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The Daily Record

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IDEAL POLITICS.

We live in an age of congresses. Perhaps at no previous time have international interests so closely approached to genuine international understanding as in recent years. The common ground on which Englishmen and Russians, Frenchmen and Italians, Germans and Americans find opportunities of meeting is becoming more stable and more extensive; so that it is no longer merely to speculative or artistic issues that our sympathies are attracted, but to actual phases of national and political endeavour. On the very point of preparing to allow for shortcomings, nations, like individuals, have found themselves in agreement. Of this apparently generous attitude the international conference may be either a token or a cause; at least it has helped to clear an atmosphere too long obscured by insincerity. We are by no means in sight of a millennium. An international meeting of diplomatists or of socialists or of Roman priests may quite conceivably imply no more than the adjustment of some class interest. We cannot assume that one man in a hundred is so far a martyr as to place the interest of the majority above that of his class; but we can, and should, ask whether international cleavages on the pattern of interests hitherto national seem likely to hinder or to ad-

vance the progress of humanity. Conferences are not of necessity understandings; nor, on the other hand, are disputes essentially quarrels. The Hague Conference, cautiously building hopes on a basis of disillusionment, after the fashion of old and weary men, has not yet established peace; the Socialist Congress at Stuttgart was agreed only on the points of disagreement; yet both the diplomatists at the Hague and the demagogues at Stuttgart have been engaged in an equal degree on a work of construction: both have been forming public opinion. That they have achieved more, that they have crystallized the fluid forces of History into some inevitable form, that they have converted principle into practice, cannot be maintained. As yet such congresses have been the preparation for a solution rather than an attempt at solution, and in so far as preparation is an awakening and a warning, the result may be accepted without uneasiness. But, paradoxically enough, while their critical achievement has tended to create, their creative achievement has tended to destroy. Here, indeed, is the greatest menace to peace and security, that international discussions which aim at mutual sympathy may succeed in widening the area of disagreement on particular questions. It may quite reasonably be held that in the case of the Socialist Congress at least, if not in the case of the other political and religious assemblies which have met during the year, this result has been the most obvious and the

least acceptable. In spite of treaties and agreements, with their proper rhetorical adornment, we do not live in an age given to unprofitable ideals. The modern citizen, with his keen perception of material opportunity and advantage, is impervious to large projects raised, however slightly, above the normal plane of his thoughts; nor do we live at a time of such violent reaction that a French Revolution or a Holy Alliance could appropriately prefix and conclude our aspirations. Even "by the light of common day" and without pretending to an idealism that stretches beyond the goal of everyday interests, there is a unique significance in the tone of these international assemblies. One realises that not momentary pressure, excitement or enthusiasm, but the actual force of mutual interest has called them into being; and perhaps it is not so much that nations love one another as that they need one another more than ever before. That is not the highest aim of internationalism, it is true, but it contains, at any rate, the seed of something better. So long as the supreme danger of magnified

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party warfare is avoided, there can be little to fear from international discussions. History does not repeat itself; the age which is capable of securing "the greatest happiness of the greatest number" on a basis of pure utilitarianism is different from, but neither better nor worse than the age which sought the welfare of mankind in the destruction of the Turk. Men are good or bad according to the limits of their will and intellect; the same is eminently true of nations.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT IN VIENNA.

H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught arrived in Vienna on Thursday afternoon and was met at the station by the Emperor Francis Joseph, the British Ambassador and numerous military officials.

SIR GEORGE ARBUTHNOT FOUND GUILTY.

HEAVY SENTENCE.

Madras, Wednesday. Sir George Arbuthnot, senior partner of the late banking firm of Arbuthnot and Company, has been

convicted in the second court.

He was charged with fraudulently and dishonestly disposing of property in favour of Arbuthnot and Company by creating a mortgage of ten lakhs of rupees in the form of debentures, and issuing the same to Arbuthnot and Company when such loan was not wanted for the purposes of Arbuthnot's Industrials (Limited).

He has been sentenced to eighteen months' rigorous imprisonment.

THE GRAND DUKE OF BADEN.

Mainau, September 27. A sudden change for the worse was reported during the night, and the end was expected every hour. The immediate household as well as the President of the Council of the Grand Ducal Household and of Foreign Affairs, Freiherr von Marschall, are present. A bulletin issued at midnight stated that the affection of His Royal Highness' heart had suddenly assumed the gravest character, and the worst was feared.

7 a. m. The condition of His Royal Highness is unchanged.



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8 a. m. In the course of the night a renewed attack of weakness of the heart exhausted the Grand Duke's strength. Since sunrise the patient lies quietly dozing.

The Grand Duke of Baden and his Consort Louise were not able to ensure a direct succession through the marriage of their only son Frederick to the Princess Hilda of Nassau, which had no issue, so that the crown will ultimately descend on the issue of Duke Frederick's younger brother, Prince William of Baden, who is married to the eldest daughter of the Duke of Cumberland, the Princess Marie Louise of Great Britain and Ireland, Duchess of Braunschweig and Lüneburg. The second child of this marriage is the infant Prince Berthold Frederick of Baden, who was born February 24, 1906.

THE "LUSITANIA'S" RETURN-TRIP.

The S. S. "Lusitania" arrived in Queenstown yesterday having made the eastward journey in 5 days 4 hours 19 minutes, thus beating the "Lucania's" record. The "Lucitania" was detained by fog. Her average speed was 225/s knots.

SINGULAR OUTRAGE AT SEA.

A telegram from New York gives a singular account of an occurrence in mid-sea on the "Majestic." The steamer was three days out on the way to New York, when a stoker, named Stechau, came to consult the ship's doctor, Dr. French. He shut the door behind him and then with the irresistible force of a maniac he sprang upon the doctor, hurled him to the ground and attempted to strangle him. The doctor shouted for help. One of the officers immediately hurried up, but was of course unable to open the locked door. He could see, however, through the grating of the door that the doctor was completely in the maniac's power, drew his revolver and shot at Stechau, wo fell severely wounded to the floor. The doctor quickly unlocked the door and then held the wounded man, who was still raving, until assistance came. Stechau is recovering from his wound.

THE PLOT AT HAVANA.

A telegram from Havana states that General Parra and two other Cuban generals, who are believed to have been in communication with the conspirators against the American government, have been arrested.

General Masso Parra has played a leading rôle in many a rising. He was only a few weeks ago allowed to return to Cuba.

In the War Office at Washington, while the possibility of a rising against the provisional government in Cuba is not credited, it is admitted that there is growing excitement among the niggers in the provinces of Havana and Pinar del Rio, on account of niggers being not admitted to any public office.

THE ANTWERP STRIKE.

Antwerp, September 26. The resumption of work on Wednesday was marked by fresh circumstances of a critical nature. The dock-labourers who refused to work side by side with the strike-breakers were again dismissed. The Maritime Federation declares that if the boycotting of strike-breakers continues, the lock-out will be resumed. The Federation further states that the Burgomaster had not been empowered to hold out any promises. This declaration has caused the greatest excitement.

A German has been arrested today on the charge of having originated the recent fire in the timber-yards.

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