

Berlin Office:
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The Daily Record

Dresden Office:
A. Struve
Strasse 5, I.
Telephone:
1755.

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

THE FIRST DAILY PAPER IN ENGLISH PUBLISHED IN GERMANY.

№ 726.

DRESDEN AND BERLIN, SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 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.

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GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

Last Friday being the day appointed to be kept as the King's birthday, the Courts did not sit.

PAN-ANGLICAN CONGRESS. FINAL SERVICE AT SOUTHWARK.

The final service of the Pan-Anglican Congress was held on Wednesday night at Southwark Cathedral, in the presence of an enormous congregation, every available space being occupied. Between 60 and 70 Bishops were present, most of them wearing their scarlet Convocation robes, and walked in twos in procession down the nave to the choir.

The service began with the hymn, "Now thank we all our God," which was followed by the recital of the Lord's Prayer by the people, the reading of five Collects by the Archdeacon of Southwark (precentor), and an impressive recital of the Apostles' Creed by the vast congregation. The Archbishop of Brisbane (Dr. St. Clair Donaldson) preached the sermon, which was followed by the hymn, "The Saints of God, their conflict past," after which the Bishop of Southwark, from the fald-stool, offered a list of petitions. The General Thanksgiving (with special intention) was said by the congregation, and then the "Te Deum" was sung to Stanford's well-known setting.

The Bishop of Southwark pronounced the Blessing, and the hymn, "The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended," concluded, according to the *Globe*, not the least-beautiful service of the Congress.

EXPENSIVE PICTURES.

On Thursday the sale of the comprehensive collection of modern pictures owned by the late Mr. Stephen G. Holland, commenced at Christie's. The collection contained very fine examples of Gainsborough, Constable, J. Holland, David Cox, Turner, Lord Leighton, Sir E. Landseer, Sir T. E. Millais, and others. Prices ruled very high, and £65,384 11s. were fetched altogether for 125 lots. "Salisbury Cathedral," by T. Constable, R.A., fetched 7,800gs.

For three pictures by Turner there was great competition. The first, entitled "Mortlake Terrace," was sold for 12,600gs. Next came "The Storm," which fetched 5,500gs., and then "The Morning after the Storm," the companion picture, was knocked down at 7,700gs.

PENNY POSTAGE TO THE U.S.

Last Thursday, at the Court of Common Council meeting there were received letters from the American Ambassador and the Postmaster-General in reference to the establishment of penny postage between the United Kingdom and the United States. The Ambassador wrote that the scheme would be beneficial to both nations, and the Postmaster-General stated that he was confident the reform would benefit and still further cement the good feeling between the two nations.

NEWS FROM INDIA.

THE FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

Bombay, June 26.

Sixteen people were killed and 270 injured in the collision on the Bombay-Baroda line.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA.

It is reported from Washington (says the New York correspondent of the *Globe*) that the United States of Colombia has also suspended diplomatic relations with Venezuela, but so far this statement lacks official confirmation. It is hoped in responsible quarters that nothing of the kind has occurred, because it is no part of the policy of the State Department to bring about trouble between the South American Republics. In this particular case the position is rather delicate. President Castro

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has several grievances against his neighbour, and is suspected of a desire to obtain a *casus belli*.

Colombia also is believed to be not unwilling to try conclusions with Venezuela, and is known to have been importing rifles and ammunition since the sharp diplomatic episode of last August. Castro's treasury must be pretty empty just now, and his credit, to put it mildly, cannot be good even here in New York, where he has been accustomed to obtain financial accommodation on terms when hard pressed. The best guarantee against trouble between Venezuela and Colombia used to be the friendly influence which the United States used to exercise at Bogota. But this disappeared several years ago as the result of the machinations, of which the secret history will one day astonish the world, which resulted in the secession of the Colombian State of Panama, and its transformation into an independent Republic under the protection of this country.

The latest newspaper statement on the subject of the Venezuelan mix-up is to the effect that the Washington Government has notified the European Powers having claims against Venezuela that they can now proceed to use force to make them good. This is hardly likely to be correct. It is considered probable, however, that in view of all the circumstances the Washington Government would not interfere in the unlikely event of, say, France sending warships to Venezuelan waters.

GOVERNOR HUGHES' CAR STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

The automobile in which Mr. Charles Hughes, Governor of New York, was driving on Wednesday evening, was struck by lightning. The isinglass screen was shattered, but the occupants escaped unhurt, though badly shaken.

FUNERAL OF EX-PRESIDENT CLEVELAND.

Princeton, New Jersey, June 26.

The burial of Ex-President Cleveland took place here today without any ostentatious display. President Roosevelt was among those who attended the funeral—not in his official capacity, but as a friend of the deceased.

THE RUSSO-CHINESE BANK.

New York, June 26.

The *Associated Press* reports from Mukden that the Russo-Chinese Bank intends, notwithstanding the objection of the Russian ambassador in Pekin, to withdraw from business in that part of Manchuria which is under Japanese influence.

MEXICANS UNFRIENDLY.

New York, June 27.

In agreement with the despatches from Mexico, a telegram from El Paso reports that Mexican insurgents attacked Los Vasas on Friday. The garrison made a vigorous defence. From 40 to 50 men were killed on both sides. The officers' quarters were burnt down. Another attack is feared. A telegram from Mexico city runs: "It is stated in Government circles that the attacks on Vesca, where the prisoners were liberated and the town plundered, as well as those on other towns were made by robbers, and not by insurgents."

HERR DERNBURG IN S. AFRICA.

Kimberley, June 26.

Secretary of State Dernburg arrived here today from Pretoria, and will be the guest of the De Beers Company until his departure for the Victoria Falls on Monday next.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

A GANG OF ROBBERS BROKEN UP.

St. Omer, June 26.

In the trials of members of a gang of marauders who some time ago made life and property unsafe in Northern France, the leaders—two brothers—and two of their men were today condemned to death. Many more of the band, including several women, were sentenced to terms of imprisonment with hard labour.

(Continued on page 6.)