

# The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

No 559.

DRESDEN AND BERLIN, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1907.

10 PFENNIGS.

The First Daily Paper published in Germany  
in English.

Office: Dresden A., Steube Strasse 51. Phone: 1755.  
Berlin W., Soldaten Str. 10/11. Phone: VI 1079.

Subscription for Dresden and the whole of  
Germany and Austria:

1 mark a month.

## ROWDYISM AND REFORM.

The movement for woman suffrage has latterly been assuming a character of complexity and a more than ordinary unexpectedness, and in consequence, with Machiavellian astuteness the organization over which Miss Christabel Pankhurst holds such vigorous sway has been confining itself to "political" work and "educational" work; that is to say, a section of the suffragists, having at last recognized the futility of hoydenish behaviour in the lobby of the House of Commons, have settled down in the peaceful region of Clement's Inn to write to the paper, distribute pamphlets and give receptions. This is extremely agreeable and if it led to nothing worse, might be not undesirable; it is, at any rate, respectable. The letters to the papers, it is true, and the pamphlets and the methods of persuasion are still somewhat crude and irrelevant, but so long as nothing is attempted in the way of brute force the tyrant males are prepared to resign themselves to the sound of the battle-cry. In a word, the "official" section seems to be sobering down. But the fact is also apparent that the "official" section is losing hold of the movement, and the rowdy section, or the section which advocates unbroken and "strenuous agitation" (as the phrase goes) is monopolizing the attention of the public. By what must have been a concerted movement the claims of woman-made law for dealing with women criminals have been simultaneously pressed in a number of police courts. Invariably when a female prisoner was brought into the dock, a woman rose in the body of the court to protest against the judging of her sex by man's laws, so that there is now not only the cry of "votes for women", but also the cry of "Woman's Law for Women."

On behalf of the Women's Political and Social Union, of which she is the organizing secretary; Miss Pankhurst has disavowed all sympathy, or at least all connection with this particular agitation; but it is not clear that she has the moral right to deprecate a movement with which, except in so far as it does not suit her immediate tactics, she must fully sympathize. To put it bluntly, the organized suffragists conceive it to be their interest to "lie low" for the present; the unorganized suffragists, together with those organized in opposition to the "politicals", seem to see success in violence of agitation. Such fundamental divergences bode little good either for the suffragists themselves or for the reasonableness of their movement. The supporters of woman suffrage are mistaken if they think that anything but reasonableness pure and simple will persuade an electorate or a government to accept their views. Men can on occasion be quite as obstinate as women, and never more so than when women demand what men have always regarded as their particular privilege; and we may be sure that neither bullying nor condescension but mere straightforwardness will win the battle, if it deserves to be won at all.

The point now at issue is, whether during the last few years, the suffragists have achieved anything to justify them in blaming first the Conservative and then the Liberal Government, first men and then their fellow-women, rather than in blaming themselves for what was a foolish and unsuccessful agitation. By conceding, as they tacitly do concede, that they have been unsuccessful they all but establish the assumption that they have also been foolish. The determination to substitute decorum for disorder, and dignified reserve for table-thumping clamour, if properly carried through, would be a political gain as well as a tactical advantage. But by disowning now the methods they advocated some six months ago the National Women's Social and Political Union cannot disentangle themselves from the consequences of their own preaching: whatever Miss Christabel Pankhurst may



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say to the contrary, unless she and her Union retract their own words and give up the movement, they are as much responsible for public disturbances today as ever they have been in the past. But Miss Pankhurst is nothing if not frank; not only will she attack her enemy but she will let her enemy know when and how the attack is to take place. In a letter to the *Times*, published early in the week, she discusses the advice of Mr. Lloyd George to desist from bothering the Government, and, instead, to stir up her own sex to the point of demanding the vote. The objection to the conduct of the suffragists, she argues, is that it is unconstitutional; but the Government itself has unconstitutional schemes in its head, as is clear from the Plural Voting Bill and the campaign against the House of Lords; "therefore, it is merely for the purpose of evading the just claims of women to the franchise that the present Government become such sticklers for constitutional propriety." We hold no brief for the Government, but we must, in decency, support its opposition to a movement whose leading organizers can allow a sentence such as the last to be rounded off with a sentence such as the following. "Evidently, nothing will avail to sweep away the excuses and evasions of Liberal leaders save determined and militant action on the part of women." Why "evidently"? Even determined and militant Amazons cannot by force twist events to their liking, while to profess "educational" and "political" aims and to propagate inflammatory phrases, are not activities consistent with each other. If the suffragists expect little from a Liberal administration, they only expect less from a Conservative; but the most the country could do to remedy their grievance would be to return to power a party other than the party which has proved unkind. From whom, then, do they hope for a hearing and against whom are they not prepared to be determined and militant. Are these the "constitutional methods" of which Mrs. Fawcett speaks? With undiminished persistence the suffragists claim to be able to destroy traditions, ideals, the custom and the prejudice of centuries without, however, destroying anything at all. One can only conclude that beside such gigantic ideals (and such gigantic inconsistencies) the danger of mere constitutional anomalies must appear small indeed.

## DOWNTRODDEN IRELAND.

Cattle-raiding in Ireland has been denounced by the Roman Catholic Archbishop and clergy, and it is expected that it will soon cease. Another Irish industry burked!

## NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

### THE EMPEROR'S HOLIDAY.

On Wednesday afternoon His Majesty the Emperor went for an automobile ride and visited Earl Malmesbury, afterwards taking tea with Lord Normanton. The weather was rainy, but early yesterday it greatly improved, and His Majesty attended a shoot over Lord Alington's estate.

### THE AIR-SHIP "LA PATRIE" RECOVERED.

It was announced in the London evening papers on Wednesday that the "Patrie" had landed on a farm at Ballysallough, Co. Down, Ireland.

## NEWS FROM AMERICA.

### THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

The Committee of the House of Representatives for gold currency in the banks has empowered the Chairman to appoint a sub-committee of three members to draft a currency Bill that shall meet the requirements of the situation.

### THE IMPROVEMENT OF INTER-STATE TRAFFIC.

A Bill was laid before the Senate at Washington on Wednesday, which provides for the appointment of a Commission to improve and extend the inland water-ways. The Secretary of State, Mr. Root, attended a meeting of representatives from all parts of the country, at which the subjects discussed were, the improvement of the transport of American products to the sea-coast and the increase of the American merchant marine.

## NEWS FROM FRANCE.

### NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR "LA PATRIE'S" LOSS.

The *Agence Havas* is responsible for the statement that the enquiry into the circumstances attending the loss of the air-ship "La Patrie" has resulted in the decision that responsibility attaches to no one. The Minister of War, General Picquart, will lay a report of the military authorities on the subject before the Chamber of Deputies.

The Minister of War is considering a plan for the creation of two new *corps d'armée* and the enrolment of native Arabs.

## NEWS FROM RUSSIA.

### MR. TAFT IN ST. PETERSBURG.

His Majesty the Czar received the American Secretary of War, Mr. Taft, on Tuesday morning at Tsarkoe-Selo. Mr. Taft was also present at the parade, which took place later before His Majesty, and afterwards was a guest at luncheon in the Grand Palace. Her Majesty the Czarina was prevented by a slight cold from being present at the parade.

Mr. Taft was the guest of honour at a dinner given on Wednesday evening at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in St. Petersburg. The Prime Minister, M. Stolypin, and the Chief of the General Staff were present.

### PROSECUTION OF SOCIALIST DUMA MEMBERS.

The prosecution of certain Socialist Duma deputies on a charge of high-treason was commenced in St. Petersburg yesterday. The accused and their counsel refused to plead as a protest against the proceedings being conducted *in camera*. Students from the local universities and many thousand workmen have ceased work as a protest against the prosecution. The disturbance is not serious, but police patrols are guarding the streets.

## THE MOROCCAN SITUATION.

A Paris report states that the French Ambassador in Tangier, M. Régault, will shortly come to Paris in order to confer with M. Pichon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, with regard to Moroccan affairs.

It is reported from Melilla that on Tuesday evening the Sultan's troops attacked the rebels near Mar Chica, inflicting heavy losses in dead and wounded. The guns of the Moroccan steamer "Saïda" successfully supported the troops, several small villages being shelled and burnt.

### RUMOURED ATTACK ON A CAMP.

According to a Lalla Marnia telegram it is said that on Wednesday evening an attack was made on the camp at Martincrey by Moroccans. A furious combat took place, the French losing eight

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