The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

№ 509. | DRESDEN, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1907. | 10 PFENNIGS.

The First Daily Paper published in Germany in English.

Offices: Dresden, Struve Strasse 5I.

Telephone: 1788.

Subscription for Dresden and the whole of Germany and Austria:

1 mark a month.

THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.

We are tempted to adopt with all confidence the statement of a local contemporary that no less than three thousand workmen, in the cannon factories of the firm of Krupp are to be dismissed owing to the lack of orders. This may well be the case; but we are not yet persuaded that a crisis in the history of the world is at hand. The gates of the Temple of Janus are still open, and, even if they were shut, we have still done nothing to provide bars, locks, or bolts. The Peace Conference is practically at an end: after a discussion lasting nearly four months, the delegates are about to disperse. There has been a great deal of expert comment and some notable eloquence: Sir Edward Fry has delivered an almost classical oration on the need of an Arbitration Court; a number of elegant compliments have been exchanged; a few pious ideals have been voiced; but the bulk of the work we expected the Conference to undertake has been reserved for the Conference that is to come. This is not very reassuring; we had looked for better results. No doubt the establishment of an International Prize Court, though an eminently unacceptable Prize Court, may be called an achievement; the outcome of nearly four months' deliberation by experts is the creation of a tribunal which has no law, in order to deal with interests which it cannot safeguard. This is an achievement in the sense of a specific proposal of international importance awaiting international ratification. Apart, however, from a measure whose generosity is at least questionable, no agreement upon any question of the first moment has been reached. Germany, for example, has fought the English proposals almost word for word; and, generally speaking, as soon as real interests were touched, the fine glow of enthusiasm which permeated the preliminary speeches crumbled to cold ashes.

This is scarcely the time, nor is there reason, for mutual recriminations; but it is quite beyond the possibility of doubt that the main cause of the unfruitfulness of the Conference must lie, as every one anticipated, in national rivalries, national jealousies, national ambitions quite beyond the influence of serene verbiage and amiable intention. Today we cannot perhaps discover the incongruous spectacle of a Metternich and an Alexander of Russia combining against the liberty of the individual on the text of a theological thesis; yet we have witnessed, what is almost as striking, the panorama of international mistrust and national self-seeking focussed within the narrow range of an assembly convened in the name of humanity; we have seen the delegates of peace discussing the weapons of war, and even refusing to abolish naval instruments whose use must render warfare at sea more unfair and more barbarous than ever it was when Roman and Phoenician galleys lay locked in the waters of the Adriatic. At the last hour, a few proposals for international arbitration have been produced for discussion; but our optimism would be more than human were we, on the strength of this circumstance, to await a practical result. When all allowance has been made for the necessary difficulty and tardiness of such grave measures, there is yet some ground for reasonable impatience.

The jealousies of the great Powers are, no doubt, the main impediment to substantial agreements; but it is not the hesitation of the great Powers alone that must tend to postpone, to an indefinite period, the establishment of an Arbitration Court. The smaller and less important nations are represented at the Hague not proportionally, but numerically, and they insist on a similar method of representation in an arbitral tribunal. To this the Powers cannot and will not accede: theoretically such a scheme may be admirable; actually it is impracticable to the verge of the ludricous. Perhaps none of the nations, great or small, are ready to concede the fraction of an inch where actual sacrifice is demanded. The sufficiently generous proposals of England have been met with suspicion; and where the severely overburdened programme has not led to inextricable confusion, it has resulted in nothing of considerable moment. On almost every side, except that of rhetorical and argumentative fecundity, the Conference has fallen short of its promise. How far this lack of success has been deliberate, how far inevitable, it is impossible to say. There appears to have been much intrigue, much lobbying; there has also been some straightforward language in a sufficiently emphatic key. If the Conference "which, like a wounded snake, drags its slow length along", is exasperatingly slow and palpably wounded, we hope that the suggestion of the snake, at any rate, is more apparent than real.

By an Englishman.

KING EDWARD AND SIR ARTHUR NICOLSON.

London, October 4.

Sir Arthur Nicolson, the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, has been rewarded with the Grand Cross of the Bath by King Edward in recognition of his services in bringing about the Anglo-Russian Convention.

THE KAISER'S VISIT TO ENGLAND.

London, October 5.

The Daily Telegraph states that the reception committee charged with the preparations for the ceremonies in connection with the visit of the German Emperor to the City of London held their first meeting at the Guildhall on Friday. Mr. Brough, who has had great experience in such matters, was elected Chairman. Seven firms have sent in designs for the gold caskets in which the address of welcome from the City Corporation will be handed to His Majesty. It is experted that an invitation to the citizens to decorate their houses will be issued.