

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

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A., Struve
Strasse 5, I.
Telephone:
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THE POLITICAL FIRMAMENT.

(From an English correspondent.)

The journeys of King Edward always cause a stir among the political seers. The art of diplomacy is the closest parallel our age can find to the science of astrology; both are mysteries to the vulgar, both are hedged in with curious superstitions, both are suspected by enlightened spirits among the uninitiated. The difficulty today is to determine on who are the initiated and who are not. Great statesmen like Sir Edward Grey and Prince Bülow, great journalists like the late Mr. Lavino or Professor Vambéry, great powers who move unknown behind the scenes in politics and society—these are figures whose opinion clearly influences the course of events in one direction or another. But of the Babel of unknown voices arising whenever an event of seeming importance shows itself, whose are we to single out as true or just or wise? King Edward meets the Emperor at Cronberg. Well and good; no man can object to that. There is still much to hope when the heads of two alleged unfriendly States spend a day together in obvious cordiality. It is nothing, says one journal; it is an epoch-making meeting, says another; it is the beginning of the limitation of armaments, says a third; it is of small importance, says a fourth, because we cannot expect the King to initiate a policy of his own, and the reduction of navies would certainly be a new policy. Strip all these readings of the heavens of their technical adornments; reduce the matter to a statement of logical certainties; eliminate pious hopes and sentimental digressions. The result often is neither more or less than this, that somebody knows something which somebody else has had from a leading personage and dare not tell it outright. This, at all events, appears to be the Continental practice. In England only one journal has in the past been officially inspired, and then to a limited degree, while it is doubtful whether today it enjoys the same access to the political holy of holies as it enjoyed in years gone by. English newspapers confine themselves to arguing from the facts to probabilities; Continental newspapers diffuse sand and light in equal parts and with a deliberate show of innocence and independence. It is charming to see how consistently the decencies are maintained, and wonderful, to a close observer, how narrowly prophecy follows on experience.

The English people, with its keen instinct for the practical in politics, shows small taste for the cloudy speculations on foreign policy so acceptable to the newspaper public here and elsewhere on the Continent. It is not only that England is isolated, that it has never had the experience of a Napoleon on the Thames, a Frederick in Surrey, or a Charles at Winchester. The old policy of the balance of power is no longer England's, and England has as much interest in Europe, is as much a participator in dangers and benefits as Germany or Austria-Hungary. It is not, therefore, in the "splendid isolation" of British policy that we must seek the cause of the difference in standpoint. That difference is temperamental and traditional. The suggestion that England shrinks from a far-sighted policy will not bear analysis, so that it is not simply to an exaggerated prudence that the reticence of journals and politicians alike must be ascribed. Where steps like the Anglo-Japanese alliance or the Anglo-Russian Convention are taken amid intelligent discussion and enthusiasm, the development of events in Turkey or the effect of royal visits are subjects on which there is reserve and patience. Take the observation a degree further and you get the cardinal principle of an Englishman's well-being, the ancient aphorism on the minding of one's own business. With that key you may unlock the most sacred cabinets in individual and public consciences in England.

Referring to the present situation the *Vossische Zeitung* declares that British policy is not to be affected by any considerations of sentiment. That would have been true had the journal added the words "except British sentiment." The tradition of an England playing arbiter in the quarrels of the world is not dead; it is not even dying. For the present, the tradition is finding expression in the visits of King Edward and in the pacific results to be hoped from a well-balanced ring of friendships.

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For the future there is preparing itself the vast ideal of an Empire too strong to seek war and strong enough to impose peace. Not insolent aloofness, nor interested aloofness can any longer be laid to the charge of British foreign policy, for beneath the old caution something new is stirring, something that the cosmopolitanism of the last two or three generations has called into life. Possibly this is clearly reflected in the political heavens, however contradictory may be the report of the seers.

GENERAL NEWS.

KING EDWARD AT MARIENBAD.

Marienbad, August 16.

During the performance at the theatre yesterday, at which King Edward was present, a young Hungarian, seated in the tiers above the Royal box, fell down in an epileptic fit. The ladies seated near were much alarmed. The Hungarian was quickly brought outside, where Dr. Ott attended him; the commotion, however, did not escape the King's notice. Crowds waited in the pouring rain outside the theatre to witness the King's departure.

His Majesty's three weeks' stay at Marienbad, says *Reuter*, is by no means a holiday. Not only is the "cure" very strenuous, but batches of letters arrive daily by post, and important documents, which require the King's personal attention, are forwarded twice a week by King's messengers.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

STRONG LANGUAGE BY MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL.

NO QUARREL WITH GERMANY.

London, August 16.

At the outset of his speech at Swansea on Saturday, Mr. Winston Churchill, the President of the Board of Trade, said he was astonished and grieved at the wild sayings that were indulged in about Germany. He alluded in particular to the speech lately made by Earl Cromer in the House of Lords. The alarmists had no cause whatever for panic. Great Britain was an island. No Government that might, perhaps in the near future, be at the helm of State would deviate one step from the naval policy which in fact secured the country from invasion from without. All parties were bound to help forward those reasonable measures of maritime defence which ensured the development of the country, freed it from the curse of militarism that afflicted the Continent, and never implied a menace to any other

Power. "In the second place," continued Mr. Churchill, "I say there is no collision of the elementary and obviously important interests between Great Britain and Germany. In all parts of the world Germans are among our best customers; if the door were closed to them, I know not how the injury to our commerce would be made good. As our material interests are in no danger, the only result to be expected from a war between the two countries would be a most frightful catastrophe. Weak-minded people have expressed the opinion that it would be worth while to fight for the sake of commerce. A war of one month would destroy more property than commerce could amass in five years. We have been told that our Colonies could be alienated from us. Nothing could alter the fate of great communities like Canada, Australia, South Africa, and India, if they go their own way and follow their own destiny, which would not be altered as the result of a war between European Powers. What would be the prize for a fight between Great Britain and Germany? Nothing but tropical plantations, and small coaling stations scattered about here and there. Let all the snapping and growling in the newspapers and the London clubs go on as it may, the two peoples have nothing to fight about, no prize for which, no grounds on which, a war would be possible. There are not ten thousand people in Germany who seriously think of committing such a hellish and heinous crime, and in England, I believe, not nearly as many."

PROPOSED LOAN FOR NAVAL EXPENDITURE.

London, August 17.

The *Daily Telegraph* learns that, in view of the rivalry in naval armaments, the Government is considering the expediency of raising a loan of £100,000,000 sterling. Several financiers have undertaken to provide that sum at a nominal price. It is believed that this plan will prevent the Budget being unsettled. An influential group in the Cabinet is in favour of the plan, which is in harmony with the declaration that the two-Power standard will under all circumstances be maintained. The *Daily Telegraph* comments on the article in the *Westminster Gazette* of Saturday last, which in cautious terms argues in favour of the loan project, as one that should make it clear to all parties what course England will adopt if the situation "on the other side" remains unchanged.

THE NEW MILITARY AIRSHIP.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, August 16.

The reconstructed military airship "Nulli Secundus" had a most successful trial trip on Friday evening, which was witnessed only by those who were "in the know." Yesterday morning another run was determined upon, but this was kept a secret until the last moment.

The weather being favourable, a good many spectators assembled on Cove Common and Jersey Brow on the off chance of seeing "Dirigible No. 2," as the airship is now officially named, make another ascent. Soon after noon they were rewarded for their vigilance, for the great doors of the shed were opened and a company of sappers appeared on the scene. "Nulli Secundus's" successor was brought out, and, gaily trimmed with the Union Jack, presented a gay and, at the same time, a very serviceable appearance.

Clear of the enclosure, the ship was soon let go, and it ascended some 200 feet, when observations were taken. The sun shone out brightly, and there was an almost cloudless sky, but the wind, though not exactly fresh, was very slightly shifty, and blowing at times almost dead against the ship. If it was intended to go to London the destination was also kept secret, but when a start was made the bow of the "Dirigible" pointed just in that direction. It went off at a rattling good pace facing the wind. It did not go over the south camp, but passed above South Farnborough, going directly over the post office and thence towards north camp station, South-Eastern Railway, and Foxhill.

When last seen from Farnborough Common it was heading for Camberley, and it was generally understood to be making for the White City.

(Continued on page 4.)

BERLIN

The Berlin correspondent of a prominent London journal asserts on the highest authority that King Edward and Queen Alexandra are to pay a State visit to Berlin in the near future. This correspondent was informed at the Foreign Office that the visit had been arranged. The date, it was added, had not yet been fixed, but it would probably be at the beginning of the year, before the opening of the British Parliament.

It may be recalled in this connection that on January 27 next the Emperor will have completed his fiftieth year, and the German Press regards it as likely that King Edward will be present in Berlin to offer his personal congratulations on the event.

The *Tageblatt* learns from St. Petersburg that letters have been exchanged between the Czar and the Emperor William arranging for an interview at the end of the month, with the object of discussing the new situation in Turkey. The Czar will go on another cruise in Finnish waters on the 29th inst., and the meeting of the two Monarchs will probably take place off Abo.

The *Lokal Anzeiger* publishes a telegram from Vienna according to which Sir Alan Johnstone, British Minister in Copenhagen, has been selected as the successor, to Sir Edward Goschen, who has been transferred from the Embassy in Vienna to that in Berlin.

Sir Alan Johnstone was for some time Secretary of Embassy at Vienna.

By passing from Vienna to Berlin, Sir Edward Goschen is only repeating history, for the same thing was done in 1860 by Lord Augustus Loftus. The appointment is not in the technical sense a promotion, as the Embassies of Vienna and Berlin are of the same rank and like emoluments. Sir Edward, who is a brother of the late Lord Goschen, has spent nearly forty years in the Diplomatic Service. He is in his sixty-second year.

For thirteen years Sir A. Johnstone, who, it is anticipated, will succeed Sir E. Goschen, served as Secretary of Embassy at Vienna, and on several occasions acted as Chargé d'Affaires. He is a son of the first Baron Derwent, and entered diplomacy just ten years later than Sir Edward. His experience has been mainly European, for with the exception of service at Washington, Belgrade, The Hague, Rome, Athens, and Darmstadt have been the scenes of his labours. Since 1905 he has been Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Copenhagen.

Sir A. Johnstone's appointment has yet to be officially confirmed, and there is a report to the effect that Sir Fairfax Cartwright may be appointed to represent Great-Britain in Austria.

According to one of our contemporaries, a successor has been found to Herr v. Lucanus in the highly-important post of Chief of the German Emperor's Civil Cabinet in the person of Herr Rudolf v. Valentini, at present acting as President of the Government in Frankfurt-on-Oder. Herr v. Valentini belongs to a Prussian family which has supplied the Prussian Army with many officers, the best-known among them being Georg Wilhelm v. Valentini, who wrote a work entitled "The Lessons of the War," which is a standard work in reference to the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. On finishing his legal studies in 1879, Rudolf v. Valentini became an Assessor, and then President of the Court at Königsberg. In 1899 he entered the German Emperor's Civil Cabinet, and more than once he had to take the place of his predecessor, and frequently he had to confer with the Emperor in person while the latter was on his travels. He has been President of the Government at Frankfurt since 1906. He now becomes also a Privy Councillor of the Cabinet.

Geheimrat v. Ihne, the Court architect, and Professor Arthur Kampf, president of the Academy of Fine Arts, have just been received in special audience by the Emperor at the Royal Castle, Berlin.

The subject of the interview was the rebuilding of certain rooms in the castle, especially the so-called Apollo Hall, and the interior decoration of the new Royal Library, Unter den Linden.

Herr v. Ihne laid before the Emperor the designs for the architectural arrangement of the Apollo Hall, which will be in white marble and will be decorated with six large Gobelin tapestries.

Professor Kampf submitted to His Majesty the design of a large fresco for the main hall of the Royal Library. It represents Frederick the Great inspecting the building of the old Royal Library in the Opernplatz.

It has long been a commonplace on the Continent that the birth-rate in Germany is increasing rapidly while that of France is falling off in an alarming degree. The position, however, is not quite so simple as it is usually supposed to be, and even Germany is showing signs of a falling off in the birth-rate. Professor Sombart, of Berlin, has written

an article on "The signs of the falling off in the increase of the population of Germany," in which he accounts for the great expansion of the Empire since the war of 1870. From 1870 to 1907 the population of Germany increased from forty-one millions to sixty-one millions, a rate only surpassed in Europe by the Balkan States. But he finds that the cause was not so much the rising birth-rate as the falling death-rate. The mortality has been constantly diminishing, and has fallen from three and a half per cent. in 1872 to two per cent. in 1907. As for the birth-rate, so far from increasing of late, it has steadily fallen off. From 1871 to 1881 it was over forty per thousand; from 1891 to 1900 it was over thirty-seven per thousand; but by 1905 it had fallen to thirty-four per thousand. This is a very serious diminution, but Professor Sombart points out that it is common to all civilised countries, and that the more civilised a country is the fewer births there are. In England the birth-rate averages about twenty-eight per thousand, and as the falling off in the number of births is a condition of civilisation, it must be recognised that the diminution of births in Germany will continue.

The management of the Royal Theatres have published the arrangements for the first half of the season, which will be opened at the Opera on the 20th inst. with "Tristan and Isolde."

Tuesday, September 1st, by Royal command, for the first time "Sardanapal." In the middle of September, "Figaros Hochzeit," a four-act opera by W. A. Mozart, revived and with the original *Recitatives* restored in the text, will be repeated for the 500th time. Mesdames Destinn and Hempel, and Herren Berger and Knüpfer will appear in the chief rôles. This will be followed by "La Bohème," which will be produced with new scenery and with Fräulein Farrar as *Mimi*.

After "La Bohème" will follow "Dalibor," an opera in three acts by Smetana, the German translation by M. Ralbeck. Fräulein Destinn and Herr Krauss will represent the heroine and hero respectively. In the second half of October, Signor Caruso will give three performances as *Radames* in "Aida," and sing with Fräulein Destinn; as *Cavio* in "Bajazzo," with Fräulein Farrar; and as *Lyonel* in Flotow's opera "Martha," with Fräulein Hempel. In November, Leo Blech's comical one-act opera "Versiegelt" will be performed for the first time; also the lyric three-act drama "La Habannera," by B. Laparra, the German by Georg Droscher. In December Gluck's "Iphigenie in Aulis" will be played, with new costumes and scenery. In the second half of the season the following works will be produced: for the first time the three-act opera, "Ein Wintermärchen," by Goldmark, after Shakespeare; Méhul's three-act opera, "Joseph in Egypt," revived and with *Recitatives*, by Zenger. After the conclusion of the season, or possibly earlier, Kammersängerin Fräulein J. Hiedler, Mesdames Liebau-Globig, and Weitz, and Herren Arnold and v. Schwind will retire. Mesdames Dennera (Wiesbaden), Easton (as "guest"), Fabry (Augsburg), Salvatin (Paris); Herren Bischof (Hannover), and Bronsgeest (Hamburg) have been engaged.

At the Hebbel Theater, after the three French one-act pieces, the following farces will be performed: "Der Liebhaber," by Shaw; "Ninon de l'Enlils," by Freksa; "Totentanz," by Strindberg; "Revolutionshochzeit," by Michaelis; "Das Leben des Menschen," by Andrejew; "Der grosse und der kleine Klaus," by Gustav Gegerstam.

One of the latest founded German automobile factories, the Hansa Automobilwerke, in Varel, near Oldenburg, was on Monday last partly destroyed by fire.

The building where the body work was constructed was completely destroyed, and the fitting shop much damaged. A number of automobiles were damaged. The damage is estimated at 60,000 marks.

Some time ago the Belgians proposed to turn the little independent State of Moresnet, which lies between the German, Belgian, and Dutch frontiers, into a gambling resort for Europe, the idea being that it should supersede the Casinos of Ostend and other fashionable places. Fortunately for the little state, this proposition fell through, and now a French professor has proposed that it should be turned into an Esperanto State, where Esperanto shall be spoken and written both officially and publicly. Whether this scheme will come to a head or not is at present doubtful, but if it does it will certainly be less harmful to the state than if the first idea had been held to; and the district should be an extremely interesting place to visit.

On Wednesday last Chicago was seventy-five years old, but no celebration of the occasion was planned. A possible reason why Miss Chicago this year went without a birthday cake, presents, and a general municipal party is that while the town of Chicago

was incorporated in 1833 the settlement did not become a city until 1837. But her ladyship cannot cut four years off her age by any such subterfuge, for it is perfectly clear to any unprejudiced observer that she was really born in 1833, and that in 1837 she merely emerged from long clothes.

Wilhelm Voigt, the cobbler whose exploit earned for him the title of the "Captain of Köpenick," has unexpectedly been pardoned after serving 20 months of the four years' sentence of imprisonment passed on him last year. He was released from the prison at Tegel yesterday, and it is understood that his excellent conduct while in prison earned for him pardon.

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GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND: Ambassador the Rt. Hon. Sir FRANK LASCELLES G. C. B. Embassy, 70 Wilhelmstrasse. Office hours 11-1.—Consul-General Dr. PAUL V. SCHWARZ. Consulate, Behrens Strasse 63. Office hours 10-12 and 4-5.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Ambassador, Dr. DAVID JAYNE HILL. Embassy, Unter den Linden 68. Reception hours 10-1.—Consul-General: ALEXANDER M. THACKARA, Esq. Consulate, Friedrich Strasse 59/60. Office hours 10-1.

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BERLIN CURRENT ENTERTAINMENTS.

	This evening:
Royal Opera House	(closed).
Royal Theatre	(closed).
New Royal Opera Theatre	La Bohème (Pennarini) at 7.30
Deutsches Theater	Des Meeres und der Liebe Wellen " 7.30
	(Kammerspiele) Lysistrata " 8
Lessing Theatre	Hedda Gabler " 8
Berliner Theatre	(closed).
New Theatre	Baccarat " 8
New Schauspielhaus	Company of the New Operetta Theatre from Hamburg: Die Dollarprinzessin " 8
Kleines Theater	Zweimal zwei ist fünf " 8
Comie Opera	(closed).
Residenz Theatre	Der Floh im Ohr " 8
Hebbel Theatre	Cyprienne " 8
Lastspielhaus	Die blaue Maus " 8
Trianon Theatre	Fräulein Joseette — meine Frau " 8
Theater des Westens	Ein Walzertraum " 8
Schiller Theatre O.	Company of the Morwits Opera: Figaros Hochzeit " 8
" " Charlotten-	
burg	Stein unter Steinen " 8
Frdr. Wilhelmst. Theatre	Ein Rabenwahr " 8
Thalia Theatre	Mitternachtsmädehen " 8
Urania Theatre	Durch Dänemark & Südschweden " 8
Luisen Theatre	Suso " 8

Every evening until further notice.
Metropol Theatre Das muss man seh'n at 8
Bernhard Rose Theatre Das Geheimnis von New York " 8
Gebr. Herrfeld Theatre Das kommt davon. Es lebe das Nachtleben " 8
Apollo Theatre Vera Violetta. Spezialitäten " 8
Passage Theatre Spezialitäten " 8
Berliner Prater Theater Die Welt ein Paradies " 8
Walhalla Theatre Spezialitäten " 8

The Official last, sceptic root to which geogra and c Espera the wor an und become most in The ment s right v cember and so June 5 period publica of the societe netowor towns have b were 25 advance United The are inte most gr corded, next w them o the rea followin United German In the started. is only greater. respecti 145; Swedens groups Specia show co were 69 these 21 are won Asia, C (Brazil). Copenha mercial Paris an groups, have le now as The fo have bee some li language (Natal), paraiso Columbi Diego (Annam) group of town (N. garia), seven su Schools i Barcelon (Mallore land), VI (Sweden) three gro Another movemen peranto 55 Esper advance Of the n of them, goes out as a sup Vjestnik Kristiana Christian

DRESDEN

THE PROGRESS OF ESPERANTO.

The statistics given in the first number of the *Oficiala Gazeto Esperantista*, published on June 25 last, should afford convincing proof to the most sceptical that Esperanto has now taken very firm root throughout the world. The rapidity with which groups are increasing in number, their wide geographical diffusion, the diversity of their scope and composition, are irrefutable evidence that Esperanto is fast becoming a prominent feature in the world's international life. Esperanto is already an undeniable fact, and is undoubtedly destined to become in the not far distant future one of the most important factors of the world's progress.

The figures given show the growth of the movement since the end of last year, and are brought right up to the 5th of June. At the end of December, 1907, the total number of Esperanto groups and societies throughout the world was 753; on June 5 it was 928; and even during the short period between June 5 and June 25, the date of publication of the gazette, the editors received notice of the formation of more than 50 further new societies, bringing the total up to 980 odd! Another noteworthy fact is the increase in the number of towns in which Esperanto Consulates (*Konsulejoj*) have been established. At the end of 1907 there were 232 such towns, now there are 259, giving an advance of 27, of which 21 are in Europe, 5 in the United States, and one is in the Philippines.

The figures relating to the numbers of the groups are interesting as showing where the language has most gained ground. Of the 175 new societies recorded, Europe accounts for 138; America comes next with 23, Australia and the Philippines between them contribute 7, Africa 5, while Asia brings up the rear with 2. Among individual countries, the following lead the way:—France, 28 new groups; United Kingdom, 24; Sweden and Spain, 19 each; Germany, 14; and Russia (a good sign this), 13. In the Philippines alone 5 new groups have been started. The number recorded for the United States is only 10, but the actual number is certainly much greater. The total numbers given for these countries respectively are:—France, 193; United Kingdom, 145; Spain, 84; Germany, 72; United States, 66; Sweden, 39. Switzerland has 49, and Austria 46 groups in all.

Specialist and professional Esperanto societies also show considerable increase. In December last there were 69; now there are 90. The constitution of these 21 new societies is interesting. Six of them are women's clubs, in Santiago, Aydin (Turkey-in-Asia), Copenhagen, Dresden, and 2 in S. Paulo (Brazil). There are 4 new workmen's groups, in Copenhagen, Dessau, Mainz and Baden; and 2 commercial societies, in St. Etienne and Moscow. In Paris and Stockholm there are special policemen's groups, and at Dresden 24 members of the Force have learnt Esperanto to help the Congressists now assembled here.

The following names of places where new groups have been formed during the past six months give some little idea of the wide diffusion of the language:—Antananarivo (Madagascar), Durban (Natal), Pernambuco (Brazil), Santiago and Valparaiso (Chile), Vancouver and Victoria (British Columbia), Pretty Prairie (Kansas, U.S.A.), San Diego (California), Denver (Colorado), Tourane (Annam), Aydin (Turkey-in-Asia), Lwow (Poland—group of students in the Polytechnic School), Johnstown (N. Wales), Perth (Scotland), Rustschuck (Bulgaria), Beaune (France—this group has founded seven sub-groups in the Communal Boys' and Girls' Schools in the district), Hamburg (Temperance Club), Barcelona, Cadiz, Vilassar de Mar (Catalonia), Palma (Mallorca), Palermo, Bukharest, Tammerfors (Finland), Vladikavkaz (Caucasus), Falun and Njurunda (Sweden), Bendigo (Australia), Manila (Philippines—three groups), &c.

Another striking proof of the progress of the movement is the constant appearance of new Esperanto periodicals. On June 25 last there were 55 Esperanto gazettes, most of them monthlies, an advance of 11 on the number for December, 1907. Of the new ones two are of a general interest (one of them, *Espero*, a 48-page in *Espo.* and Russian, goes out monthly to upwards of 100,000 readers as a supplement to the well-known Radical review *Vjestnik Znanija*); two are for specialists: *Europa Kristana Celado* (the official organ of the United Christian Endeavour Societies), and *Vocho de*

Kuracistoj (an international review for medical men); and the remaining are national propaganda monthlies, for Catalonia, Mexico, Roumania, Chile, Esthonia, Italy, &c. An official police gazette in Budapest has opened in its pages a special column for Esperanto, and intends in due course to found an international Police Review.

Several more non-Esperantist Societies have adopted Esperanto for correspondence purposes: the Troyes Section of the "Ligue des Droits de l'Homme," the Academy of Social Sciences in Burgos, and the Central Office of the Freemasons in Berne; while at their last congress the Spanish Cyclists' Union decided to adopt Esperanto as an official language for international purposes.

The following recognitions of Esperanto by public institutions are worthy of note:—In Bohemia, the Organising Committee of the Jubilee Exhibition in Prague published an illustrated Esperanto circular concerning the Exhibition, and has officially invited the members of the Esperantist Congress at Dresden to Prague and the Exhibition after the Congress. The Postmaster-General has authorised the use of Esperanto in telegrams within the United Kingdom on an equal footing with modern European languages, at the ordinary rate. At St. Etienne, France, the corporation voted a subvention of 300 francs to the local Esperanto Group. In Japan, Count Hayashi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has accepted the honorary presidency of the Japanese Esperanto Association, and in a public letter recommended his fellow-countrymen to take up Esperanto, which he calls the gospel of the world.

The above are but a few of the facts in regard to Esperanto progress. Facts cannot be gainsaid, and even the most uncompromising of sceptics must admit that there must be some practical worth, aye, and some ideal worth too, in a language which thus has the power of kindling the enthusiasms and enlisting the activities of men and women in ever increasing numbers throughout the world.—B. E.

The many friends of Mrs. T. St. John Gaffney, wife of the American Consul-General in Dresden, will be glad to hear that she has returned from Carlsbad greatly benefited by her cure. We hear that the stay at that celebrated Spa has been so beneficial to Mrs. Gaffney that she may be said to have completely recovered from the effects of the carriage accident which befell her in Cuba a month or two ago.

According to an American Consular report from Chemnitz, a German chemist has lately perfected a process which brings into competition with celluloid a new composition possessing similar plastic and elastic properties, but free from the easy and somewhat dangerous combustibility common to celluloid articles. To what extent the new composition can replace celluloid is not yet definitely ascertained. Certain technical difficulties have recently been overcome in blowing articles of the new substance. Such hollow objects as balls, dolls' heads, and the like are now as easily prepared as from celluloid. The latest application, that with regard to cinematograph films, is among the most important. Its manifest superiority over celluloid for this purpose results from its noncombustibility. A film exposed for ten minutes to the concentrated light of an arc lamp does not exhibit the slightest alteration. A celluloid film, under the same conditions, bursts into flame after the lapse of only three seconds.

The programme of the orchestral concert at the Royal Belvedere this evening is as follows:—(1) Kaiser Franz Josef, Marsch, Schneider. (2) Overture "Die weisse Dame," Boieldieu. (3) Scene et Valse aus "Gretchen Green," Guiraud. (4) Einleitung zum III. Akt und Brautchor aus "Lohengrin," Wagner. (5) Aufforderung zum Tanz, Rondo, Weber. (6) Ein Abend auf dem Königlichen Belvedere, Suite, Schiller. (7) Karneval in Paris, Episode, Svendsen. (8) Es blinkt der Tau, Lied, Rubinstein. (9) Mandolinata, Langey. (10) Wiener Volksmusik, Potpourri, Komzack.

The Cardinal Archbishop of Lyons, Mgr. Coullie, has interdicted the use of the bicycle among his clergy, on the ground that it is not in keeping with their sacred office, and is likely to lessen their influence with their flocks. The decision of the Cardinal, it seems, will be final and binding, and exclusive of all inquiry, for the clergy of Lyons

know that it will be useless to appeal against the decision of their Metropolitan, for, so long ago as when he was Bishop of Mantua, the present Pope adopted precisely the same attitude in regard to cycling, as far as his clergy were concerned, and his views, it is said, have not since changed.

The guards in the city today will be furnished by the 1st Grenadier Regiment No. 100, whose band will play in the Neustadt about 12.30 p.m.

DRESDEN CURRENT ENTERTAINMENTS.

Royal Opera House.

Tonight, beginning at 7.30, ending after 9.45

La Bohème.

Scenes from Henry Murger's "Vie de Bohème" in four pictures. Music by Giacomo Puccini.

Cast:

- Rudolf, poet Herr Burrian.
- Schaunard, musician Herr Plaschke.
- Marcell, artist Herr Scheidemantel.
- Collin, philosopher Herr Rains.
- Bernard, the landlord Herr Nebuschka.
- Mimi Frau Nast.
- Musette Fräul. v. d. Osten.
- Parpignol, vendor of toys Herr Engelhard.
- Alcindor Herr Erl.
- Sergeant of the Customs Herr Büssel.
- Customs official Herr Pust.

PLOT. Rudolph and Marcell, friends in "Bohemia" are sitting at work in their Paris garret and the former replenishes the fire with the M.S. of his drama, as they cannot afford coal. Schaunard, a musician arrives with fuel, wine &c., and after pacifying the landlord, who demands his rent, Marcell and Schaunard go out to supper. Rudolph, left alone to work, is interrupted by Mimi, a flowergirl, who is in a fainting condition. He revives her with some wine, and confesses his love for her. They go out to join the others at the Café Momus in the Quartier Latin. Here Marcell describes his old love Musette with an elderly admirer Alcindor. She sends the latter away to buy her some new shoes and decamps with Marcell. In the next scene Marcell in discovered working at a tavern on the outskirts of Paris; Mimi looking very ill and wretched, comes to beg Marcell help her, since Rudolph is killing her by his jealousy. She hides while Marcell talks to Rudolph but hearing Rudolph declare she is too ill to be cured she sobs so violently that her presence is revealed and Rudolph is reconciled to her. In the last scene Marcell and Rudolph are once more alone in their garret; Schaunard appears again with provisions. In the midst of their gaiety Musette brings in Mimi who is dying. Musette and Marcell go out to buy medicine, but on their return find Mimi has expired in Rudolph's arms.

Composer: Puccini, born 1858.

Wednesday night	Festival Performance of the Esperanto Congress: Iphigenie auf Tauris	at 7
Thursday night	Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg	" 6
Friday night	Mignon	" 7.30
Saturday night	Tiefland	" 7.30
Sunday night	Der fliegende Holländer	" 7.30
Monday night	Samson und Dalila	" 7.30

Royal Theatre Neustadt.

Closed till September 11.

Residenz Theatre.

Tonight	Die gelbe Gefahr	at 7.30
Wednesday night	Bartel Turaser	" 7.30
Thursday night	Die gelbe Gefahr	" 7.30
Friday night	Alt-Heidelberg	" 7.30
Saturday night	Ordnung im Hause	" 7.30

Central Theatre.

Tonight	Spatsenliebe	at 8
Wednesday night	Die Schmutzler	" 8
Thursday night	Die Schmutzler	" 8
Friday night	Die Schmutzler	" 8
Saturday night	Die Schmutzler	" 8

MOVEMENTS OF LINERS.

North German Lloyd S. S. Co., Dresden office: FR. BREMERMANN, Prager Strasse 49.

YESTERDAY'S REPORTS.

- "Barbarossa," from New York for Bremen, arrived Bremerhaven August 17th.
- "Gneisenau," from Bremen for Australia, left Genoa August 16th.
- "Köln," from Baltimore for Galveston, arrived Galveston August 15th.
- "Lütow," from Bremen for Japan, left Naples August 15th.
- "Königin Luise," from New York for Genoa, left New York August 15th.
- "Rhein," from Bremen for New York and Baltimore, passed Lizard August 15th.
- "Prinzregent Luitpold," from Hamburg for Japan, arrived Hiogo August 16th.
- "Derfflinger," from Bremen for Japan, arrived Shanghai August 16th.
- "Kronprinz Wilhelm," from New York for Bremen, passed Scilly August 17th.
- "Main," from Baltimore for Bremen, passed Eastbourne August 16th.
- "Prinz Friedrich Wilhelm," from Bremen for New York, left Cherbourg August 16th.

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GENERAL NEWS.

(Continued from page 1.)

The evening papers say that the airship was given a long series of tests, in a very stiff wind, and about 20 miles were covered in a series of circular flights, the final trip being to Frimley and back with and against the wind. The airship behaved splendidly. Every part was tested and found to be in excellent order. The trial lasted something under an hour. It is believed that a long run will be made on the first convenient day this week.

HAND-TO-HAND FIGHT FOR A CHILD.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, August 16. When the Hamburg-American liner "America" reached Plymouth yesterday, from New York, a romantic story was made known concerning one of her passengers, David Rassner, a wealthy Russian lawyer. Mr. Rassner tracked his wife to an hotel in Madison-avenue, New York, where she had fled with a young banker named Moses Scheinermann. Apprising the police of his discovery, says one of today's papers, the husband appealed to them to arrest the couple, as they had with them his three-year-old son. The police declined to interfere. At length the husband secured a warrant, and, with his lawyer and two policemen, proceeded to the hotel and burst into the room where Scheinermann was found with Mrs. Rassner and the child. The husband rushed at the banker, and beat him vigorously with an umbrella until the police separated them.

Rassner fell on his knees, and pleaded with his wife to be reconciled, and to return with him and the child to Russia. The woman flatly refused, whereupon Rassner again attacked Scheinermann, and once more the police intervened, and this time the three were arrested. At the police-court the father was fondling the little boy, when the woman took the child away. There was a struggle for the possession of the child, but the magistrate decided in the father's favour, Scheinermann and Mrs. Rassner being remanded.

When the securities for bail were forthcoming, and the couple were liberated, they found that the husband, with his child, had left for Russia without waiting the conclusion of the action, leaving his wife to lament what she described as the kidnapping of her boy.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

ATLANTIC FLEET LEAVES AUCKLAND.

Auckland, N. Z., August 15. The American fleet sailed at a quarter past eight this morning. A large crowd gathered both ashore and afloat to bid the visitors farewell.

RACE RIOT IN ILLINOIS.

New York, August 16. Telegrams from Springfield, Illinois, report that sanguinary rioting is in progress there, and that the town is practically under mob law. The trouble arose on Friday through a particularly brutal assault committed on a white woman by a negro, the news of which, quickly spreading, inflamed public opinion against the large coloured population to such an extent that the police were powerless to cope with the situation.

Bodies of armed men made an organised move on the negro quarters, from which the majority of the residents fled in terror, though many remained to offer resistance. Several of these possessed revolvers, and firing became general. Early in the affray two white men were shot dead, a circumstance which, needless to say, served to intensify hostility against the negroes.

Whenever any of the latter fell into the hands of the avenging whites they were mercilessly beaten with sticks, or clubbed with revolver butts, while, as a fusillade was going on all around, wounded persons were constantly dropping.

The police appear to have made repeated efforts to quell the rioting, but all were fruitless, and presently the rising of smoke and flame from several directions simultaneously indicated that the negro quarters had been fired. Before this, however, the maddened whites had practically wrecked the entire district.

At the time the latest messages were dispatched it was impossible to estimate the number of casualties. They are, as was only to be expected, most severe among the negroes, several of whom are believed to have been killed, either in the fighting or in the burning of their houses. Scores of others have been wounded, and fires are still raging in several parts. The Governor of the State has been requested to send troops.

GREAT HEAT IN NEW YORK.

New York, August 16. The sharp rise in temperature which occurred throughout New York State yesterday and on Friday still continues. In New York City the heat was terribly oppressive, and several deaths are already reported. Fifteen cases of heat prostration were dealt with at the ambulance stations yesterday.

NEW TURKISH AMBASSADOR.

Washington, August 17. The Turkish Government have advised the State Department that the present Ambassador in Bukharest, Hussim Kiazim Bey, has been appointed Ambassador at Washington.

U. S. WARSHIP ASHORE.

Victoria, B. C., August 16. The U. S. armoured cruiser "Colorado," which ran ashore on Whitty Island last night during a fog, was refloated today. The vessel does not appear to have sustained any serious damage.

GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS BALDWIN AIRSHIP.

New York, August 16. The dirigible balloon submitted to the Government by Captain Baldwin has completed all the stipulated trials in a satisfactory manner, and it is now announced that the airship has been accepted by the Government. On a recent trip it attained a speed of 32 kilometres an hour.

CUNARD LINERS' NEW ROUTE.

New York, August 15. The New York Times announces that, commencing with 1st March, 1909, the Cunard mail steamers will abandon Queenstown as a calling port, and run to Plymouth, where they will land and take on the mails, and proceed thence to Cherbourg for passengers. Liverpool will remain the home port.

The reason for the change is primarily the protest of London business men over the delay in the delivery of the mails, but the desire to secure a share of the Continental traffic has also been a large factor in deciding the directors to take this drastic step.

Mr. Vernon Brown, the Cunard Agent, who has just sailed for England aboard the "Mauretania", admitted before he left that the report was true.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

RAGGING IN THE FRENCH NAVY.

Reuter's Paris correspondent states that a peculiarly atrocious case of ragging is reported from the Maritime Prison of Cherbourg. A blue-jacket from the armoured coast defence ship "Valmy" was sentenced to a month's imprisonment for absenting himself from duty without leave. A few days after his incarceration his fellow-prisoners held a mock trial over him and appointed executioners, who stripped the victim naked, bound him hand and foot, and then applied improvised paper torches to various parts of his body, inflicting terrible burns. Threats of reprisals prevented the tortured blue-jacket from complaining to the authorities, and it was not until he returned to duty on the "Valmy" that the routine medical examination revealed his burns. The man was immediately sent to hospital. These revelations concerning what is alleged to be a regular practice in the prison have created the greatest excitement in Cherbourg. The affair is being officially investigated.

ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS.

Meetings between monarchs are often more significant when they do not take place than when they do. Five years ago it is probable that King Edward would not have broken his journey to Marienbad in order to spend a few hours with the German Emperor; and the omission to do so would rightly have been interpreted as indicative of a certain tension between the German and British peoples. The inauguration of a custom which will, we hope, become an annual event, is, however, more significant today, though in a pleasanter sense, than would have been its omission a few years ago. It means not only that cordiality is now restored to the intercourse between the two monarchs, but that Anglo-German relations generally are on the mend.—*Outlook*.

The reasonable elements which have never yet been submerged in Germany are perfectly ready to admit that other Powers have the right each to set its house in order; in fact the justification for the German Navy rests upon this doctrine. It is high time that we on our side should recognise that real strength is essential to national dignity, and that the spectacle of a Power able to meet us on equal terms, while necessitating the maintenance of our own forces on a higher scale than we have ever yet done, does not give us any just cause of offence. It is very largely the uncertainty of our own defensive policy that keeps the pot of international ill-will simmering. Convinced of each other's strength, Germany and England could be far better friends.—*Saturday Review*.

WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY

of the Royal Saxon Meteorological Institute.
North-westerly to north-easterly wind, variable skies, no heavy rain, temperature not much altered.

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CHURCH SERVICES: DRESDEN.

ALL SAINTS' (ENGLISH) CHURCH, Wiener Strasse.
Wednesday, August 19th. 11.0 a.m. Matins and Litany.
Friday, August 21st. 11.0 a.m. Matins and Litany.
Chaplain: The Rev. C. A. Moore, M. A., B. C. L.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (Presbyterian), Bernhard Strasse 4
at the corner of Bismarck and Winckelmann Strasse.
Divine Service Sunday morning at 11, and evening
at 6 o'clock. Communion on the first Sunday of
the month.
Rev. T. H. Wright, Minister.