

The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

No 479.

DRESDEN, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1907.

10 PFENNIGS.

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THE QUEBEC BRIDGE DISASTER.

The following details are to hand respecting the collapse of the Quebec bridge. The contractor's train, to which the collapse of the Southern end of the bridge was due, was made up of an engine and three trucks loaded with iron. The upper part of the bridge collapsed for a distance of 800 ft. and fell into the river, carrying with it 80 to 90 persons who, for the most part, were crushed to death or severely injured. Up to the present 76 corpses have been recovered. The unfortunate victims are mostly Americans. The bridge, which was to cost 6 million dollars to build, was expected to be ready by next year. The damage done to it is very great.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

ANOTHER RAILWAY DISASTER.

In the neighbourhood of Charleston, near Danville, Illinois, two passenger trains collided on Friday. Fifteen persons were killed and a large number injured.

THE CROP PROSPECTS.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* learns from New York that Mr. Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture, has returned from a long tour in the West, and considers the future prospects of agriculture are excellent. In the West the unrest on the New York Stock Exchange is regarded with indifference; the harvest is good, but there is fear of a coal famine in the coming winter.

ROYAL VISITOR TO DENMARK.

The Empress Dowager of Russia arrived at Christiania in the Royal yacht "Polar Star" on Friday afternoon. The fort and the ships in harbour fired a salute.

A ROYAL BETROTHAL.

It is announced from Copenhagen that Prince George of Greece is betrothed to Princess Marie Bonaparte.

THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.

The Committee on land warfare at Friday's plenary sitting passed unanimously and without a division the scheme as to the commencement of hostilities in accordance with the Report of the French Delegate M. Renault. Thereby hostilities may begin only after a previous unequivocal announcement in the form of a declaration of war, with reasons assigned, or an ultimatum declaring war conditionally, and the state of war must be notified without delay to neutral States. These latter, however, may not appeal to the non-furnishing of such notification, if it should be ascertained that they had actual knowledge of the state of war.

With regard to the Report of the Swiss Delegate Col. Borel, on the regulation of the rights and duties of neutral States on land, the President of the Committee said that the work of the Committee in this case denoted an important advance.

Articles 1 and 2, whereby neutral territory is declared inviolable and the transit of troops and convoys of the belligerents is forbidden, were passed without debate.

Article 3, whereby belligerents are forbidden to erect on neutral territory wireless telegraph stations or to instal such-like appliances for communication with the army or the fleet, or to use such appliances erected before the war, passed with an un-



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important alteration suggested by the Russian Delegate Colonel Michelson.

Article 4, which relates to the veto on establishing recruiting stations on neutral territory, article 5 elucidating it, article 6 which removes from a neutral State all responsibility for the crossing of its frontiers by individuals joining either of the belligerent armies, article 7 which relieves neutral States of the duty of preventing export and transit of war material for belligerents, article 8 whereby neutrals are not obliged to forbid belligerents to use their telegraph or telephone lines or such as are conceded by their charters, were passed, the English Delegates reserving their rights to dissent. Article 9 whereby such vetoes or permissions are to be extended equally to both belligerents was also passed subject to the English proviso.

Exception was taken to article 10, whereby prisoners brought by troops into neutral territory must be set at liberty, by the Russian Delegate General Yermulov. He was opposed by General v. Guendell of Germany and other Delegates. The article was passed, the Russians reserving their consent.

The last article, 11, guaranteeing the right to defence, and that, too, with arms, of neutrals, was passed.

With regard to the scheme for regulating the position of neutrals' subjects on belligerent territory, the English Delegate Lord Reay said that he could not accept the scheme in its present shape, since thereby a special privilege was bestowed on neutrals' subjects. Lord Reay recommended the Belgian proposal whereby foreigners who could not prove that they belonged to a neutral nationality, or who had refused to serve in their home army, could be enrolled in the belligerent army.

The debate will be continued tomorrow.

DEFRAUDING THE CUSTOMS.

A Paris telegram states that excitement had been caused by the arrest at the St. Lazare railway station of a high Customs official, on the charge of falsifying the books in favour of a Paris firm of forwarding agents. The loss sustained by the Customs department is estimated at a million francs.

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