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The Daily Record

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Strasse 5, 1.
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1755.

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

THE FIRST DAILY PAPER IN ENGLISH PUBLISHED IN GERMANY.

No 650.

DRESDEN AND BERLIN, FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 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.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO GERMANY.

Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales reached Cologne at 8 o'clock yesterday evening.

It is officially reported from London that the rumour of King Edward's intention to visit the Landgrave of Hesse this Spring is quite devoid of truth. No such visit is contemplated. It can, however, be stated with certainty that the present travelling programme of King Edward includes a visit to Copenhagen and Christiania during the latter part of April, after which he will return to London, the probable date being May 4. No change, therefore, has taken place in the original itinerary, according to which His Majesty will meet Queen Alexandra in Paris and travel with her to Denmark and Norway.

A telegram just to hand from Stockholm says that the Swedish Court has received a communication to the effect that the King and Queen of England, with Princess Victoria, intend to pay the Court a visit on April 26.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE NEW U. S. AMBASSADOR IN BERLIN.

After a conference between the German Ambassador, Baron Speck von Sternburg, and State Secretary Root, it was announced at Washington yesterday that a communication is on the way from Berlin welcoming on behalf of the German Government the decision to appoint Dr. D. J. Hill as the successor to Mr. Charlemagne Tower as United States Ambassador in Berlin.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S LATEST MESSAGE.

According to a Washington telegram President Roosevelt has sent a special message to Congress, which is phrased in moderate terms. In the message the President repeats his former wishes respecting a law as to child labour, at least for the District of Columbia, a law as to employers' liability, and a law enforcing arbitration in trade and labour disputes. The message then enjoins Congress to so improve the existing laws regulating interstate commerce and Trusts as to place such agreements regarding this trade under Government control. The President further states that the anti-Trust law in its present form makes the combination of farmers and labourers illegal, and proposes that breaches of this law by corporations shall become superannuated after one year. The message emphasises the necessity for immediate financial legislation, but does not specify what form such legislation should take. It further declares in favour of postal saving banks, states that the time for tariff revision has come, and proposes that a commission be formed by the present Congress to collect material on these subjects which could be laid before the next Congress, so that it would be possible to take the matter up without delay. Finally, the President requests Congress to form a permanent commission for waterways.

A further telegram from Washington states that the President's special message remarks that one item of tariff revision could be taken in hand immediately, namely, that to protect the home forests; wood pulp should be placed on the free list, and that cellulose paper coming from countries which do not impose an export tariff thereon should be subject to a reduction of duty.

THE SITUATION IN HAYTI.

The situation in Hayti, says a Port au Prince telegram, shows signs of improvement. Five officers who were arrested as conspirators have been released. Some hundred refugees in the German and French legations have been informed by the Government that they can leave the legations and remain unmolested; up to the present, however, the refugees have not taken advantage of this offer as they distrust the integrity of the Government's assurances. Five foreign cruisers still remain in the roads.

THE FESTIVITIES AT VENICE.

Advices from Venice testify to the cordial reception given to the German Imperial guests, and

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there can be no doubt that the visit will have an invigorating effect upon the Triple Alliance.

The Emperor has despatched a telegram to Queen Margherita, expressing his thanks for the hearty reception accorded him by King Victor Emmanuel. At four o'clock on Wednesday afternoon the German Empress visited the church of St. Mark and the Doges' Palace, accompanied by Prince August Wilhelm and Princess Victoria Louise. They were recognised and loudly cheered by the populace. Later the Empress returned to the "Hohenzollern," and received a deputation from the Bucintoro Gondoliers' Union, who presented Her Majesty with a bouquet and shield of honour in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Union's foundation.

The visit of the King of Italy and his Imperial guests to the Palazzo Reale was made in gaily decked state gondolas, whose gondoliers were costumed in historical and fantastic garb. The palaces on the Grand Canal were richly decorated with tapestries and flags, while the Italian warships were covered with bunting from stem to stern. Upon arrival at the Palazzo Reale breakfast was served, toasts being exchanged during the meal between the Sovereigns, who drank to the health of their respective families and allied countries. The Emperor, the Empress, and the Prince and Princess subsequently proceeded on board the "Hohenzollern," and were greeted with salutes.

Later: The Emperor received on board the "Hohenzollern" the German Ambassador, Count von Monts, and the German Consul, Herr Recheiner. His Majesty has conferred Orders and decorations upon many high officers of the Italian Army and Navy. A banquet was served on board the Imperial yacht, the Foreign Minister Tittoni occupying a seat at the Emperor's right hand, the King of Italy and the German Empress being seated opposite. As King Victor boarded the "Hohenzollern" he was received by the Emperor at the accommodation-ladder, the ship's band playing the Italian National Anthem. In the evening the German and Italian warships were illuminated. Hundreds of gondolas in the vicinity of the Imperial yacht gave the Sovereigns an enthusiastic ovation.

Later: The German Emperor, accompanied by King Victor Emmanuel, who called for him at the Imperial yacht, went on a visit of inspection yesterday morning. The Empress also went sight-seeing, and paid a visit to the Giovanelli and Martinengo

palaces. Prince August Wilhelm and Princess Victoria Louise spent the morning in viewing local places of interest.

PRINCE BÜLOW'S SPEECH.

BRITISH AND FRENCH PRESS OPINIONS.

The speech by the German Imperial Chancellor on foreign affairs—as fully reported in our issue of yesterday—has been widely commented upon by the Press of England and France, the most noteworthy remarks of which we give herewith: The *Daily Chronicle* says—"We agree with the statement of Prince Bülow respecting the right of every country to decide upon its own measures of protection, and heartily reciprocate his desire for friendly relations between the two countries. We regret, however, that he alluded to the English proposals regarding Macedonia in terms of such slight favour. Nevertheless, as Prince von Bülow is convinced of the importance of maintaining the Concert, and as the Concert cannot be maintained without justifying its existence by activity, we must hope that in spite of all difficulties an agreement will be reached."

The *Daily Graphic* writes—"We are pleased to have the assurance from Prince von Bülow that the German naval programme has only a defensive object and that the German people is desirous of living on terms of peace and quiet with England. If this assurance is sincerely meant, as we believe, then there is nothing to be feared from the polemic which has threatened the good understanding between Germany and England. England does not dispute the right of Germany to organise her fleet with the object of defending herself."

The *Paris Figaro* says: "We congratulate ourselves upon the happy coincidence that the Imperial Chancellor and Secretary of State have taken up the subject at the same time that the French Chamber is discussing the Morocco credit. The sitting of the *Reichstag* proved that the honesty and sincerity of France is recognised. It is to be hoped that our action in Morocco will not be challenged as long as the economic interests of Germany are not prejudiced. We will guard our rights and thereby respect our obligations and justify the confidence of Europe."

The *Petit Parisien* says: "The expressions of the Imperial Chancellor are worthy of notice on account of their conciliatory tone." The *Gaulois* says that the utterances of the Imperial Chancellor and of the Secretary of State show that Germany maintains its position regarding Morocco. Germany's courtesy, adds the *Gaulois*, is surrounded by well-deliberated limitations, and by no means excludes the continual distrust of the intentions of France. France may continue to spend money and blood in Morocco, and Germany will not complain so long as France works for the *Roi de Prusse*.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA.

Latest reports from Vienna are to the effect that the aged Emperor Franz Josef has completely regained his health. The former slight cold has completely disappeared.

SWEDEN'S MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.

A contest to determine the question of who are the most beautiful women in Sweden was arranged by the *Schwedische Frauenzeitschrift*, and the pictures were submitted to a committee composed of the artists Björck and Zorn. The first prize was awarded to Miss Lundström, who is 16 years old. She is described as having "blue eyes, rich blonde hair, a beautiful complexion, and a perfect figure." The second prize was given to Mrs. Greta Sjöberg, who is the housekeeper of the poet Werner von Heljdenstam, and the third prize was awarded to Miss Gustafson.

A FRENCH HIBERNIANISM.

Walking by the Seine just outside Paris recently, an excursionist noticed on the embankment a tablet indicating the height to which the Seine had risen on one occasion, considerably above high water mark. Rather surprised, the excursionist said to an official standing near: "Surely the Seine never rose that height?" "Oh, no, of course not," replied the latter; "you see, as children were always defacing the tablet, we had to put it higher up, out of their reach."