

The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

No 531.

DRESDEN AND BERLIN, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1907.

10 PFENNIGS.

The First Daily Paper published in Germany
in English.

Office: Dresden, Steuss Strasse 51. Telephone: 1755.
Berlin W., Potsdamer Strasse 10/11.

Subscription for Dresden and the whole of
Germany and Austria:

1 mark a month.

LORD CROMER ON EGYPT.

As already reported in these columns the City of London honoured Lord Cromer, last Monday, by presenting him with its freedom. A few months ago the vast majority of the nation endorsed the action of parliament in bestowing on its most eminent Proconsul a grant of £50,000; but it has been left for the City Chamberlain, Sir Joseph Dimsdale, to pay Lord Cromer the highest because the justest tribute of all. He pointed out that such was the force of Lord Cromer's personality and such the justness and sincerity of his policy that "whether the Marquis of Salisbury, the Earl of Rosebery, Mr. Balfour, or Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman held office he supported the British Agent in his great and noble work in Egypt." Lord Cromer, with the modesty of true greatness, attributed this splendid confidence to one of the "adventitious circumstances" which, he maintains, have caused his success as an administrator; it was not his intrinsic merit but the growing principle of the separation of party politics from foreign policy that had largely facilitated the continuity of his work. We agree that the principle exists and is consistently applied, but it is pleasant to be able to differ very completely regarding the importance Lord Cromer claims for it in his own case. Nor is this the only "adventitious circumstance" which he cites in extenuation of his merit, for he is of opinion that both the French Entente and the Anglo-Russian Convention are the outcome of the policy of minding one's own business, internationally speaking, to which he owes the approval bestowed on his administrative work. Certainly a better model of application of means to ends, of sane statesmanship, of enlightenment without pretence or sentiment, of self-sacrificing acceptance of the most trying duties, could with difficulty be found. As an administrator and as a man Lord Cromer combined those solid virtues of absolute reliability and unflinching openness which have made British rule acceptable and more than acceptable in every quarter of the globe.

Lord Cromer, as befits a statesman weighted with honours and the fruits of experience, spoke a few words of advice with regard to aims and methods of government. He had before him the moral, which had served him so excellently from his earliest manhood, of minding one's own affairs, and minding them consistently in the light of duty. In this connection he made a reference to the agitators in Ireland and in Bengal whom he considered on much the same level as the Egyptian Nationalists. "I see," he said, "but one method of dealing with the unrest in Egypt and in India. It is to continue steadily to do our duty towards the people of these countries, to come down with a heavy hand on extremists... but not to be deterred by their proceedings from adopting such reforms as are capable of satisfying the aspirations of all reasonable and moderate men." From the mouth of Lord Cromer these words do not represent a policy of compromise and inaction but of the justice and efficiency he has himself applied. Whatever may be the case in Ireland, in India and in Egypt the sentimentalists cannot achieve the same tangible advance in order and peace together with the accompanying rise in the standards of civilization as has been achieved in Egypt since 1883 by the direct influence of Lord Cromer himself. He has proved beyond the possibility of dispute that the spirit of negation which the moralists have always associated with Mephistopheles and his hordes is neither patriotic in the true sense nor disinterested on the most generous assumption, but mischievous in all its bearings. He has proved it not by meeting sophism with sophism, but by systematic development in administration and morale. He found an Egypt devastated by the sway of tyrants, by rebellion, by

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disease, by fanaticism: the commencement of his rule there witnessed the destruction of the expedition of Hicks Pasha and the murder of Gordon. What he achieved, how his influence reclaimed the people from the curse of Mahdism, how he won native sympathies for British rule is already history. A people enjoying the supreme privileges of liberty and justice, and always with special regard to their mental habit and environment, has taken the place of the utterly demoralized rabble who fought under the standard of Arabi or suffered for the extravagances of Ismail. Out of financial chaos a surplus has been created almost solely, as is everywhere admitted, by the Consul-General's perseverance and ability; while it was under his authority that the great engineering undertakings which have made progress possible were accomplished. In every sense, therefore, Lord Cromer's rule has demonstrated how an unfree and unenlightened people can be made into a people capable of freedom and, we may hope, some political development. His methods and the liberal standpoint made evident by his speech are the best answer to those malcontents, in India, in Ireland, or in Egypt, whose cry for liberty and justice echoes so strangely where the actual facts are known and duly appreciated.

LADY COUNCIL CANDIDATE.

Miss Dove, headmistress of Wycombe Abbey School, High Wycombe, has issued her address as a candidate in the local elections on November 1. She is the first lady out.



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THE ADMIRALTY AND THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

London, November 1.

The Admiralty has decided to proceed with the building of a battle-ship which was included in this year's Budget but postponed in consideration of the Peace Conference, and will now be built by tender in a private yard.

THE RAILWAY CRISIS.

London, October 31.

The President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Lloyd George, had a conference today with seven railway Directors at the offices of the Chamber of Commerce. The proceedings were confidential.

The evening papers state that the majority of the leaders and Directors of the railway Companies, excepting one or two which are still undecided, will not withdraw from their position, nor yield to the demands of the employes.

STORM OFF THE NE. COAST OF SCOTLAND.

London, October 31.

Stormy weather prevails on the coast of Berwick county. Wreckage has been washed ashore; among other things a life-buoy marked "Mira Flensburg".

A NEW BRITISH ARMY DIVISION.

London, October 31.

The Minister of War, Mr. Haldane, said, in a speech held in Rhyl in Wales that the Government had decided to form a Welsh army division in Wales under the new Territorial System which was to be commanded by Welsh generals.

AMERICAN NEWS.

THE DISMISSAL OF RAILWAY WORKMEN.

New York, October 30.

The directors of the Union Pacific Railway deny that the dismissals which have become known are a consequence of an intention to stop certain works altogether. As usual workmen in the building department were dismissed on November 1, as winter work is more expensive than summer work. The number of dismissed men is larger this year because building was more extensive last summer.

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS.

Olympia (Washington), October 30.

The Governor has declared the remaining days of the week legal holidays. The object of this measure is principally to safeguard the county banks who have difficulty in supplying the necessary ready money.

Washington, October 30.

The Associated Press reports that the Comptroller of Currency, by order of the Secretary of the Treasury, is making every effort to increase the turnover of the National banks; this has not yet

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