

DRESDEN

The Mezzofantibund (a German foreign language society). The second general meeting of this society took place at Whitsuntide at the Kurhaus in Wiesbaden. The members present included delegates and representatives from Augsburg, Berlin, Breslau, Chemnitz, Dresden, Erfurt, Leipzig, Görlitz, Munich, Weimar, Wiesbaden, Vienna, and Innsbruck, as well as from the two foreign societies: the Polyglott Club, London; and the Gerole Polyglott Club, Brussels.

The general meeting discussed the following subjects: the organisation of foreign language societies in Germany; the organ of the Foreign Language Union, "Weltwarte"; the attitude of the Union with regard to Esperanto, and all the arrangements for promoting the study of languages, such as "Austausch" lectures, and vacation courses. The voting for the officers of the society resulted in the election of Herr Meger, of the Munich Sprachverein, as Chairman; of Herr Eismann, of Weimar, as Vice-chairman; of Herr Morgenstern, of Wiesbaden, as General Secretary; of Herr Mirz, of Wiesbaden, as cashier; and of Herr Adler, of Chemnitz, as Assistant Secretary. The Executive Committee is assisted by an advisory committee of twelve members chosen from the members of the Union at large. When the business of the meeting was concluded, the members made an excursion to the Neroberg and by steamer to St. Goar and the Niederwald monument. The organisation for general purposes is permanently assured by the settlement of the rules. The next general meeting of the Mezzofantibund will be held at Leipzig 1909.

Grand Art Exhibition Dresden 1908. In order to make the art treasures of the Exhibition as generally accessible to the public as possible, the Management has decided to issue tickets of admission for Societies at 50 pfennigs each person, under conditions which are set forth in a circular that has been forwarded to Societies. Under the same conditions tickets will henceforth be issued to children under 12 years at 25 pfennigs each. The programme of amusements for the next few weeks will include a number of special arrangements, the most important of which will be a Japanese fête lasting three days; this will be held early in July. —On Wednesday the music will be provided by the Dresdner Vereins-Orchester, conducted by Kapellmeister Büttner-Tartier. The fireworks, supplied and carried out by Herr Leibnitz, of the Kreuzdrogerie, will include, besides the usual show pieces, a giant waterfall, brilliant lake "glories," and Chinese turbines. There will be an extensive illumination as well. In the model theatre, the Fairy Garden from the opera "Oberon" is being shown. The programme of the exhibition cinematograph is very attractive. The balloon Autodrom is also well patronized, with its aerial and automobile rides.

The silhouette artist Bräuer is kept fully occupied. —To meet the wishes of visitors to the Exhibition the Management has decided to give another display of fireworks today, which will include some beautiful designs. The number of visitors on Sunday was very large, and the "Vergnügungspark" was thronged.

The programme for this evening's concert at the Belvedere is as follows:

- (1) American life, March, Rost. (2) Overture: "Rosamunde," Schubert. (3) Réverie, Vieuxtemps. (4) "Künstlerleben," walse, Strauss. (5) Finale, from: "Ariele die Tochter der Luft," Bach. (6) Souvenir de Moskou, for violin and orchestra, Wieniawsky. (7) Tonbilder from: "Das Rheingold," Wagner. (8) Overture: "Mignon," Thomas. (9) "Schlummerlied," for two violins and orchestra, Ersfeld. (10) Monte Christo, walse, Cotlar. (11) Quadrille Suisse, Litt.

At the Central Theatre today, *Der Hausfreund*, a comedy in three acts by R. de Flers and G. de Caillavet, German by B. Jacobson, will be given for the last time but two.

On Saturday next Herr Albert Bozenhard, of the Hamburg Thalia-Theater, will begin his this year's engagement by playing the title-rôle in *Der Teufel*, a piece in three acts by Franz Molnar, which has been for some time under rehearsal. The sale of tickets in advance, at the usual prices, takes place daily at the office in the theatre from 10 a. m.

Maiden trip of a North German Lloyd Liner: The new large passenger steamship of the North German Lloyd "Prinz Friedrich Wilhelm" of 18,000 tons which left Bremen for New York via Southampton and Cherbourg June 6th, arrived after a remarkably speedy trip June 15th at 2 a. m., thus covering the whole distance in 8 days 20 hours including the stops in Southampton and Cherbourg.

The guards in the city today are furnished by the Schützen Regiment No. 108. The band plays about 12.40 p. m. at the Schloss Platz.

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DRESDEN CURRENT ENTERTAINMENTS.

Royal Opera House.

Tonight, beginning at 6.30, ending about 10.30

Lohengrin.

Opera in three acts by Richard Wagner.

Cast:

Heinrich der Vogler, German King	Herr Rains.
Lohengrin	Herr Burrian.
Elsa von Brabant	Fräul. van Dresser.
Herzog Gottfried, her brother	—
Friedrich von Telramund, Brabantie Count	Herr Plaschke.
Ortrud, his wife	Frau v. Falken.
A Herald of the King	Herr Perron.
Brabantie nobleman	(Herr Erl.
	Herr Engelhardt.
	Herr Büssel.
	Herr Nebuschka.
	Fräul. Keldorfer.
	Fräul. Kretschmer.
	Frau Scheer.
	Frau Lorenz.

PLOT. Elsa of Brabant is accused by Count Telramund of having murdered her young brother Godfrey. King Henry decides the matter must be left to the arbitration of a duel. Elsa prays that a knight she has seen in a dream, may come to her help, and Lohengrin appears in a boat drawn by a swan. He offers to be Elsa's champion on condition that she will marry him, but never attempt to find out his name or origin. She accepts and Telramund is defeated. He and his wife Ortrud plan vengeance; the latter on plea of repentance, sows mistrust in Elsa's heart and then publicly upbraids her on the church steps for marrying a nameless man. The marriage takes place, but on the very first evening her curiosity overcomes her and she puts the fatal question. Telramund enters to assassinate Lohengrin, but the latter kills him. In front of the assembled host Lohengrin announces that he is the son of Parsifal, and that he had been sent to Elsa's help by the Holy Grail. He takes leave of Elsa. The swan appears, but in answer to Lohengrin's prayer, dives beneath the water and in its stead rises the lost Godfrey, whom Ortrud had by witchcraft turned into a swan. The boat, now drawn by a white dove, glides away with Lohengrin and Elsa sinks senseless to the ground.

Composer: Richard Wagner, born 1813, died 1883.

Thursday night	Oberon	at 7.30
Friday night	Maurer und Schlosser	" 7.30
Saturday night	La Bohème	" 7.30
Sunday night	Undine	" 7.30
Monday night	Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg	" 6

Royal Theatre Neustadt.

Tonight	Flachsman als Erzähler	at 7.30
Thursday night	Die Jungfrau von Orleans	" 7
Friday night	Rose Bernd	" 7.30
Saturday night	The Importance of being Earnest	" 7.30
Sunday night	Die Braut von Messina	" 7
Monday night	Hedda Gabler	" 7.30

Residenz Theatre.

Tonight	Ein Walzertraum (Mila Theren)	at 7.30
Thursday night	Ein Walzertraum (Mila Theren)	" 7.30
Friday night	Ein Walzertraum (Mila Theren)	" 7.30
Saturday night	Ein Walzertraum (Mila Theren)	" 7.30

Central Theatre.

Tonight	Der Hausfreund	at 8
Thursday night	Der Hausfreund	" 8
Friday night	Der Hausfreund	" 8
Saturday night	Der Teufel	" 8

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THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT AND THE MEDITERRANEAN.

By John Bull.

It is impossible to remain blind to the fact that there is a rapidly-growing feeling both in and outside the British Army and Navy that Mr. Haldane allowed himself to be betrayed into a very serious error of judgment when he relegated His Majesty's soldier brother to a distant appointment, which is a pretence and an infinitely absurd one to boot, contrived with the object of providing the Duke of Connaught with a billet sufficiently far away from Whitehall. For it is a matter of common knowledge in service circles that His Royal Highness did not wish to take up the newly-invented post of High Commissioner of the Mediterranean, and King Edward had no desire to see his brother relegated to so distant a sinecure. The Duke of Connaught's place is in England. But then he would be in the way of the faddists, the doctrinaires, and amateur Schnadhorsts and Abraham Lincoln, who are all ready with a surprising remedy for the ailments of the Army. To Mr. Haldane, to Lord Esher, to Mr. Arnold-Forster—whose bark must still be taken into account—the idea of establishing as actual, instead of purely nominal Chief of the Selection Board at Whitehall, a Royal Prince, who is a thoroughly trained soldier, and who, withal, is a strong and fair man, would be anathema. Nevertheless, it will have to be done. And the return of the Duke to headquarters will

mean the ending of an appointment which, besides being a mere farce, involves many complications in the administration of our great fortresses on the road to India, and contains dangerous potentialities in the matter of touching the *amour propre* of friendly nations who do not yet consider that the tideless sea is an English lake.

The newly-invented military satrapship officially designated as "Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief and High Commissioner of the Mediterranean," possesses not one single claim in favour of efficiency that could warrant its constitution. On the other hand, its disadvantages to the public service are so many and so self-evident, that its existence for the last five months shows only too clearly that almost any monstrous abuse may be perpetrated at the expense of the British taxpayer. To make the matter plain, the troops controlled by it are the garrisons of our great places of arms—Gibraltar and Malta, the Army of Occupation in Egypt, and the force that holds Cyprus. Now each and every one of those stations has its own Commander-in-Chief, who, until the arrival of the High Commissioner, used to communicate directly with London. For this has been substituted a new system, calculated to effect no other change than that of an aggravating, and, in times of crisis, positively perilous obstacle in the channels of communication between the Secretary of State for War and the commanders of at least two of our most important outposts.

Just as might be supposed, the appointment of the Duke of Connaught is wrapped up in official

mystery. Thus an official communication was published a few weeks past in the Press, which said "that it has not been considered necessary to define the duties of the new Commander-in-Chief of British troops in the Mediterranean by Order in Council" (for the good reason that it was entirely impossible to arrive at such a definition), but adds that "these duties do not in any respect affect the authority or functions of the Naval Commander-in-Chief." All of which goes to show that the new appointment is, as we said before, a mere farce. Furthermore, it is a farce that involves dangerous potentialities from a political point of view. These are not the times to pursue the stupid policy of pin-pricks where our neighbours are concerned. Yet it is no secret at the Foreign Office that the utterly indefensible style and title of High Commissioner of the Mediterranean is much disliked by the Latin Powers as an extremely *gauche* exhibition of stolid British cheek. No other word better expresses how the matter is regarded abroad. High Commissioner of South Africa, or of anywhere else within British frontiers, all well and good; but High Commissioner of a sea which washes the coasts of France, Spain, and Italy would appear to imply that the fleets of those nations were permitted to cruise in the waters of an English lake. Let, then, the coming presence of the Duke of Connaught in England be made the occasion of putting an end to his unprofitable and undesirable exile in the Mediterranean.