be on the verge of final settlement, but it has already assumed an entirely new form, and all the old diplomatic traditions of dealing with it are likely to be thrown to the winds. In the Far East the advent of Japan as a modern power, with modern appliances for warfare, has broken the sleep of centuries and brought the great European Powers to realize the fact that they can no longer have a free hand in that region of the world. The East is hereafter to have something to say for itself, and at no very distant date may be in a condition to deal almost as an equal with the Western Powers. Meantime Russia has practically reduced China to the position of a province, and is quietly dictating Chinese policy in all foreign relations. English authority and influence have suffered a great decline in the Far East, and as they have gone down Russian authority and influence have risen, until they are now dominant. In Europe also Russia may be said to hold the position of an arbiter. The bitter fight which has been going on for several years between William II. and his ex-Chancellor has culminated in the revelation on the part of Bismarck of the existence of a secret treaty between that country and Russia at a time when Germany was supposed to be fast bound in honorable alliance with Italy and Austria. Several causes have been at work of late to weaken the ties of the Triple Alliance, but nothing has dealt the Alliance such a blow as this gross breach of faith on the part of the foremost party to it. It is not many years since Germany was the foremost Power in Europe, but the nervous and uncertain temper of the Emperor has reacted disastrously on the entire administration of German affairs. The force and consistency of

the former administration is conspicuously lacking. The present Chancellor, Prince von Hohenlohe, is an accomplished and agreeable gentleman, with a long diplomatic career behind him, but every one knows that he is not an independent force; that he has behind him a rash, irritable, and very arbitrary master, whose attitude is determined very much by his feeling at the moment. European diplomatists have long recognized this state of affairs, and the revelation of Bismarck's duplicity has now made all the peoples in Europe aware of it. That disclosure is of a kind that strikes at the foundations of international confidence, and at the moral force of European alliances. It is as gross an example of bad faith as the history of diplomacy discloses. It has almost paralyzed the different courts; for lack of confidence tells quite as much in diplomacy as in business affairs, and when the bond of so-called honorable men cannot be counted upon, the power of co-operation is for the time being lost.

The Triple Alliance has suffered a great shock at a moment when it was ill prepared to resist such a shock. France and Russia have come into what is undoubtedly a thorough and well-defined alliance, which may very likely be offensive as well as defensive. They are acting together to-day as one force, and the French army and fleet are practically at the command of the Russian Czar, and, what is still more important, the French financial resources are also at his command. Austria, on the other hand, finds conflicting interests to the eastward which are steadily loosening her ties with Germany. Italy has made a treaty with Tunis, already reported in these columns, which is practically a treaty with France; and now both countries have learned that their dream of security in the friendship of Germany was a dream in a fool's paradise. What has been called the splendid isolation of England turns out to be safer and certainly nobler than the position of Germany, allied with two Great Powers and in secret alliance at the same time with the country against which she was solemnly committed. England stands alone, and is now reaping the results of some false steps in what the Tories called a strong foreign policy; but England is never so great as in those hours when she is driven back upon herself, and those people who are counting on a permanent decline of English prestige and authority are leaving out of account some of the greatest elements in the English race and State. England is not yet, and is not likely to become, in any sense, a second-class power. She will pay and is paying for her blunders, but her immense vitality shows no signs of exhaustion. At the moment, however, Russia is in the ascendant in the Far East, and also in Western Europe. Austria and Italy are detached in feeling from Germany. Germany is discredited alike by the character of the Emperor and the revelations of Bismarck's treachery. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that harmony of action among the Great Powers in Turkey has been so difficult to secure.



Sharing Success

When one realizes what life means in its higher relations and duties, it is pathetic to notice how constantly people apologize to each other for any small trouble which they impose. The young man who goes to ask the man of established position for a letter of introduction or for personal interest in securing an opportunity for work almost invariably expresses regret for the interruption which his request necessitates; as if the world were wholly selfish, and any kind of service done to another were in a way exceptional