

# The Daily Record

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## GENERAL NEWS.

### NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

#### THE EIGHT-HOUR MINERS BILL.

London, July 6.  
The Eight-Hour Miners Bill was read a second time in the House of Commons today by 390 votes against 120.

#### THE QUEENBORO' CUSTOM HOUSE.

We hear that some Dutch betting men living at Goerz are in the habit of extracting large sums from our gullible Englishmen by means of betting coupons. They distribute these coupons over Great Britain every week. A fortnight ago they sent out 28,000 of them. The envelopes in which they are sent are bought and addressed in Holland, and the coupons printed there, but if they were posted in Holland they would cost 2½d. each, so they send them to England. At first they put the coupon in the envelope in Holland, and packed the envelopes in boxes all ready for stamping and posting, in England. These boxes came from Flushing to Queenboro', where they were opened by Custom House officers. They were stopped by these officials on the ground that the senders were trying to defraud the Revenue. The Dutchmen then packed the envelopes and the coupons separately and sent them over together in boxes as before. These the Queenboro' officials passed without protest. In our opinion this matter calls for a prompt and strict investigation.

#### PRECOCIOUS BRUTALITY.

There is apparently a future before Howell Hughes, a fifteen-year-old Carnarvon boy. A few days ago, says a correspondent, he distinguished himself by tying a cord round the tongue of his father's mare, half the tongue being subsequently found on the floor of the stable. It is seldom one hears of such precocity in brutality; but when the case came before the magistrates the lawyers treated it as if it were a rather pretty little joke on the part of Hughes, Junr. A veterinary surgeon gave evidence to the effect that it would not require much plucking to remove the tongue; not so much as would be necessary in the case of a cow's tongue, for instance. Mr. Allanson (who defended): "Or a lawyer's tongue." Mr. J. T. Roberts: "Yes, lawyers' tongues are rather leathery." It is almost a matter for regret that Hughes, Junr., was not invited by the magistrates to experiment on the tongues of those gentlemen as a physiological illustration of the evidence. The facetious lawyers having finished their observations, "the Bench dismissed the case," and Hughes left the Court without a stain on his character—or any other part of his anatomy. We do not gather that the Bench also passed a vote of thanks to Mr. Hughes, but it may be that before this was done the reporter had closed his notebook in disgust and left the precincts.

#### THE BERESFORD-SCOTT CONTROVERSY.

London, July 7.  
The parliamentary reporter of the *Standard* writes: According to rumours current in the House of Commons yesterday evening, the supposition appears to be justified that the Admiralty, in view of the strained relations existing between the naval authorities and Lord Charles Beresford, Commander-in-Chief of the Channel Fleet, purpose taking a decided step. The *Daily News* opines that the Admiralty will relieve Lord Charles Beresford of his command if he does not retire. Another newspaper states that Lord Charles Beresford, during the fleet exercises in the North Sea last week, gave an order

which, if it had been carried out, would have resulted in a collision between two cruisers; but that Rear Admiral Sir Percy Scott, who was on board one of the two ships, did not carry out the order. (This statement may be taken with a grain of salt of no inconsiderable dimensions.—Ed.)

### NEWS FROM AMERICA.

#### THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

The National Democratic Convention held its first meeting at Denver, Col., yesterday. We have received the following despatch from our New York correspondent:

New York, July 7.

According to an old political custom, the Democratic party holds its convention for electing its candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency after the convention of the Republicans. The Democrat Convention meets today at Denver, Colorado. The delegates exceed in number those who attended the Republican convention, no less than 1,002 having assembled, without including six from the Philippine Islands who will claim to be recognised as delegates. According to the party regulations a candidate must obtain a majority of two-thirds of the votes (in this case the votes must amount to 668). Mr. William J. Bryan, who has already twice suffered defeat as the Democrat flag-bearer, disposes of 727 votes. His candidature therefore seems safe, on the first ballot, if all the political signs are to be trusted. But the movement against him in the ranks of the party has much increased recently, and in widely extended Democrat circles there is a strong feeling in favour of nominating Mr. John A. Johnson, the Governor of Minnesota, who is very popular and an active politician. Many Democrats loudly assert that the boom in favour of Governor Johnson, and of Judge Gray of Delaware, has set in too late to prevent the nomination of Mr. Bryan; but that Bryan, the twice defeated candidate, is an incubus on the party and must be counted as beaten before the election takes place. In the economic crisis, which this time happened under the Republican Government but used formerly to be held up by the Republicans as one of the results of Democrat rule, these prophets see an extremely favourable chance of a Democrat victory. They also claim that the workers are dissatisfied with the Republicans because Congress paid little attention to their demands, and that the negroes are also discontented in consequence of the Brownsville affair, in which an entire coloured regiment was summarily disbanded because the men concerned in a shooting affair were not handed over to the authorities.

Mr. Taft is none too popular with the workers, owing to certain decisions he gave when a Judge of the Federal Court. The President and Mr. Taft sought to placate the Executive of the Workmen's Unions by inserting in their platform the workmen's plank, which aimed at the limitation of prohibitive orders against workmen in cases of disputes between them and their employers. The Democrat prophecies that their party have now the best prospects of winning culminate, however, in the proposition that any outside Democrat candidate will have a chance against Mr. Taft, but that Bryan would have none. The said prophets nevertheless admit that Bryan is the most popular Democrat so far as the mass of the people are concerned.

The Democrat platform, according to present indications, will be the political creed of Bryan himself, and he has long been occupied in shaping the planks of his platform. An idea of that platform is to be gathered from the manner in which he daily picks the Republican platform to pieces

in his newspaper, the *Commoner*. The aim of his comments is to show up the contrasts between the President and his party. The articles are headed: "In Full Retreat." In one place Bryan says: "The President has recommended the income tax as a means of preventing the accumulation of large fortunes and of lightening the burdens of the Government. The Republican platform was silent on the subject. Was the President right in assuming that position? If he was, the Convention was wrong in not assuming it also. Will the Republican voters associate themselves with the President in this righteous demand, or will they follow the Republican organisation in its retreat? The President proposed a legacy duty, but the Republican Convention said not a word on the subject. Was the President too previous for his party in advocating this reform, or has the Republican party retreated from the President's standpoint? Did the President beat the wrong tune for the general advance, or has his party sounded the retreat? In his message to Congress last spring the President complained of conspiracy among the great criminals to defeat the ends of justice and to evade the punishment prescribed by law. The platform adopted by the Republican Convention contains not a single syllable relative to this danger. If such conspiracies exist, the Convention ignored them; if there are any combinations, it had not heard of them; if there is any danger, the Convention did not perceive it. Was the President in error when he issued his challenge, or are the Republican leaders off the track in believing that the public, who have been informed of the challenge, will quietly submit to the marauding magnates?"

#### THE REBELLION IN PARAGUAY.

Buenos Ayres, July 7.

It now transpires that during the insurrection the United States and Italian Embassies at Asuncion suffered from the effects of artillery fire. An official from the U. S. Embassy was despatched with a white flag to remonstrate against the bombardment, but was killed by a shell. The American Ambassador and the Italian Chargé d'Affaires have lodged complaints with the new Government.

#### THE ABRUZZI-ELKINS MARRIAGE.

The Roman journal *Tribuna* asserts that the rumoured breaking-off of the engagement between Miss Catherine Elkins and the Duke of the Abruzzi is a pure invention.

#### GRAF ZEPPELIN'S 70th BIRTHDAY.

Graf Zeppelin, the phenomenal achievements of whose dirigible airship have awakened such widespread interest and discussion, celebrates his seventieth birthday today. Born at Constance on July 8th 1838, Graf Zeppelin was educated at the Realschule and the Polytechnic at Stuttgart, entering the Ludwigsburg military academy in 1855. He received his lieutenant's commission in 1858. He visited America in the course of his military studies and took part in the Civil War, engaging in several battles in Virginia. A captive balloon was attached to the Army of the Mississippi, and in this Graf Zeppelin made his first journey to the clouds. Both in the war of 1866 and the Franco-German campaign Zeppelin took an active part, subsequently retiring from military service in 1891. Since then he has taken an enthusiastic interest in all matters pertaining to the navigation of the air, and the result of his labours was shown by the epoch-making flight of his airship on July 1st, as reported in these columns.

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