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## KING EDWARD'S HOLIDAY.

The Vienna *Fremdenblatt* announced that, from information received, it is by no means certain that King Edward will this year take a cure in Marienbad. In consequence all rumours as to a meeting between the King and the Emperor Franz Joseph are premature. It may, however, be taken for granted that, should the King come to Marienbad, the Emperor will pay him a visit.

## THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In answer to a question by Sir Gilbert Parker, Conservative, Member for Gravesend, as to whether British Delegates would attend the conference relating to the Brussels Sugar Convention, the Prime Minister replied "Yes, if all Powers concerned agree to the holding of any conference. No date has, however, been fixed for the assembling of the conference."

Mr. Boland, Nationalist, Member for South Kerry, asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he had been informed that in consequence of the failing health of the reigning Grand Duke of Luxembourg, a regency was to be established and whether in view of the fact that a protest against the proposed regency had been lodged by a claimant to the throne in case of the death of the Grand Duke, and whether in view of the fact that Great Britain was one of the Treaty States of the Treaty of London that guaranteed the neutrality of the Duchy, the British Government would offer their good services to reach a peaceful solution of the question and to protect the interests of the legal heir. The Under Secretary of State, Mr. Runciman, replied that so far as Sir E. Grey was informed it was not proposed to appoint a regency during the life time of the Grand Duke. The proposal at present awaiting discussion in the Luxembourg Chamber regulates the succession to the Throne and the regency during a minority, and at the same time contains clauses relating to the heritage of the reigning House. Hitherto no protest against the clauses of the proposals had reached London and Sir E. Grey could not say beforehand what effect such protest would have.

## THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT.

The Federal Parliament was opened on Wednesday by a speech from the Governor General, Lord Northcote, in which it was stated that Parliament would be invited to discuss proposals for the improvement of the tariff system, in order to give home industries a sound and firm basis under fair conditions.

Lord Northcote also foreshadowed new legislation having for its object the promotion of new industries by the granting of bounties.

## NEWS FROM AMERICA.

### THE STANDARD OIL COMPANY.

The Court marshals have for some time been seeking Mr. Rockefeller in order to serve him with a summons to give information concerning the financial position of the Standard Oil Company. This summons has now been served at his son's residence at Pittsfields in Massachusetts.

### MR. TAFT'S TOUR.

The *Tribune* announces from Washington that Mr. Secretary Taft intends to visit the Philippines next August, and thence will cross Siberia to Europe in order to visit the chief cities there.

### THE U. S. AND JAPAN.

The Japanese Finance Commissioner in London, while denying that Japan has any intention of raising a new foreign loan, has stated that although the San Francisco incidents were displeasing to Japan, the war scare was ridiculous.

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## THE KAISER IN DENMARK.

T. M. the German Emperor and Empress arrived in the Royal yacht "Hohenzollern" at Copenhagen on Wednesday morning. A triumphal arch had been erected near the Northern Customs House, and a large number of distinguished guests had been invited to witness the landing of Their Majesties, who were welcomed by the King and Queen of Denmark, the Crown Prince and other members of the Danish Royal Family, who embarking in the Royal barge proceeded on board the Emperor's yacht. The Emperor welcomed his guests at the head of the accommodation ladder, and the Danish Standard was hoisted at the "Hohenzollern's" main.

After a brief stay on board the yacht the Danish Royal Family returned ashore, and were soon followed by Their Majesties the German Emperor and Empress, the former wearing Danish Admiral's Uniform with the riband of the Order of the Elephant. After inspecting the Guard of Honour Their Majesties drove to the railway station and left in heavy rain for Fredensborg. The route to the Castle was picturesquely decorated. Later luncheon was given at 1 o'clock, and the afternoon was spent in the Castle, the wretched weather preventing any excursions. In the evening a State banquet was given at which King Friedrich proposed the health of the Imperial German Pair, offering them a warm welcome and in touching words recalling the visits paid by the Emperor to his father. He recalled also the memorable days he himself had recently spent in Berlin.

H. M. the Emperor in replying said "Will Your Majesties allow me on behalf of the Empress and myself to express our deep and heart-felt thanks for this warm and hearty reception we have been accorded today. It has been an especial pleasure to Her Majesty the Empress to be able to accede to Your Majesty's wish, and to be allowed to enter the intimate circle of Your Majesty's distinguished family. Memorable are to me and ever will be the days I spent as the guest of Your Majesty's venerable and amiable father to whom I shall always look up with deepest reverence. Your Majesty has been graciously pleased to recall the days you spent in Berlin and I can assure you with my whole heart that it gave me and my loyal people particular pleasure to offer Your Majesties a hearty welcome. Full of cordial thanks for the gracious and friendly welcome I venture to derive therefrom the hope that at the same time it connotes the expression of cordial friendship between the two Houses. I venture to raise my glass to the welfare of Your Majesty, Her Majesty the Queen, and the whole Danish House, and to the welfare of Your Majesty's beautiful country."

The Danish newspapers offer a hearty welcome to the Emperor and Empress. The *Kjöbenhavn* says: "We see in the visit not only a proof of the friendly feelings cherished by the Imperial Pair for our Royal House, which we have learned to love and respect, but at the same time a proof of their sympathy for the little people who always retain a memory of their former greatness, do not envy the greatness of others, and only wish to live at peace with all, not least with their Southern neighbour."

The *Politiken* concludes an article of welcome with the words: "The improvement of our relations with Germany denotes for us a greater possibility of fulfilling our only task in Europe, namely of leading an independent existence at peace with all and of developing outside world-policy."

## SERIOUS EXPLOSION NEAR COLOGNE.

The blending house of a gelatine-dynamite factory at Schlebusch was blown into the air on Wednesday. Four men were killed. Adjacent buildings were set on fire but it was extinguished by the firm's own fire-brigade.

## NEWS FROM FRANCE.

### THE WINE TRADE CRISIS.

Eleven mutineers of the 100th Regiment of the Line have arrived at Marseilles and will be sent singly to various garrisons in Corsica, Algiers and Tunis.

### HONOUR FOR A GERMAN COMPOSER.

President Fallières has signed the rescript conferring upon Herr Richard Strauss, the famous composer, the Order of the Legion of Honour.

## THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.

With reference to a statement published some days ago by the Amsterdam *Handelsblatt* that Belgium had sent to her Conference Delegates a Note pointing out how the disarmament question could be settled in conciliatory fashion, *Reuters Bureau* is able from an impartial source to formally assert the Belgian Delegates have made no such proposal nor has any Note been sent, nor will any such be sent.

### A DIPLOMAT ASSAULTED.

As the Belgian Minister, M. van den Steen, was driving in a motor-car through an outlying suburb of Belgrade, stones were thrown at him by some boys. The Minister left his carriage and followed his assailants in order to obtain their names and give them to the police. The parents of the children, hurrying up, set upon the Minister with their fists. The Minister has informed the police and the Foreign Department of the occurrence.

## THE MURDER OF THE BULGARIAN PREMIER.

The court martial has condemned to death Petroff, murderer of the Prime Minister M. Petkoff. His accomplices were condemned partly to penal servitude for life, partly to 15 years imprisonment; one of them was acquitted.

## THE SITUATION IN MOROCCO.

While Caid Sir Harry Maclean was negotiating with Raisuli, the Maghzen caused the district of the Andsheras, who for a long time have paid no taxes, to be surrounded. The Maghzen has demanded 150 mules, payment for stolen cattle and indemnity for the murder of the Frenchman, M. Charbonnier.

Sir Harry Maclean has been taken prisoner by Raisuli, and the latter in order to obtain his pardon will make his own conditions and demand a ransom for Maclean's release. It appears that when Maclean, who on his arrival in Tangier appointed a meeting place with Raisuli, was informed that the latter refused to receive the Sultan's letters unless Maclean were to come to meet him personally without troops, he left for Raisuli's camp with four attendants.

### UNREST IN CHINA.

It is announced from Wong-kong that rebels have surprised the Imperial troops and that 80 of them were taken prisoner.

In order to ascertain the name of their leader, the Viceroy Wait-chau tortured the prisoners by pouring boiling resin on their naked bodies. The prisoners refused all information.

## THE KING'S GIFT TO JERSEY.

Mont Orgueil Castle, in Jersey, has been handed over by Major-General Gough, Lieutenant-Governor, to the Jersey States. The troops and Militia were called out, and fired a feu de joie and salutes. The Lieutenant-Governor said this was a gift from his Majesty to the island for its loyalty and devotion to the Throne. It was the heritage of a conquering race to a people who had known no conqueror nor yielded to any usurper.