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# The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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## LOCAL ANGLOPHOBIA.

For some time past complaints have been heard of the Anglophobist tendencies displayed by most of the journals of Dresden. The manner in which the local Press commented upon the trouble on the north-west frontier of India furnished still further evidence that a strongly anti-British feeling permeates the editorial departments of the majority of the Dresden newspapers, a feeling for which it is difficult to find justification and which cannot be too strongly condemned.

The best efforts of sovereigns and others in high places to promote amicable relations between the various nations are fruitless unless such personal endeavours receive the support of the Press. If the example set by the Dresden Press were to be universally followed, it is certain that bitter animosity would be engendered and fostered to the detriment of the peace of Europe.

Incidentally, there are certain circumstances which render the tone of the local Press highly inconsistent. No one can deny that Dresden derives welcome financial benefit from the influx of British and American tourists every season, apart from the permanent colony here, and these are not likely to increase in number when it becomes known that English people are *personae ingratae* in the city. The attitude of the Press is, therefore, not only antagonistic to the cause of international friendship, but it is also very bad business policy. If this fact could be brought home to the responsible heads of those journals which see fit to persistently deride and belittle Great Britain in the eyes of their readers, it would no doubt exercise a salutary influence and result in a change of tactics.

It is not our intention here to dilate upon certain specified articles and comments which have appeared in the local papers and given great offence to English readers; had it not been for the frequency with which they have been published we should have been inclined to regard such utterances as isolated outbursts of spleen on the part of some irresponsible scribe. Unfortunately, however, it is only too evident that such sentiments represent editorial opinion, and the realisation of this fact makes every reasonable person deplore the pernicious manner in which the power conferred by a large circulation is employed.

We do not hold a brief for Great Britain, nor would we seek to limit the scope of friendly criticism which plays such a prominent part in the arena of European politics; but incessant carping and cavilling at anything and everything of British origin can serve no good purpose, while its ultimate effects may be far-reaching and deplorable. That a policy of slander characterized by puerility and childishness should be endorsed by influential and usually dignified journals is a source of wonder and disappointment to unprejudiced observers who justly regard the Press as one of the mightiest powers for good or evil. In the former capacity it has been described as a greater treasure to the people than uncounted millions of gold; in the latter it may be termed a public curse.

Criticism carried too far is liable to degenerate into slander pure and simple, and slander, in the strict meaning of the term, comes under the head of mendacity; but it is a species of mendacity which, like its antithesis, flattery, ought to be set apart for special censure.

Students of contemporary history can point to many instances where an unscrupulous Press campaign has endangered the world's peace, on more than one occasion actually precipitating the cataclysm of war; and in each case, when the public mind which had been agitated to a pitch of frenzy

by the inflammatory newspapers regained its normal condition, the promoters of the Press campaign were held up to opprobrium as self-seeking, unscrupulous demagogues. Ten years ago the United States was entering upon the war with Spain, a war directly brought about by the machinations of a depraved section of the American Press; and the same year, 1898, saw France and England on the verge of hostilities owing to the Fashoda incident being magnified into undue importance by the yellow journals of Paris and London. The events which led up to the Algeiras conference gave another opportunity to sensational organs in Berlin and Paris to exercise their evil influence and nearly embroil two great powers in a sanguinary struggle. These are but three of the most recent examples of the grave peril attending irresponsible journalism, and we commend them to the study of those who are engineering the anti-British agitation in the columns of our local contemporaries.

## GENERAL NEWS.

### NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

#### MR. HALDANE AND HERR DERNBURG.

In the course of a speech delivered at the annual banquet of the Bankers' Association in London on Wednesday evening, at which Herr Dernburg, the German Colonial Secretary, was a guest, Mr. Haldane expressed his gratification at the presence of Herr Dernburg who was shortly leaving for South Africa to study British methods. The British War Minister added that Herr Dernburg was heartily welcome, and that the British Government, in view of their lengthy experience, hoped to have the opportunity of affording him some assistance and showing him all in the way of old colonial civilisation which might be an aid to him.

#### NEW MACEDONIAN BLUEBOOK.

A new Blue Book on Macedonian affairs was published on Wednesday. It covers the period from the 28th of January 1907 to the 18th of April 1908 and treats in detail of the movements of the brigand bands and their crimes, and of the representations made from time to time to the Powers by the British Government. A letter from the Consul General at Saloniki, Mr. Lamb, to the Chargé d'Affaires in Constantinople, dated Saloniki the 20th of March 1908 gives a return of the murders and other crimes in each month. According to that return the total in February was somewhat greater than in the other months, but the total in January 1907 is double that in February of the same year. Consul General Lamb states that the Bulgarian committees in the district of Kastoria were beginning to show a noticeable activity again. The crimes committed by Bulgarians against non-Bulgarians showed, however, a considerable decrease. There were many signs of disorganisation among the bands owing to differences of opinion between the leaders. The Greeks had made themselves conspicuous chiefly by the killing of cattle in Ayiyani and the murder of two old women and two children. The Wallachian organisations were quiet again. The Servians had only added one remarkable deed of blood to their catalogue of crimes. There seemed, however, reason to believe that that calm was only accidental and temporary.

#### ANOTHER JOURNALISTIC "TRIUMPH."

We have frequently drawn the attention of our readers to the vagaries of the Harmsworth newspapers, and the latest achievement of the London

*Evening News* is reminiscent of the proud boast made by one of its relations that "we publish all the news a day in advance." The other day the *Evening News* proudly flaunted the fact that it was out first with the tragic news of the collision between H. M. S. "Gladiator" and the American liner "St. Paul," and thus beat its contemporaries out of hand. Unfortunately, however, the news it published was that the "St. Paul" was run down by the "Gladiator," that "so great was the force of the collision that the liner heeled over, and is now lying on its side," and that "the cruiser stood by and rendered all the assistance it could." In the way of early and exclusive news, therefore, this looks like being one of the most brilliant achievements of modern times, and promises so much for the future that one of these fine evenings we expect our enterprising contemporary will announce that the moon is made of ripe green stilton, and that its inhabitant is the *Daily Mail's* special correspondent in the celestial regions.

#### A POLITICAL CANARD DENIED.

When almost concurrently with the death of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman it was announced that Mr. Balfour was suddenly confined to his room with a bad cold, certain members of the House smiled cynically, and hinted at a "diplomatic illness" for the purpose of getting over an awkward situation. It was said that the personal relations between the Leader of the Opposition and the late Premier were not of a very cordial character, and that consequently Mr. Balfour preferred to take no part in the eulogium of the dead statesman. We are in a position to state that there is not an atom of foundation for this suggestion. Mr. Balfour had the warmest personal regard for his old rival, and on learning of his death he wrote an affectionate letter of sympathy to the nearest relatives.

#### NELSON AND THE ENTENTE CORDIALE.

For some months hence, says a London correspondent, with the opening of the great exhibition at Shepherd's Bush, we are likely to have an overdose of *entente cordiale*, and though we would be the last to put a drop of bitterness into the cup, it is interesting to remember what the hero of Trafalgar once wrote. This: "I hate a Frenchman; they are equally the objects of my detestation whether Royalists or Republicans; in some points, I believe, the latter are the best." Nelson was a tremendous hater—if a very bad grammarian! To the Duke of Clarence, he wrote that he considered it his greatest duty "to serve the King and destroy the French. Down, down with the — French villains!" But if he were alive now he would no doubt be the first to extend the right hand of welcome to M. Fallières and his *confrères*. France has greatly changed in a century, and Nelson was every inch a gentleman.

#### REVIVAL MEETINGS AND INSANITY.

From the answer to a question recently addressed in the House of Commons to the Home Secretary, it appears that the yearly average number of patients admitted into county and borough asylums, registered hospitals, naval and military hospitals, state asylums and licensed houses in England and Wales during the five years 1902 to 1906, whose insanity was stated to be due to religious excitement, was 137 males and 197 females, making a total of 334. Perhaps Mr. Gladstone will direct the attention of the Lunacy Commissioners to some of those horrible "revivalist" missions now being conducted in various parts of Great Britain.

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