

# The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

N<sup>o</sup> 363.

DRESDEN, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1907.

10 PFENNIGS.

The First Daily Paper published in Germany  
in English.

Office: Dresden, Steube Strasse 54

Telephone: 1755.

Subscription for Dresden and the whole of  
Germany and Austria:

1 mark a month.

## THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Secretary of State for India, Mr. John Morley, announced amid much applause that Lord Kitchener's command as Commander-in-Chief in India had been extended for two years.

The Under Secretary for the Colonies, Mr. Winston Churchill, announced that the conditions relating to the introduction of self-government into the Orange River Colony would be published in the course of next week; he hoped that a Parliament would meet in Bloemfontein in October.

Mr. J. D. Rees, Member for the Montgomery District, asked if the Belgian Customs directors in Persia had been dismissed and whether, in case new nominations were in view, Sir Edward Grey would endeavour to bring it about that Customs directors who would be acceptable to England and who would favour the development of English trade, should be appointed in the Persian Gulf. Mr. Runciman, on behalf of the Foreign Secretary, replied that the Customs Minister in Persia and his assistants had resigned their appointments, but that the Foreign Office had no information as to the resignation or dismissal of any Belgian customs officials in Persia, or of any change in the Belgian customs personnel in the harbours of the Persian Gulf.

## THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

At the Conference of Colonial Prime Ministers Sir Campbell-Bannerman said that prominent importance must be given at the Colonial Conference to the question of preferential treatment, and expressed his conviction that the British Ministers would discuss the matter in the most open-hearted spirit.

## NEWS FROM AMERICA.

### THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

The National Arbitration Court and Peace Conference was opened on Monday in Carnegie Hall. The President, Mr. Carnegie, in his opening address, eulogised the ideals of the Peace League. He dwelt on the objects of the Congress, the abolition of war and the establishment of an inter-Parliamentary Union, and said that he, personally, was in favour of the formation of an international police, never for purposes of attack but invariably for the advancement of peace in the civilised world. A war nowadays affected the interests of all men, and therefore no one nation or two nations had any longer the right to break the peace without regard to other nations. The nations ought to be requested to settle their disputes in a friendly way, and the best guarantee for peace would be an agreement of several nations, and also their public declaration at the Hague Conference that no other State should be permitted to break the peace. The formation of a peace league at the Hague Conference would be a step forward in the desired direction. Far off as the realisation of this idea might be, it might be brought appreciably nearer by the fact that today it lay within the power of one man to found this league. At the moment it lay in the power of the German Emperor to ensure peace. His fame as the founder of a national league with this object would find an echo among more than five nations. Just as in the united league of the Powers formed to put down the Boxer rising in China, so in this greater league, a German general must command these united forces. The German Emperor was the friend of peace; that he had shown throughout his reign that had now lasted nearly twenty years.

Mr. Carnegie then read a long letter from President Roosevelt, in which he described the question of a General Arbitration Treaty as the most important for the 2nd Hague Peace Conference and expressed the hope that the nations would recognise a treaty of this kind. The question of the limitation of armaments was not one of the most important. The unique position of the United States with their small army and navy did not justify America's adopting the offensive attitude of a school-

master to other nations in this matter. As for America she was not increasing her navy, but simply remained ready. The American Delegates would be instructed to bring to completion the work of the first Conference in every way possible. They must not demand impossibilities from the Conference. Only harm could result in case only the most progressive nations disarmed by agreement, and left themselves at the mercy of the least progressive nations. Much could be done to advance the cause of peace, if they proceeded with prudence and self-control.

Mr. Secretary Root then said that the American Government was of opinion that the two resolutions of the first Hague Conference respecting naval and military armaments should be further discussed and that an attempt should be made to arrive at an agreement with the object of reducing the huge cost incurred by military expenditure. This question affected Europe, it was true, more than America, but the American Government had reserved the right of introducing the subject at the Hague Conference since a State, which had less interest in any one proposal, could from time to time bring it forward with more prospect of success.

The Government of the United States considered that the Hague Conference ought to determine that the employment of force in obtaining payment of liabilities incurred by citizens of one Government to those of another, should be limited.

Among the speakers at the evening sitting of the Peace Congress Professor Münsterberg explained the German stand-point and said that every consideration that would increase the moral power of peace would find in Germany a warm-hearted champion. The speaker then pointed out the moral importance of the army for Germany and concluded by remarking that there existed no firmer bulwark of peace than the good-will and sincerity of the German people.

## AN EARTHQUAKE IN MEXICO.

The towns of Chilpancingo and Chilapu were destroyed by an earthquake on Sunday last. As far as can be ascertained 11 persons lost their lives and 27 were injured.

The chief seismic station in Hamburg gathered from the oscillations of the instruments that an earthquake had taken place some 10,000 kilometres away in Central America.

## THE AUSTRIAN EMPEROR IN BOHEMIA.

The Emperor Franz Joseph entered Prague on Monday, amid the enthusiastic cheers of the populace. At the railway station the mayor, speaking in Czech, welcomed the Emperor, giving expression to the love and unswerving devotion of the people, and to their joy and gratitude for the Emperor's visit. Continuing in German, the mayor then welcomed the Emperor in the name of the two races inhabiting Bohemia, whose absolute equality was the object ever striven for and defended.

The Emperor, speaking Czech, expressed his thanks for this cordial welcome, and this expression of the love and loyalty of the two races of the land and then, speaking German, said that the important problems which faced the administration of a great city demanded the harmonious collaboration of all its inhabitants. The Emperor concluded, amid the enthusiastic cheers of those present, "May it be granted that here too, the peace and harmony between the two races inhabiting my beloved Bohemia, founded on respect for the rights and appreciation of the prerogatives of others, may form the starting point for a happy future."

Having inspected the guard of honour the Emperor then drove to Hradshin where he was greeted by the Archduke Carl Franz Joseph and Cardinal Skrbensky. In spite of the rainy weather the Emperor's entry was made the occasion of a great demonstration by all the inhabitants of the city.

## NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

### THE DUMA.

The Social Democrat Deputies of the Duma have determined to interpellate the Government as to

the dispatch of General Baron Taube to Baku to enquire into the causes of the rising there, which had a perfectly harmless character, since this action betokens an interference of the Government in economic conditions.

The difference between MM. Stolypin and Golovin has been settled. It is rumoured in the Duma that experts will be permitted to make reports but not to take part in the discussions of the committees.

At the commencement of Monday's sitting of the Duma, the whole House, with the exception of M. Alexinski, rose to its feet in honour of the late President of the Imperial Council, M. Frisch.

The debate on the agrarian question was resumed, M. Purishkevitch discussing it in great detail, his speech lasting over an hour. He attempted to prove that the Russian peasants were not suffering exclusively from a lack of landed property, but from other evils, chief of which was the want of any knowledge in the domain of agriculture and from a lack of culture and education. He called for a union of all groups in the Duma, recalled the liberal part played by the nobility in their giving up of their personal property and refuted the charges of obscurantism brought against the nobility of the day. He censured the Poles who had stated that the agrarian question in Poland could only be solved by an autonomous Polish Parliament. The Poles, he said, represent the most civilised nationality in Russia and are Slavs. In the agrarian question, therefore, they must proceed hand in hand with Russia, and not mix politics with this question, and that the less, since the regime of a Gurko, a Berg or a Muravjeff has been abolished for ever. He expressed his surprise at the lack of logic in the speeches of the members of the Left, who did not recognise the right to property, but did the existence of the State. It would be more courageous to recognise pure anarchy.

The House then adjourned.

## THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT.

In various quarters of the town of Lodz, attacks have been made on workmen, of whom two have been severely and one mortally wounded, while one was killed. On Monday morning a man emerging from his shop was set on by two persons lying in wait for him and shot before the eyes of the passers-by; the murderers escaped.

In Sunday's robbery at the Moscow railway station the thieves only secured 400 roubles. The robbers who tried to hoist the sacks of money on to a carriage fled when the guard opened fire. Eight of them were arrested, among them being a student who denies that he was implicated in the robbery.

## AN ENGLISHMAN ATTACKED IN CHINA.

The *China Mail* reports that officials in Wu-chau have made a violent attack on an Englishman, named Arthur.

## THE MANCHURIAN RAILWAYS.

The *Times* correspondent in Peking telegraphs under yesterday's date: "The agreement between China and Japan with regard to the Manchurian railways has been signed today by the Chinese plenipotentiaries and the Japanese ambassador. The terms of the agreement are that Japan purchases the Hainmintun-Mukden railway at the price of £166,000 sterling, and comes into possession of it in a month's time. The agreement further contains preliminary conditions to be observed in the building of the railway from Kwang-cheng-tu to Kirin, which is to be carried out by China and Japan."

## BURIAL ALIVE.

Strange gruesome stories of burial alive usually come from the remoter countries of Europe where Western newspapers are not much seen. But at last there is one which for horror it would be difficult to surpass, from a perfectly familiar district of France. The place is Carsac, in the Landes, and the circumstances are as follow. A peasant named Chandru, a man of 65, had, as was believed, died, the funeral service by the graveside was over, the relatives had gone, and the gravedigger and his assistants were shovelling in the earth, when they were terrified to hear knockings from within the coffin. Instead of bursting the lid open they ran for the village mayor, but by the time he arrived, and had had the coffin forced the poor old creature was dead, while the eyes starting from the sockets and the distorted features told how awful had been his death.

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