

# The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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## THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

At Monday's sitting various questions were addressed to Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman with regard to the intentions of the Government in the matter of the Irish Council Bill and other Bills contained in the Government programme. The Prime Minister requested that the answering of these questions might be postponed until June 3rd on which day he would reply to them.

The Home Secretary was asked whether the Russian Socialists at present holding a Conference in London were being watched by the police and whether information of their movements would be communicated to the Russian police.

Mr. H. Gladstone, in reply, said that the Russian Social Democrats were not under police surveillance. The English Government never interfered with personal freedom in a political relation. The police had general instructions, without making any difference in their treatment of nationalities, to take all the necessary steps to prevent crimes of violence being planned or committed in England or elsewhere.

The First Commissioner of Works, Mr. L. Harcourt, introduced a Bill, which in order to prevent the depopulation of the plains, empowers the County Councils to acquire land for small holdings either by lease, purchase or, if necessary, expropriation. In case a County Council should neglect to take the measures provided by the Bill, the Board of Agriculture will nominate Commissioners who will act in place of the County Council and will draw from it the necessary money. The Bill represents the most important agricultural measure of the Government in the present Session.

The Secretary to the Admiralty, Mr. Robertson, stated that the announcement in the newspapers relating to a reduction of the teaching Staff and shortening of the course of instruction in the Gunnery and Torpedo Schools at Portsmouth is wholly unfounded.

## THE NEW REGENT OF BRUNSWICK.

Herzog Johann Albrecht of Mecklenburg-Schwerin has been unanimously elected by the Landtag Regent of Brunswick.

## ENGLISH JOURNALISTS IN GERMANY.

After driving through the gaily decked streets of Bremen they were entertained at luncheon by the publishers of the *Weser Zeitung* and *Bremer Nachrichten*. The editor of the former journal, speaking in English, welcomed his English Press colleagues. He praised the progress and independence of the English journals. The Editor of the *Glasgow Herald* replied in German and pointed out that his journal had always cherished feelings of amity toward Germany. He had always endeavoured to put before his readers German topics from a German point of view. He referred to the identity of interests of Glasgow and Bremen from the point of view of shipping.

The visitors spent the afternoon in sight-seeing and in the evening were entertained at a banquet in the Town Hall. The President of the Senate, Dr. Marcus, welcomed the guests. He recalled the fact that in Queen Elizabeth's days English and German commissioners met in that very hall to discuss what was virtually a commercial treaty. He pointed out the community of interests of the two nations and alluded to the growing tendency of the age to refer disputes to arbitration and to avoid war. He wished every success to the Hague Conference and concluded by proposing the toasts of King Edward and the German Emperor.

Later on Dr. Marcus made a second speech in English and expressed his satisfaction that their English visitors were first entertained in Bremen, a city which always favoured maintaining friendly relations with Great Britain. The President of the Institute of Journalists Mr. Wilson, replied and pointed out that Englishmen never forget their

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Teutonic origin. He hoped that German efforts at advancement which were in accordance with English ideals might be regarded with increasing friendliness in England.

Vice-Consul Haag proposed the health of Dr. Marcus and Mr. Sidney Low of the *Standard*, toasted the Senate and town of Bremen.

## ENGLISH GUESTS IN MUNICH.

The English Committee for the study of German municipal institutions were entertained on Monday at a banquet by the city of Munich. Freiherr v. Podewils in his speech said that two nations who based the education of their sons on love of truth, justice and independent development of character should proceed hand in hand to fight for progress and the moral and material improvement of mankind. He proposed the health of King Edward, Lord Lyveden toasting the Emperor and Prince-Regent Luitpold.

## AMERICAN TARIFF REFORM.

The *Morning Post* announces from Washington that the Protectionists threatened Mr. Taft that they would oppose his candidature for the Presidency unless he declared himself for the maintenance of the present Tariff. Since Mr. Taft has openly declared himself for a revision of the Tariff, the political situation becomes so far more difficult, inasmuch as this declaration may unite all the Protectionists against him, and since they have always been the chief supporters of the Republican party and have brought up the greatest number of voters.

## NEWS FROM FRANCE.

### THE PETROFF CASE.

The supposed Russian terrorist Petroff, who is under arrest, deposed at his examination that the explosion of which he was a victim, took place at a moment when he was attempting to remove the bullet out of a Russian army revolver cartridge; he declined to give any information as to the Russian revolutionary organisation.

### PERSIAN AFFAIRS.

Quiet prevailed in Teheran on Monday. All the shops were shut and Parliament did not sit. Rahim Khan, whose people committed depredations with violence in the neighbourhood of Täbris, has been placed in the Palace under arrest. Parliament is not satisfied with this and wishes him to be lodged in gaol. Orders have been telegraphed to Täbris that steps should be taken to restore order. The number of persons killed in the vicinity of Täbris has been much exaggerated.

### UNREST IN CHINA.

Reports have reached Hongkong from Swatow of an outbreak of disturbances in Wongkong. The rioters are partly natives of the district and partly people from the neighbouring provinces. All the civil and military authorities have been killed and the administrative buildings burnt.

The Colonel stationed in Swatow and Admiral Li have been sent with troops to the scene of the disorders. The police in Swatow have taken all precautions to prevent the outbreak of disturbances in this treaty town.

The *Daily Chronicle* learns that the rioters in Kwantung number 30,000. The movement was started by a secret union.

## THE IRISH BILL.

The comments of the weekly reviews in England on the probable result of the Nationalist veto on the Irish Council Bill are interesting reading. One and all they are of opinion that the blow dealt to Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman's Government is a severe one and that the action of the Nationalists will open the eyes of the electorate of England to the insatiable nature of the Irish demands. The *Spectator* devotes its attention to the matter in as far as it affects the personal reputations of Mr. Birrell and Mr. Redmond. It points out that

“though the Liberal newspapers very naturally try to put as good a face on the situation as they can, it is impossible for impartial observers not to realise that the direct blow administered by the Nationalists to the Government must have a weakening effect on the Administration. In a country like Britain, where men, partly owing to temperament and partly to business training, always attach immense importance to the charge of being unbusinesslike, such a result is inevitable. It is not businesslike to prepare an elaborate scheme solely with the object of satisfying a certain party, and when that scheme is made public to find that the party in question rejects it with hatred, ridicule, and contempt. Everywhere today men are saying in regard to the Government: ‘Why did not they find out first whether the Irish would or would not accept the most that the Government were prepared to give them? If the Government found the Irish were not willing to take the proffered hand, they were mad to hold it out.’ It is no doubt easy to exaggerate the effects of Parliamentary discredit upon a Government, but some effect such discredit undoubtedly has, and to profess that Parliamentary discredit will not follow the fiasco of Mr. Birrell's Bill is impossible. That Mr. Birrell will also suffer personally from the rejection of the Bill is, we fear, only too likely, though we are bound to say that the loss of credit on his part is by no means merited. It is an open secret that he accepted the Irish appointment, not because he wished to fill the ungrateful post of Chief Secretary, but because he was asked to sacrifice himself by his colleagues. Whether Mr. Birrell will continue to occupy the post of Chief Secretary or whether some change in the Cabinet will be made we cannot presume to say, but there can be little doubt that in a country like Ireland the open snub so successfully administered to him by the Nationalists will make his position at Dublin a very difficult one. Probably his witty, epigrammatic, and sensitive temperament—like, and yet also most unlike, that of the typical Irishman—made him a *persona ingratis* in Ireland. At any rate, the failure of judgment shown by the Prime Minister in Mr. Birrell's case ought not to prevent us feeling a very considerable amount of sympathy for the present Irish Secretary.

Another consequence of the decision of the Nationalist Convention must be a marked diminution of the authority of Mr. Redmond, and through that diminution a great deal of weakness and confusion, for the time at any rate, in the conduct and management of the Nationalist Party. It is all very well to say that Mr. Redmond gave only a reserved approval to the Bill when it was read for the first time. It is well known, however, that his true attitude was something of this kind. He said to the Government: ‘I will do my best to get the Irish Nationalists to accept your Bill as an instalment of Home-rule, and I myself am willing to accept it in that spirit.’ The fact that Mr. Redmond later found it so impossible to get the Nationalists to accept the Bill that he did not even make an attempt to persuade them, but, on the contrary, led the attack on the measure, will not deceive a single Irishman as to Mr. Redmond's original attitude. At such a crisis the Nationalists not unnaturally desire that the leader of their party should be the man who really killed the Bill and led his followers to victory, not a man who was at heart willing to let the Bill pass and only on compulsion followed his followers to the attack. We do not imagine that there will be any immediate attempt to depose Mr. Redmond, but it is difficult to see, after the result of Tuesday's Convention, how he will be able to impose his will upon his party in the manner which experience shows is required by the successors of Mr. Parnell. What we must expect is to see groups and sections formed in the Irish Party, each anxious to promote its own man to Mr. Redmond's place.”

Another and curious result of the action of the National Convention's action is pointed out viz. that people are connecting the veto of that body with that of the House of Lords. If the Bill as drafted by Mr. Birrell is in accordance with the views of the great mass of the English electors, and that it is so the Government will naturally claim, why, it may be asked, should the National Convention be allowed, any more than the House of Lords, to veto it. But with the present administration what is sauce for the goose is not necessarily sauce for the gander, and the National Convention will not, like the House of Lords, be stigmatised as effete and as acting contrary to the wishes of the people.