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## THE LORD MAYOR IN BERLIN.

An exceptionally brilliant banquet was given in the Berlin Rathaus on Monday evening in honour of the Lord Mayor of London. Several of the Ministers and Secretaries of State were present. Graf Posadovsky proposed the health of King Edward and the Emperor William. The Oberbürgermeister of Berlin welcomed the English guests in a long speech to which the Lord Mayor replied.

## THE RED CROSS CONFERENCE.

The international jury of the Red Cross Conference has voted the following prizes out of the sum donated by the Empress Maria Feodorovna; 3,000 roubles to General Melan (Russia) for a two-wheeled Finnish litter for transporting invalids and wounded men; a like sum to the firm of Linxweiler for transport carts, arrangements for moving wounded on the field of battle and for railway carriages; and a like sum to the firm of Unmack (Germany) for a transportable hospital and canteen. The Russian Red Cross Society received diplomas of honour for their exhibition of sanitary appliances used in the Manchurian war, as did the German Red Cross Society for their fine exhibition of hospital appliances.

## NEWS FROM FRANCE.

### THE TREATY WITH JAPAN.

The following is the text of the Franco-Japanese treaty: The two Governments of France and Japan, while reserving the right to enter into negotiations with respect to a commercial treaty, agree that, with regard to the relations between Japan and French Indo-China, the treatment as the most favoured nation shall be conceded to all Japanese officials and subjects in French Indo-China in respect of their persons and the protection of their property. The same treatment will be given to the subjects and protégés of French Indo-China in the Japanese Empire until the expiration of the commercial and shipping treaty concluded between France and Japan in August 1906. The Government of France and the Government of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, animated by the wish to strengthen the friendly relations between them and to avoid any cause of misunderstanding between them, have determined to make the following agreement: the Governments of France and Japan agree to respect the independence and inviolability of China as well as the principle of the policy of the open door for the subjects of all nations. As they have a special interest in seeing order and a peaceful state of things maintained, especially in those parts of the Chinese Empire which border on districts in which they have the right of exercising sovereignty, protection or occupation, they undertake to support each other mutually to secure peace and security in those districts, in relation to the maintenance of the respective position and territorial rights of both parties to the treaty on the continent of Asia.

The treaty is signed by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Pichon, and the Japanese Ambassador M. Kurino.

At Monday's sitting of the Chamber M. Boni de Castellane asked M. Pichon a question as to the Franco-Japanese treaty. He expressed his joy at the various understandings which guaranteed the *status quo* in the far East, and said that the Franco-Japanese agreement had been favourably received by the English and Russian Press, which knew it made for peace. He was convinced that a threatening situation for Indo-China could in no way be brought about by recent events in the Far East. The new treaty lightened the task of the French Government in working for the good of the country. He congratulated the Government on having concluded a treaty with Japan which, thanks to the Franco-Russian alliance, guaranteed France's possessions in the Far East.

In accordance with Count de Castellane's wishes, M. Pichon read aloud the text of the agreement;

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his reading was listened to in deep silence and followed by loud applause.

M. Pichon added, "The Franco-Japanese treaty has for its basis the integrity of China, the maintenance of the *status quo* and the guarantee of peace in China. By these means Japan contradicts once and for all those avaricious plans of conquest attributed to her, and strengthens her desire to maintain the *status quo*. The mutual support which the two nations have promised each other is in its essence peaceful. The treaty, for the rest, is associated with the negotiations with Russia which will soon be concluded, and which are being conducted in a sense corresponding with the tone of the English negotiations respecting India, the *entente cordiale* with England, and the Franco-Russian alliance. M. Pichon expressed his joy that Japan belonged to the Great Powers. Japan had won the right to be counted among them seven years before when she helped to liberate the Europeans in Peking. In remarking that the treaty was concluded in the interest of all nations M. Pichon hoped that the Chamber would value it as much as the Government. The interests of Germany, Italy and the United States of America were especially guaranteed inasmuch as the treaty was based on the economic equality of nations. (Loud applause.)

### THE CRISIS IN THE WINE TRADE.

The Cabinet Council on Monday decided finally on the measures to be taken to secure respect for the Law in the wine-growing districts. Orders in this sense were telegraphed at the close of the meeting to the authorities in the districts in question.

The Chamber on Monday debated the Bill for preventing wine adulteration. After a prolonged discussion the House declined to fix the duty on sugar used in wine production at 65 francs, as the Government and Committee had suggested.

The *Patrie* announces from Argelliers where Marcellin Albert is staying, that his house is watched day and night by guards and bicyclists who are charged to inform the populace in case gendarmes come to arrest him. Barricades will then be erected, and there is even a talk of blowing up the bridges should Marcellin be arrested. Many of the peasants are armed.

The enquiry into the 12th Infantry Regiment incident has elicited that several soldiers sang the *Internationale* and uttered various cries. The reservists took no part in the affair but remained perfectly orderly. About ten of the mutineers are under arrest.

The Under Secretary of State in the Ministry of the Interior, M. Farraud, Deputy for Narbonne, has handed in his resignation to M. Clémenceau in writing, since the recent incidents in his Constituency do not permit him to continue to cooperate with the Government.

### ROYAL VISITORS DEPART.

Their Majesties the King and Queen of Denmark left Paris on Monday. President Fallières and all the Ministers saw them off at the station.

### THE PRESS AND THE DUMA DISSOLUTION.

The Parisian journals are by no means astonished at the dissolution of the Duma.

The *Eclair* remarks that that assembly deserved the fate it has met with. Russia will have time to recover.

The *Gaulois* says one can only applaud the vigorous action of the Czar who has swept the board, and ended an unbearable situation.

The *Figaro* believes that Russia will be no more excited over the dissolution of the second Duma than she was over that of the first.

The *Gil Blas* is of opinion that this dissolution can have no effect on foreign affairs and recognises that the Duma has never given proof of political sagacity.

### FRANCO-SPANISH RELATIONS.

France and Spain have exchanged a Note mutually guaranteeing the *status quo* in those parts of the Mediterranean and Atlantic Ocean which touch the interests of their respective possessions viz. the Canary islands, the Balearic islands, Algiers and Tunis. The Note is not an alliance and no kind of military convention is attached to it; it forms a new guarantee of peace and as such will meet with general approval. Spain and England have exchanged a Note of similar purport. Certain articles in the Press have somewhat exaggerated perhaps the extent of the former undertaking, which however is a new step entered upon by France on the path of peaceful policy. Every undertaking of this kind must be favourably received by all the Powers. For the rest, France, Spain and England have shown that they have no *arrière pensées* and have submitted the agreements, as soon as they had been signed, to all Powers.

Universal satisfaction is expressed by the Press at the agreements concluded by France and England with Spain. The journals maintain that treaties, the only object of which is to give the world new pledges of peace, can rouse no kind of feeling.

The *Gil Blas* points out with great satisfaction that Spain, who for a long time has allowed herself to be influenced by Germany, has resumed her historical rôle of a Latin Great Power.

The *Matin* says that Europe's policy is consumed not against Germany but certainly without Germany. France has endeavoured to console herself for her lost Provinces by realms acquired elsewhere, and can congratulate herself on having relinquished the attitude of passive mistrust and entered upon an era of peaceful activity. The same journal publishes an interview with M. Pichon, in which, alluding to the Franco-Spanish agreement, he says it makes no alteration in France's position in Morocco. France was bound to that country by international agreement. The new treaty was the natural consequent of the Franco-Japanese agreement which guaranteed France's possessions in the Pacific. The *entente* with Spain guaranteed French possessions in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic.

The *Matin* asserts that by the agreements France and England guarantee to Spain the integrity of her coasts and possessions bordering on her coasts, while Spain guarantees to England Gibraltar and the road to India, and to France the freedom of her relations with Algiers and Senegal, and guarantees further that in time of war the Mediterranean and Atlantic fleets can act in unison.

### THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.

The next plenary sitting of the Peace Conference will begin today at 3 p. m. Yesterday the various representatives of the Great Powers and the Netherlands were busied with the election of Presidents of the four committees.

The International Women's Union intend to address a petition to the Conference in favour of universal peace. Several women of all nationalities have assembled at the Hague for this purpose and have demanded of the General Secretary that he should read aloud the petition at a plenary sitting. But as there appears to be some difficulty about this, the President, M. Nelidoff, will probably receive the petitioners in audience.

It is not expected that the Argentine Delegates will themselves bring forward proposals relating to the Drago doctrine, but very probably the American delegates will raise the question during the discussion on arbitration. It is rumoured that there is no feeling among the Delegates in favour of publicity of the discussion on limitation of armaments. The question would come before the present Conference simply as a consequent of the resolution adopted at the end of the last Conference, stating that the limitation of armaments at present burdening the world was highly desirable for the increase of the material and moral prosperity of humanity. The question would finally, it is thought, be referred to a committee who would study it after the con-

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