

The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

№ 443.

DRESDEN, SUNDAY, JULY 21, 1907.

10 PFENNIGS.

The First Daily Paper published in Germany in English.

Office: Dresden, Strasse Strasse 51

Telephone: 1755.

Subscription for Dresden and the whole of Germany and Austria: 1 mark a month.

THE COLNE VALLEY ELECTION.

Polling took place in the Colne Valley Division of Yorkshire on Thursday to fill the vacancy caused by the elevation of Sir J. Kitson to the peerage. The candidates were Mr. G. Wheler (U.), Mr. P. Bright (R.), and Mr. Grayson (Soc.). The result was declared on Friday

Mr. Grayson (Socialist) 3,648
Mr. Bright (Radical) 3,495
Mr. Wheler (Unionist) 3,227

Majority 153.

This is the first time a Socialist has represented this constituency. A Labour candidate stood at the 1895 election but was at the bottom of the poll. Sir J. Kitson had been member for this constituency for 14 years. Mr. Bright, the Radical candidate, is a son of the late Rt. Hon. John Bright.

COMPARATIVE NAVAL POWER.

A White Paper has been issued in London showing the comparative strength in completed first-class battleships less than 25 years old, and armoured cruisers less than 20 years old, of Great Britain, the United States, France, Germany, and Japan. Under these two categories the British Fleet rises above the two-Power standard, as will be seen from the following list of totals:—

Battleships:—Great Britain, 57; United States, 22; France, 20; Germany, 20; Japan, 11.
Armoured Cruisers:—Great Britain, 32; United States, 12; France, 18; Germany, 6; Japan, 10.

NO ENGLISH GUNS FOR GREECE.

The Armstrong firm has withdrawn its tender for guns for Greece. The only one remaining is that of the French firm of Schneider. There can, therefore, be no more talk of competition.

SERIOUS FIRE IN BELFAST.

A fire broke out in a shed in the Prince's dock on Friday. In a short time the greater part of the shed was destroyed, as was a quantity of cotton and flax. It is said that the fire was started by dock labourers out on strike.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

TARIFF REVISION.

The *Globe* learns from its New York correspondent that Senator Hopkins, who has just been with the President at Oyster Bay, is reported to have stated that Mr. Roosevelt has decided that there shall be no tariff revision until after the Presidential election next year. This may be regarded as an authoritative statement, as the Senator is a very prominent member of the Republican party, and is known to enjoy the confidence of the Administration.

Inferentially it also confirms the definite statement made recently, to the effect that tariff revision will form one of the planks of the platform which will be adopted at the Republican National Convention next summer, at which the Presidential candidate of the party will be chosen. This is due to a desire to take the wind to some extent out of the Democratic sails, as the Democratic platform will undoubtedly call for thorough tariff reform, as distinct from mere revision or change of incidence. The Republican idea of tariff revision is not based upon reform properly so-called. There is no marked popular demand for anything more than a mild form of revision, much less for any form of Free Trade.

There is no diminution of the unexampled national prosperity which has marked the period of the present fiscal system, and all the theoretical demonstrations of the virtues of another system will not have any effect upon the masses of the American people. In some Democratic quarters it is contended that the decision of the Republican party managers to deal with the tariff, presumably during the Congressional Session of 1910, indicates that Mr. Roosevelt will be a Presidential candidate next year.



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THE HEAT WAVE IN PHILADELPHIA.

Ten large hospitals are filled to overflowing with persons suffering from heat apoplexy. Many other people are being treated in their homes. Five deaths and fifty absolutely hopeless cases were reported on Friday.

THE U. S. NAVY.

The London *Daily News* announces from Washington that the Marine Department has issued an announcement that the battleship "Virginia" and the cruisers "Colorado", "Pennsylvania" and "West Virginia" of the Asiatic fleet have been ordered to proceed to the Philippines instead of into Japanese waters.

UNREST IN ECUADOR.

Revolutionary so-called Independents attacked four barracks and the President's house early on Thursday morning. They were repulsed with the loss of several of their number killed. The town has been placed in a state of siege.

THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.

The 2nd sub-committee of the Second Committee has drawn up a report on the proposals of France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Great Britain with reference to the position as well as the rights and duties of neutral States during a land war.

Freiherr v. Marschall on behalf of Germany associated himself with the French proposal, again making clear the scope of the German scheme whereby the neutral State is obliged to present or circumscribe the use by the belligerent parties of cable or telegraph stations including those for wireless telegraphy, but is to avoid any partiality in carrying out the freedom of action allowed to it.

In the Fourth Committee the proposals of Belgium and Brazil relating to the inviolability of private property at sea were withdrawn.

The division on the French proposal that privateering should be abolished by legislation on the part of the individual States, and the principle of indemnity introduced by this legislation, was postponed for 14 days, since many Delegates are still without instructions.

A proposal of M. v. Martens (Russia), that at the commencement of every war the belligerent States are to announce whether they will countenance privateering or not was withdrawn.

The Committee decided that England's proposal as to the definition and treatment of battleships and auxiliary ships should be referred to a special committee for examination.

Another committee was appointed to examine all questions on the programme of the Fourth Committee.

THE FRANCO-AMERICAN COMMERCIAL TREATY.

With reference to the negotiations relating to the Franco-American commercial treaty it is rumoured in well-informed circles that France has declared herself ready to accept the minimum tariff for Porto Rico coffee, offered by N. America; and also to be satisfied for the present with American certificates of meat inspection.

RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONARIES.

The preliminary examination of the league of 23 persons who intended to murder the Czar, the Grand Duke Nicolas Nicolajevitch and M. Stolypin, has been concluded. The documents have been handed to the St. Petersburg military Court. The accused, 20 of whom are under arrest, will be tried by martial law.

THE MOROCCAN CRISIS.

The English legation in Tangier has received letters stating that the situation, in as far as it concerns Kaid Maclean, is unaltered. The British Government has given the Maghzen to understand that it does not wish that any steps should be taken against Raisuli which might endanger Maclean's life.

THE SITUATION IN COREA.

The official organ of Seoul publishes the first announcement of the Emperor's abdication in favour of the Crown Prince. The announcement is signed by the Emperor and the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Excited mobs assembled in various parts of Seoul on Thursday evening; among them were distributed quantities of anti-Japanese literature.

The abdication of the Emperor, who was regarded as a great intriguer, has caused much satisfaction in Tokio. Many of the Japanese Ministers are in favour of the life-long exile to Japan of the ex-Emperor.

During the audience on Thursday night, when the Emperor decided to abdicate, some students attempted to give him a petition, but were driven by the police to the East Palace, where they remained all night. The crowd grew continually, but preserved order. The Japanese Chief of Police armed the Palace police with carbines.

ORIGIN OF FRENCH REPUBLIC'S NICKNAME.

Is it known to many whence the Republic (One and Indivisible) acquired its nickname? In the early days of the First Republic, which was more One and Indivisible than ever, good citizens wore medals with the head of Liberty on them, to show how One and Indivisible they were. The first of these medals were struck by a man who, not being able to afford the wages of an assistant, used to get his wife to help him. The wife's name was Marie Anne, and "Donnez-moi une Marie Anne" became the accepted way of asking for a head of Liberty medal.

The Morgue, has also a peculiar reason for its name. La Morgue was the name given by the warders of the Conciergerie to the gate at which prisoners stood for examination, so that their gaolers should always be able to recognise them afterwards. The ceremony was identical with that so graphically described by Dickens in *The Pickwick Papers*, and when the first prefect of the Republican police set apart a room in the Châtelet where dead bodies should be laid for the public to look at and their friends to recognise them, that room was called the Morgue. The modern Morgue, which has so long been a blot upon the Place de Notre Dame, is now to be transferred to the Place Mazas.