

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

# The Daily Record

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A., Struve  
Strasse 5, 1.  
Telephone:  
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## MR. ASQUITH ON PEACE.

During the past week the seventeenth Universal Peace Congress has been sitting at Westminster, and has been conducting valuable discussions on the possibilities of international arbitration. On Friday evening the delegates were entertained at dinner by Mr. Harcourt, the First Commissioner of Works, on behalf of the Government, at the Hotel Cecil, and it fell to the Prime Minister to propose the principal toast of the evening, "The International Peace Movement."

On peace there is nothing new to be said, but there is much that cannot be said too often. Mr. Asquith, in his statesmanlike remarks, brought forward no unexpected arguments which should make disarmament seem at all imminent; but, while he expressed himself in none too sanguine a spirit on the immediate prospect of peace, he certainly gave one or two reasons for believing that some progress had been made towards attaining it. He refuses to believe that increasing armaments tend towards peace or exist purely for ornamental purposes; on the contrary, he believes, as all sensible persons must believe, that the greater the fighting strength of nations the greater must be the danger if a rupture should occur. It was in a spirit of "futile and impotent fatalism" that peace-loving nations increased the strength of their defences. Nevertheless, national security, he said, must always hold the first place in the thoughts and in the plans of those who were responsible for the government of any country. In spite of all difficulties and discouragements, he was able to advert to two or three points where progress had been made. First, of late years there had been a growth of international agreements; secondly, a beginning had been made in "substituting international litigation for the barbarous methods of slaughter and conquest"; thirdly, nations were coming to know and to understand one another.

This is a good beginning and one on which a brilliant future might be built in time and by the exercise of immense patience. It was, however, only fair of Mr. Asquith to point to a few of the drawbacks that beset each of the signs of progress. Agreements are not alliances, and alliances, of which we have not yet purged ourselves, are, as Mr. Asquith says, "sometimes rather hindrances than helps to peace." Between agreements "which seek to avert in advance the possibilities of future conflict" and alliances which are simply self-seeking, Mr. Asquith might have added, there is much treacherous ground on which the most astute diplomacy often slips. Further, international litigation, though a simple aim, is impeded by enormous obstacles. There are questions of establishing a tribunal of admitted authority, of settling on principles of law and procedure acceptable to all the litigants, of pacifying the outraged honour of nations, and an almost insuperable obstacle, of finding some mode of execution which should give real effect to the judgments of the tribunal. From travel and from education there is much to hope. Let us get rid, as Mr. Asquith advises us, "of hereditary antagonisms which it is almost a point of honour to cherish." Finally, let us hope that Mr. Asquith's appeal to the Churches to forward the cause will be taken up with the zeal it deserves.

After all, when the question of peace is reduced to the plainest terms, when every precaution has been taken lest one falls into merely rapid idealism and empty sentimentalities, when probabilities have been weighed unreservedly, there is one conclusion which is inevitable. Peace will be a myth until public opinion is habituated to the conception of international amity as a practicable and profitable state of affairs. That is placing the fine ideal of the peace societies on a somewhat low level, yet it is, we think, the only level to which we can at present hope to advance. Lord Courtney of Penwith pointed out at Friday's banquet that commercial rivalries do not necessarily lead to a condition of war; yet it is precisely over commercial rivalries that war appears most likely to break out, if it breaks out at all. In the elimination of such a danger the spread of public opinion and of international understanding are the most valuable instruments. The work is slow and disheartening, but the peace societies have been persistent and, in a degree, successful. With more funds and a

greater publicity on the part of the peace societies, with more education and with a greater sensitiveness on the part of nations to the evils of war, there is some reason to believe that a mutual guarantee among nations might be more than an ideal in the maintenance of national security.

## GENERAL NEWS.

### NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

#### INTERNATIONAL FREE TRADE CONGRESS.

London, August 4.  
The International Free Trade Congress, to which Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and the United States have sent delegates, was opened here today. Mr. Winston Churchill, President of the Board of Trade, was elected chairman of the assembly, and opened the proceedings with a speech in which, after bidding the delegates welcome, he dwelt on the effects of free trade on international relations. Free trade, he declared, produced peace, unity, and mutual dependence, while a protective policy meant isolation and had other injurious results because tariffs created suspicion, jealousy, ill-will, and disunion among the great nations. Free trade, on the other hand, increased national welfare and strengthened international security. He trusted that the free trade principle would triumph. Three women suffragists, who interrupted Mr. Churchill's speech, were summarily ejected.

### NEWS FROM AMERICA.

#### MARK TWAIN'S NEPHEW DROWNED.

A contemporary reports from New York that Mr. Samuel E. Moffett, a member of the editorial staff of *Collier's Weekly*, and a nephew of Mark Twain, was stricken with apoplexy and drowned at Normandie-by-the-Sea, N. Y., late on Saturday afternoon. His wife witnessed the tragedy.

The sea was running high and a bathing-master cautioned Mr. Moffett, but the latter was an excellent swimmer and went far out. He over-exerted himself. His brother-in-law, Mr. Albert Tallman, and a guard nearly perished in an effort to save him. Mr. Moffett's body was recovered.

Mr. Moffett was forty-seven years old and had been in journalistic and magazine work many years. He was managing editor of the *Cosmopolitan Magazine* in 1902 and had been connected with *Collier's Magazine* since 1904. He was the author of articles on the tariff and financial questions, as well as works in a lighter vein and verses. He was a member of the Players, City, and Reform clubs of New York.

#### THE FOREST FIRE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

New York, August 3.  
The forest fire which originated at Fernie, British Columbia, shows no signs of abating. Three hundred people are now known to have perished, and many thousands are without shelter or provisions. Bridges and railroad lines have been destroyed in all directions, so that the affected district is isolated. Owing to this circumstance it is impossible to forward the aid and provisions so badly needed by the sufferers.

#### DISASTROUS FIRE AT CHICAGO.

Chicago, August 3.  
In consequence of an explosion of some chemicals in the Bullington Dock here today an outbreak of fire occurred, the flames attacking a huge grain warehouse. This was quickly destroyed, together with some hundred railroad freight wagons and two grain elevators, which contained more than half a million bushels of grain. The destroyed property belonged to the Armour Canning Company.

#### COUNT ZEPPELIN AGAIN EN VOYAGE.

Friedrichshafen, August 4.  
Count Zeppelin ascended in his airship at 6.45 o'clock this morning. If this ascent proves successful, the Count intends to undertake the 24 hours endurance trip to Mayence without further delay.

Bale, August 4.

At 9.32 o'clock this morning Count Zeppelin's balloon passed over this city. Beautiful weather prevails, and there is a perfect absence of the least breeze. Observed from below the airship's flight is surprisingly smooth and regular. The local Swiss Despatch Agency received the following post-card from the airship: "From the airship of Count Zeppelin over Bale. All well. Proceeding in the direction of Strassburg. August 4th, 1908. (signed) Count Zeppelin."

Mülhausen, August 4.

Shortly after 10 o'clock this morning the Zeppelin airship was sighted across the Rhine, apparently heading down the river.

Strassburg, August 4.

At ten minutes to 12 the airship of Count Zeppelin arrived at Strassburg. At 12.10 it sailed past the Cathedral, from which flags were flying, and manoeuvred at first lower than the platform; then rising, it passed slowly at a height midway between the platform and the summit of the spire, cheered by thousands of people who crowded the streets, steps, and roofs, and even the chimney-stacks. As the air-ship proceeded in the direction down the river, a card was thrown from it addressed to *Wolff's Telegraph Bureau*, and containing the words: "Over Strassburg. Splendid voyage. Course to Mannheim. 4th of August 1908, 12.10 p.m. Count Zeppelin."

Mazau, August 4.

The Zeppelin air-ship passed the town at 1.30 p.m., along the left bank of the Rhine, amid the cheers of a crowd numbering thousands.

### NEWS FROM FRANCE.

#### THE DISTURBANCES IN PARIS.

Paris, August 4.  
The journal *France Militaire* learns that the Government decided yesterday to order the 31st and 76th Infantry Regiments, which were marching by easy stages from Chalons sur Marne to Paris, to immediately entrain for the capital, in view of the serious situation prevailing there. The regiments arrived in the city last night, and were ordered to hold themselves ready for instant service. Until midnight last night the streets were patrolled by cavalry and infantry. Several unimportant collisions between soldiers and the strikers occurred in the neighbourhood of the Labour Exchange, but no serious disorders were reported. Sixteen persons are still detained in custody in connection with the riots.

Paris, August 4.

During a riot in the Place de la République last night the guests of a café fell upon policemen and soldiers with chairs, tables, and bottles, and a fierce combat ensued. A large number of the participants sustained more or less severe injuries, and the police were kept busy making arrests. Riots also occurred in front of the Labour Exchange, where a police commissioner was wounded in the leg by a bullet. At 8 p.m., however, quiet was restored, most of the troops returning to their barracks.

#### THE CONGO QUESTION.

Brussels, August 3.

A grey-book, just published, contains the Notes exchanged between the Belgian and British and the Belgian and United States Governments with reference to the Congo State. It is interesting to observe that the Belgian Government asserts its confidence that the British Government will not persist in its reserve if it wishes to see the annexation of the Congo by Belgium. The Belgian Government indicates the measures which, in the interests of the natives, should be first adopted; and further declares its readiness, after the annexation of the Congo State and under certain reservations, to take into benevolent consideration every proposal it may receive to refer to arbitration the interpretation of the commercial conventions by which Belgium is bound.

#### HOLLAND AND VENEZUELA.

The Hague, August 3.

Official despatches from the Governor of Curaçoa confirm the orders issued by President Castro with regard to the revocation of the exequaturs of (Continued on page 4.)