

The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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Strasse 5, I.
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1755.

THE FIRST DAILY PAPER IN ENGLISH PUBLISHED IN GERMANY.

№ 635.

DRESDEN AND BERLIN, SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1908.

10 PFENNIGS.

The Daily Record is delivered by hand in Dresden, and may be ordered at any Post Office throughout the German Empire. It is published daily, excepting Mondays and days following legal holidays in Dresden.

Monthly Subscription Rates: For the whole of Germany and Austria, mark 1.— For other countries, marks 2.50.

GENERAL NEWS.

ENGLISH NEWS.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

At the conclusion of Friday's sitting Mr. Asquith, Chancellor of the Exchequer, made the following statement: "It is a fact that Lord Tweedmouth received a letter on February 18 from the German Emperor. It was a purely private and personal communication couched in absolutely friendly terms. Lord Tweedmouth's answer was likewise private and not formal, and neither the letter nor the answer were known or had been communicated to the Cabinet. In view of certain apprehensions which, it appears, are coupled with this incident, I would like to say that the Cabinet had arrived at its final decision in the matter of the Navy Estimates prior to the receipt of the letter."

This communication was received with general applause. Before Mr. Asquith rose a Cabinet council had been held in the House of Commons, at which the subject of the Emperor's letter was very probably discussed.

THE GERMAN EMPEROR'S LETTER.

The following letter appeared in *The Times* on Friday:

(From our Military Correspondent):
"I consider it my duty to ask you to draw the attention of the public to a matter of grave importance. It has come to my knowledge that His Majesty the German Emperor has recently addressed a letter to Lord Tweedmouth on the subject of British and German Naval policy, and it is affirmed that this letter amounts to an attempt to influence, in German interests, the Minister responsible for our Navy Estimates, and a reply to it has been despatched. In these circumstances, and as the matter has become an open secret owing to the number of persons to whom it has, most unwisely and unfortunately, been made known, I venture to urge that the letter in question, together with the reply, should be laid before Parliament without delay."
(Signed) Your Military Correspondent."

Commenting upon the above letter in a leading article, *The Times* says: "After a week spent in the discussion of our defensive preparations, the letter from our Military Correspondent which we publish to-day will cause a shock of painful surprise . . . to the people of this country. The German Emperor holds the honorary rank of Admiral of the Fleet . . . Let it be supposed for an instant that King Edward, who has an equally good excuse for interfering in German affairs, had addressed such a letter, or any letter dealing with departmental questions, to the head of the German naval or military department, how would Germany have taken it? There would have been one unequivocal cry of anger from one end of the country to the other, and the world would have said that Germany was in her rights . . . If the German Emperor has anything to say to this country that may tend to a fair understanding about armaments, he has regular and official channels of communication with His Majesty's Government. . . . This country is now entitled to demand publication of the letter and the reply. There is no privacy in a matter of this kind. Lord Tweedmouth is a public servant, he has been addressed as a public servant, and solely because he is a public servant, and he has been addressed with regard to the management of a vital portion of the nation's affairs. There is no room for anything but the fullest publicity . . ."

The letter and the article of *The Times*, from which we have briefly quoted, has caused a sensation in England, and we give below a number of Press opinions on the subject.

London, March 7. All the morning papers comment on the letter of the German Emperor to Lord Tweedmouth. The *Daily Mail* and *Daily Telegraph* say that all who had read the letter—the general tenor of which was known in certain circles before the letter reached *The Times*—laughed at the conclusion which *The Times* draws from it. The *Daily Telegraph* calls the letter a document of reciprocal utterance written in the tone of one friend to another after the Emperor's visit, and expressing disappointment at the tone of



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STOP PRESS NEWS.

THE EMPEROR'S LETTER; MORE LONDON PRESS OPINIONS.

London, March 7. The *Standard* writes: "Neither the declaration of Mr. Asquith nor the communication from the German Foreign Office can be considered satisfactory or convincing." The *Daily Telegraph* says: "Since we firmly believe that the Emperor had in view only the interests of peace and Anglo-German friendship when he wrote to Lord Tweedmouth, we sincerely hope that in future he will rely more upon the customary apparatus of diplomatic intercourse for the furtherance of these laudable objects." The *Morning Post* says: "Neither the House of Lords nor the Commons are likely to demand the publication of this letter, which can only have been written in consequence of a perfectly natural misunderstanding of the position held by a British Minister. Such a demand would imply a censure on His Majesty, which is quite beyond the authority of Parliament. Parliament, however, may be right in holding that the Government must take extraordinary diplomatic steps in order to acquaint the Emperor of the actual position of Ministers in England."

CHINO-JAPANESE DISPUTE.


Pekin, March 7. *Reuter's Bureau*. Japan has handed an ultimatum to the head of the Chinese Foreign Office in the matter of the seizure of the S. S. "Tatsu-Maru." The Foreign Office met in conference today.



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the criticism of the German navy. The *Daily Mail* writes: "The personal relations which find expression in the letter make its publication improbable." The parliamentary correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* writes: "There is no disposition on the side of the Opposition to make capital out of the Kaiser's letter. All parties regret, not only the want of prudence that allowed the fact of the receipt of the letter to become known, but also the malevolently sensational tone of the article in *The Times*."

Lord Courtney writes to *The Times* expressing his hope that the letter will be published, although he admits that the Emperor has the right to refuse his consent to the publication. The Emperor may well have written the letter in the interests of international peace. As long as he, Lord Courtney, did not know the contrary, he would not believe that the letter was an attempt to impose upon England. The *Westminster Gazette* writes: "We regard it as a general principle that it is unusual for a ruler to enter into correspondence with the Ministers of another Power; but the German Emperor in the whole manner of his proceedings is informal, and, whatever the true history of this last instance may be, we do not for a moment believe that the Kaiser wished to meddle with our Estimates. The occurrence indicates, however, that there has been a betrayal of confidential matters, which is much to be deplored. *The Times* informs us that an Emperor who writes a private letter is not justified in claiming the courtesy that is due to persons of less exalted station. We venture to think differently, and can only express our deep regret that the Emperor is the victim of a proceeding which we, to use the mildest terms, must call an amazing indiscretion on the part of a presumably responsible person."

(Continued on page 4.)



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