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The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

№ 535.

DRESDEN AND BERLIN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1907.

10 PFENNIGS.

The First Daily Daper published in Germann in English.

Offices: Dreeden, Steuve Steams 51. Telephone: 1736. Beelin W., Potodamer Etrasse 10/11.

Subscription for Deesden and the whole of Germany and Austria:

o 1 mark a month.

THE SITUATION IN INDIA.

Since we last had occasion to comment on the India unrest there has been no material improvement in the situation, but steps have been taken by the Government of Bengal, and by the Government of India, from which good results are to be expected. The Calcutta riots of October 2 and 3 have obviously made no small impression. As the result of an inquiry, it is reported that the charges against the police were gross exaggerations, and the significant statement is made that the disturbances had their origin in a usually orderly class: the resolution issued by the Government of Bengal holds the conclusion to be irresistible that, the disorder was the direct outcome of the violent writings and speeches of the agitators. A letter issued by the Government of Bengal to the Government of India points to the dangerous influence which the conduct of the respectable classes must have on the naturally turbulent portion of the population, and adds that Sir Andrew Fraser, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, "is of opinion that it is imperative for the Government immediately to take power to stop violent speaking and writing." The emphatic tone of the resolution and of the covering letter to the Government of India, was entirely justified by the passing of the Seditious Meetings Bill two days later in the Legislative Council of India. The new Act is a modified expression of the original proposal which, it will be recollected, was somewhat vague in its terms and probable application. The term "public meeting" has been clearly defined, and its applicability limited; thus, meetings held under statutory authority and meetings exempted by the Local Governments do not come within the Act. Further, it will be necessary to give not seven days' notice of intention to hold a meeting, as was originally suggested, but three. The measure is not permanent; it is to be valid only during the next three years. Nor is it to be immediately applicable to the whole of India; at present it will be applied only to the Bakarganj district of Eastern

The Bill did not receive the unanimous consent of the Legislative Council, and of the three dissentients, Mr. Gokhale probably carries the greatest weight. It is a very short time since this distinguished native statesman advocated in England the principle of Indian self-government, and all who heard his brilliant addresses were conscious of their palpable sincerity and conviction. But Mr. Gokhale did not establish his case to the satisfaction of Englishmen. He certainly won over a number of people to his ideas, but their proportion is not great and their influence scarcely appreciable; their attitude is, in fact, regarded as impulsive and sentimental, and Mr. Gokhale's present opposition would seem to be coloured by the same qualities. In attacking the principle of the Bill he maintained that the increased powers which it conferred were unnecessary, and that disorders were already adequately punishable by the permanent codes. Such statements are of course entirely contradicted by facts. As Sir Harvey Adamson pointed out, a repressive Act was necessary, because under existing conditions it was impossible to obtain a conviction by means of respectable witnesses; these were not forthcoming. This is, perhaps, the main technical objection to the applicability of the codes to the disorders, but it was left for the Viceroy himself, Lord Minto, to meet the larger claims of principle put forward by Mr. Gokhale and his partisans. He did so in a spirit of conciliation, yet without conceding a point to that political aspiration which expressed itself in seditious rioting. He welcomed the existence of national aims and claimed for them the past and present support of the Indian administration. "We have no wish," he said, "to check the growth of political thought We will repress sedition, but Extensive choice of

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the restlessness of the new-born advancing thought we are prepared to meet and keep in guidance." Everything that tended to inflame racial feeling or to tamper with the loyalty of the Indian army was a warning, the significance of which he would

not minimize.

He could not help thinking that the firm, yet liberal, attitude of Lord Minto is the only attitude at once worthy of the British Government and likely to be acceptable to educated native opinion. In recognizing the fundamental distinction between political thought and seditious bombast, it both administers a reproof and pays a tribute to the Indian people. The administration of India has often been compared to that of the Roman Empire, but we venture to doubt whether the Roman administration was ever confronted with a problem of such delicacy. Whatever the faults of the Indian people, there can be no dispute that their character is sensitive and intellectual. It is within the experience of everyone that these attributes are not inconsistent with a distinct lack of balance, of the fine judgment which can alone transform a collection of individuals into a self-governing people. But, in addition, the Hindu has been for centuries subject to directly autocratic forms of government. He has evolved no political ideals for himself; with his imitative faculty he has adopted ideals rather than been fashioned by them. How should one believe that in the course of a few years the conservation which lies at the very root of every Oriental nation can be converted to the most doctrinaire of Western political tenets, or that anything but a transitory aggravation of racial feeling can account for the wild antipathy to stable methods of Government?



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THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF GERMANY.

Berlin, November 5.

The fiancée of Prince August Wilhelm has been taken ill with chicken-pox in the castle here. The doctors fear contagion so that, much to her Majesty's regret, the journey of the Empress to England has to be abandoned. His Majesty the Emperor will make the journey as arranged, and at the conclusion of his visit, by advice of his physicians, will remain incognito on the Isle of Wight in an endeavour to eradicate a very persistent cold.

The Hague, November 5. The Government has received news that the Emperor of Germany has postponed his visit to Holland. The reason is that the Emperor, after his visit to the English Court, will make a sojourn on the Isle of Wight for the sake of his health. The visit to Holland will take place when his Majesty leaves the Isle of Wight.

The Standard reports that at the Convocation in Oxford on November 19 the University will confer the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on

His Majesty the German Emperor.

King Edward has expressed by telegraph his and the English people's regret that the Empress has been forced to give up her intention of accompanying the Emperor to England.

EXPLOSION ON A TRAINING SHIP.

Flensburg, November 6. At nine o'clock this morning, a boiler explosion occurred on the training ship "Blücher" off Mürwig in the Baltic. Up to the present the deaths number 8, besides 22 injured.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE ATLANTIC RATE WAR.

London, November 5. The General Director of Hamburg-American Line, Herr Ballin, had a consultation with Mr. Watson, of the Cunard Line. A reliable authority states that they have decided to hold a conference to discuss the question of the reestablishment of normal Atlantic tariffs.

AMERICAN NEWS.

New York, November 5. The United States Steel Corporation has secured control over the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company. It is said that the price paid for the shares of the company was little more than 85 dollars each and that 70 per cent of the shares have come into the possession of the Steel Corporation. The acquisition to the Steel Corporation is

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