

Berlin Office:
W., Potsdamer
Strasse 10/11.
Telephone:
VI 1079.

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A., Struve
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Telephone:
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THE GERMAN MUNICIPAL VISIT TO ENGLAND.

The Mayors and other municipal authorities of South German towns at present visiting England are receiving a very hearty reception from representative Englishmen, and the visit cannot fail to result in a further improvement in the understanding between the two countries. It may be doubted whether even royal visits have such a substantial effect in cementing feelings of international friendship, for in such cases the personal element furnishes the chief source of interest; but a party consisting of shrewd business men represent to a greater degree popular opinion in the country of their origin.

Taken in conjunction with the recent journey to England made by a similar municipal assembly from cities of North Germany, it is highly probable that this latest visit will do much towards finally eradicating the doubts entertained in both countries respecting community of interests, doubts which, unfortunately, are fostered by a section of the German and British Press for certain ulterior motives known only to themselves.

The following details of the festivities in London are contained in telegrams to hand yesterday:

The party of South German mayors visited Westminster Abbey on Monday and also the Guildhall, where they were greeted by the City aldermen. After an inspection of the library, the museum, and the art gallery, breakfast was served in the Grocers' Hall.

The Houses of Parliament were next visited and the company were received by Mr. Haldane, Lord Avebury, Mr. Henniker-Heaton, and other notabilities, and after apologising for the unavoidable absence of the Prime Minister, Mr. Haldane greeted them in the name of the Government. He expressed his pleasure at their presence and declared that many bonds existed between Germany and Great Britain. The German Emperor had recently honoured England with a visit, and the welcome accorded him in London came directly from the hearts of the people. The bonds between the two countries were chiefly of an intellectual nature; Germany read and revered Shakespeare, while the English nation respected Germany on account of her deeds in the sphere of industry and mental culture. But there were other affinities: Germany, as well as England, had undertaken the spread of civilisation in distant parts of the earth, and was acquitting herself of this task in the interests of peace and progress. The two nations had embarked upon a policy of colonisation not entirely in their own interests, but for the world at large, and in pursuance of this policy they must proceed hand in hand. Mr. Haldane concluded by saying: "We have worked together in the past, let us do so still more closely in the future."

In reply, the Oberbürgermeister of Munich said: "It would be a dire mistake to conclude from the peaceful if energetic competition in economic spheres and from certain measures taken by the German Empire to protect its rapidly developing commerce—following, within modest limits, the example set by Great Britain—to conclude from this, I say, that there exists any enmity in Germany against your magnificent Fatherland. The history of the past thirty-seven years has given ample proof of what a united German Empire can do towards the maintenance of peace. All the shedding of blood whereby England gained glorious victories on German soil might have been spared; the complete stagnation of commerce in Europe by the activity of Napoleon I. which had the effect, in spite of the

heroic feat of Nelson at Trafalgar, of impeding the march of English industry for a decade, might have been averted had not England's natural ally, Germany, been so helpless and impotent. In view of these facts brought home to us by history, the teacher of the people, it appears incompatible with reason to imagine that England and Germany—for whose combined activity there is ample room, whose political interests clash at no point—could become estranged on economic grounds. Would that my words were not confined to this hall but could resound far beyond its walls, receiving the attention they merit as an expression of warm-hearted, honest German sentiment."

In the evening a banquet was arranged in honour of the visitors at which Sir John Gorst presided. Ninety-five guests were present, including all the London mayors and many from the provinces. The greatest cordiality characterised the affair. Sir John Gorst, proposing the health of the German Emperor, said that His Majesty had always guarded the legitimate interests of his people, and that he recognised in peace the most beneficent course for his nation. Whenever he (Sir John) visited Germany, he always returned with the firm conviction that German schools rather than German warships constituted a danger to England. Mr. Rufus Isaacs, K. C., M. P., followed with a speech in which he laid stress upon the tremendous progress made by German municipalities in the care of their poor, and concluded by emphasising the good relations existing between the two countries. Replies were made by the Bürgermeister of Frankfurt and of Munich, both of whom acknowledged the value of such visits as those recently exchanged between Great Britain and Germany. Among the other speakers were the Bürgermeister of Heidelberg and Mr. C. A. Niessen, C. V. O., British Consul at Cologne.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

At the sitting on Monday Mr. Bowerman (*Lab., Deptford*) asked whether it was true that the Armour Company of Chicago wished to increase its capital by a million sterling in order to establish shops in London and the provinces for the direct sale of their meat products to consumers, and so to avoid the market dues in Smithfield Market, and whether the Government intended to take preventive measures against that plan, which would destroy the trade of English slaughterers and purveyors.

The President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Winston Churchill, said in reply that he had heard from the Armour Company that they had no desire to raise new capital and no intention of establishing retail shops in London or in the provinces.

The second reading of the Education Bill was then moved by Mr. McKenna, formerly President of the Board of Education but now First Lord of the Admiralty, who said that the Government earnestly desired that a settlement should be reached. The debate is to last three days.

THE INDIAN FRONTIER FIGHTING.

According to advices from the front, the troops engaged in the operations against the Mohmands are suffering severely from the intense heat and lack of water. Twelve men of the 59th Seinde Rifles were incapacitated on Saturday. During the night a heavy thunderstorm broke over the district and gave the enemy an opportunity of attacking

the British force. On two occasions it was necessary to bring up reinforcements, and the casualties were nine killed and ten wounded. By order of General Willcocks, the native villages through which the expedition passes are burned, and all the provisions of which use cannot be made by the troops are destroyed. The Munster Fusiliers are suffering from an outbreak of cholera, and have so far lost twenty-one men. In consequence of the epidemic this regiment has been unable to proceed to the front.

Later: The India Office has received a despatch from General Willcocks to the effect that twenty-seven men of the Royal Munster Fusiliers have so far died of cholera.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THAW STILL IN CUSTODY.

The patience of Harry Thaw's friends is being severely tried, as judgment in the proceedings at Poughkeepsie, N.Y., for his release has not yet been pronounced and he is still in custody. Thaw's bearing during the case was one of absolute dejection, and when called by Attorney Jerome he stepped up with shaking limbs and chattering teeth; his face was pallid with fear, and he gazed at his interlocutor with a countenance devoid of expression. His answers were lacking in lucidity, and he constantly repeated phrases which had evidently been learned by heart. When asked by Mr. Jerome whether he would submit to examination by six alienists, Thaw was shouted at by his counsel not to answer. The presiding judge decided that the prisoner and his counsel might consult over this question, and after an hour's deliberation it was announced that the examination might take place provided it was strictly confined to Thaw's person and had no reference to the murder trial. Mr. Jerome refused these conditions, and Thaw was thereupon taken back to the asylum. Judgment will probably be pronounced on May 25.

PROTEST AGAINST ARMAMENTS.

The National Union of Manufacturers held a meeting at New York yesterday, in the course of which a resolution was passed condemning the heavy expenditure on the army and navy and demanding an immediate revision of the tariff.

FATAL EXPLOSION AT KRUPP WORKS.

On Monday morning an explosion occurred in the laboratory on the Krupp firing ground at Essen, through which two workmen were killed, an engineer and several other workmen being injured. The cause of the disaster is not yet known.

Further advices state that the fire brigade after great exertions were able to extricate all the men from the ruins of the laboratory. Three of the men immediately succumbed to their wounds, and seven were conveyed to the hospital suffering from severe injuries. In the laboratory, which was subterranean, picric acid was stored together with other chemicals, and further explosions are feared. The catastrophe was owing to the explosion of a shell during experiments with a new explosive.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA.

The Vienna *Korrespondenz Wilhelm* learns that the usual Imperial audience on Monday last was countermanded in order to save the Emperor from fatigue, as he intends to take part in the forthcoming festivities. His Majesty is in the best of health, and for some weeks past his strength and appetite have been satisfactory.

(Continued on page 2.)