

The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

No. 585.

DRESDEN AND BERLIN, FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1908.

10 PFENNIGS.

The First Daily Paper published in Germany
in English.

Office: Dresden A., Strasse 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.

UNSCRUPULOUS JOURNALISM.

"Newspapers," said Henry Ward Beecher, "are to the body politic what arteries are to the human body, their function being to carry blood and sustenance and repair to every part of the system." Few will be found to question this dictum in its entirety, but it is surely permitted to question the efficacy of the specifics applied by some journals to what they are pleased to consider national needs. Pursuing the epigram to its logical conclusion it cannot be doubted that if the vital force conveyed to the body politic through the medium of the press be contaminated, the effect must of necessity act as poison on that body in precisely the same manner as alien elements corrupt the human system.

False journalism, therefore, stands in the same relationship with quack allopathy, and it is difficult to determine which exercises the most detrimental influence. The master quack of the scribes, however, stands before the world in the person of Mr. William Randolph Hearst, commonly designated "the naughty boy of journalism" and, by those who see in his reckless malignity a vast influence for evil, "the scandal of the twentieth century."

Of his various achievements in petty sensationalism it is unnecessary to speak. Suffice it to say that he is the man who dispatched an artist to Cuba in the spring of 1898 with the words: "You draw the pictures; I'll provide the war." That constitutes his greatest *tour de force*, and, incidentally, one of the most notorious examples of Machiavellianism in modern history. To gain a paltry end he gladly sets going the vast press organisation under his control to stir up internecine conflict or international distrust. Witness his virulent attack on the London *Times* and England generally during the late municipal elections in New York. This little skirmish, however, was too reminiscent of the ant and elephant dispute to kindle more than a contemptuous laugh. But his continued efforts to generate bad feeling between Great Britain and the United States should elicit universal condemnation. Mr. Hearst's motive in the propaganda is somewhat in mystery. He accuses Great Britain of intriguing against America in the Philippines; he perceives a direct menace to his country in the Anglo-Japanese alliance; in short, he pretends to be convinced that America's one bitter, remorseless, unscrupulous enemy is England. At least he can claim merit for the discovery, since no one else has hit upon this, according to Mr. Hearst, great truth.

Almost daily his obedient ebullitions seethe with vitriolic malevolence against unhappy Britain. Every amicable speech delivered by a representative of the hated race is construed into rank hypocrisy, serving merely to gloss over the deep-rooted detestation in which America is held by England. It is quite unnecessary to produce evidence in favour of this dogma. The infallible Hearst has said it and his three chief disseminators of false news, at New York, Chicago and San Francisco,—a mendacious line across the States,—continue to distil the insidious poison into those credulous enough to swallow the dose.

But, having discovered the deadly peril threatening his country, was Mr. Hearst backward in coming to the rescue. No! With that ease of statesmanship which enables him to unhesitatingly move the pawns of nations upon the international chess-board he hurls himself into the breach, with a counter thrust against perfidious Albion. Let the United States instantly conclude a defensive and offensive alliance with Germany, with whom the most tender and sentimental relations have always prevailed. He discovers, and almost becomes lachrymose with affectionate feeling, that Germany adores America; these beautiful felicitations being glowingly reciprocated. It goes without saying that Germany will immediately see the immense advantages of allying herself with a nation which possesses the omniscient Mr. Hearst and his saffron-hued myrmidons.



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The endorsement of the proposal by Professor John W. Burgess, the eminent publicist, at Chicago, is the only serious support that has so far been lent the suggestion. Certainly there are many mutual interests extant of Germany and the United States, but these are microscopic compared with those existing between the latter country and Great Britain. Moreover, the project will suffer by reason of its source, as no sane person could conceive of Mr. Hearst calmly and judiciously launching a movement from purely disinterested motives. His patriotism comes under the category of that species characterised by Dr. Johnson. His news organs exist for the sole purpose of his own personal aggrandisement, or for furthering by questionable means the interest of whatever political organisation his vacillating views agree with for the brief moment. His perfect genius for abusing opponents, his mellifluous flow of slanderous vituperation hurled at one and all who refuse to accept as gospel his *obiter dicta*, have degraded American journalism before the world, or at least before those who are foolish enough to take the Hearst newspapers as a criterion of American journalism.

Whether a German-American alliance will become an actuality remains to be seen. It is sufficient that the proposal has resulted in one more exhibition of mean-spirited malice on the part of Mr. Hearst, and it makes even the most liberty-loving American wish that some system of press censorship could be introduced into the United States, in order to summarily extinguish the power which the apostle of yellow journalism so grossly misuses.

MOST REPREHENSIBLE.

They never know when to stop in the United States. For instance, a bomb, recently placed in the First National Bank at Kansas City incommodes several customers by exploding in the rush hour. This sort of thing is superfluous.

DESERVED PUNISHMENT.

"Ever been to Siberia?" asked the reporter. "Yes," said the eminent Russian refugee, moving uneasily in his chair, "I took a knouting there only last summer."

WHERE NEW FACES ARE RARE.

A correspondent, writing from Kyre, Tenbury, to a Manchester paper, says:—"The following record of long service with the same employer may interest your readers:—Balliff, 50 years; housekeeper, 44 years; head gardener, 35 years; lady's maid, 35 years; carpenter, 25 years; woodman, lifelong; mason, lifelong; keeper, 25 years; labourer 45 years; and five other labourers with service varying from 17 to 31 years. All these people are still in my employment."

ENGLISH NEWS.

GERMAN INSTRUCTION IN THE SCHOOLS.

That Great Britain is awake to the important place taken by German amongst European languages is evidenced by a report from London concerning the annual meeting of the Association of Modern Languages.

An earnest discussion took place regarding the necessity of instructing school-children in the German language. At the close of the argument a resolution was passed in favour of such instruction for the pupils of all schools, and steps will doubtless be taken to ensure the carrying out of the proposal.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR.

Answering an enquiry by the Japanese *chargé d'affaires*, says a Washington telegram, State Secretary Root said that the news of the appointment of Baron Takahira, present Japanese Ambassador in Rome, as successor to Viscount Aoki at Washington had been received with much gratification.

THE RAILWAY CRISIS.

According to a St. Paul (Minn.) telegram receivers have been appointed for the Chicago and Great Western Railroad.

CONGRESS AND THE CURRENCY.

Mr. Fowler, the Chairman of the Committee of the House of Representatives for the currency of the banks, brought in a Bill on Wednesday which the Committee had drafted with the object of making the currency more elastic.

TARIFF REVISION IN THE SENATE.

Senator Warner has proposed the appointment of a Committee of three members for the purpose of revising the tariff.

NEW YORK HOTEL TRAGEDY.

According to a New York despatch a sensational tragedy occurred on Monday in an hotel situated at the junction of Seventh Avenue and Fifty-second-street. A servant, unable to obtain any reply to his knocking, entered a bedroom occupied by an English gentleman, and found him stretched on the floor with a bullet through the head. A doctor, who was immediately summoned, had no hesitation in pronouncing the case to be one of suicide, and this view was borne out by the contents of a number of letters which were found in the deceased's possession.

When taking up his residence at the hotel a few days ago, the deceased gave the name of Harry Grey Duberly, and gave the manager to understand that he was the son of a British officer, and a cousin of Earl Grey. In the pockets was the sum of five cents, and it is assumed that poverty was the motive.

Several letters, however, were left behind, which may help to elucidate the mystery. The first is addressed to the deceased's father, and contains many wild and incoherent charges against his parent. And another, couched in similar wild terms, is addressed to "Aunt Ellen," the Hon. Mrs. Hugh Wynne Mostyn, Buckworth Rectory, Huntington. This lady is the wife of Canon the Hon. Hugh Wynne Mostyn, Rector of Buckworth. There is also a packet, which is carefully sealed and has not been opened by the police, which is addressed to Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada, Government House, Ottawa. A fourth missive bears the name of a lady living at Melbourne Park, Bedford, and finally there is a letter addressed to a Miss Annie Hampspere, of Niagara Falls. On the envelope of this last letter the deceased had gummed a tiny strand of woman's hair, afterwards sticking the stamp over it in order to ensure it not being torn away.

Immediately the authorities were made aware of these facts, they communicated with Earl Grey at Ottawa, but in the evening a telegram was received from his Lordship, denying any knowledge of any individual bearing the name given above.

The tragedy, therefore, remains for the present a mystery, but the police are in possession of several important facts, and have communicated with more than one person from whom they expect shortly to receive further facts bearing upon the identity and past life of the unfortunate suicide.

THE BROWNSON INCIDENT.

The publication of the correspondence respecting the dispute over the command of the hospital ship "Relief" was due, says the *Globe*, to the action of President Roosevelt. Copies of the documents were given to the reporters who have the entrée to the