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The Daily Record

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1755.

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

THE FIRST DAILY PAPER IN ENGLISH PUBLISHED IN GERMANY.

№ 771.

DRESDEN AND BERLIN, THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 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.

Monthly Subscription Rates: For the whole of Germany and Austria, mark 1.— For other countries, marks 2.50.

VERSATILE CABINET MINISTERS.

In another column we publish a telegram from London, according to which Mr. Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is sojourning in Baden-Baden, has issued through a Press representative a strong protest against the charge brought forward by the *Standard* against this Minister and Mr. Winston Churchill of unwarrantably interfering with the duties of Sir Edward Grey in his capacity as Minister for Foreign Affairs. Mr. Lloyd George declares his and Mr. Churchill's unbounded respect for Sir Edward Grey, and says he would have ignored the *Standard's* imputation had it not been that this imputation is widely circulating in Germany.

While we can well appreciate this annoyance on the part of Mr. Lloyd George, we are bound to confess that the *Standard* was perfectly justified in making such an imputation, in view of the prominent rôle now being played by both Messrs. George and Churchill in the foreign affairs of Great Britain. Sir Edward Grey is maintaining a significant silence on the subject, but we do not find it difficult to imagine his exasperation upon hearing of this remarkable activity displayed by certain of his colleagues in spheres formerly regarded as being peculiarly his own. So far as Mr. Winston Churchill is concerned the Foreign Office will not attribute undue importance to outside meddling, since this gentleman's volubility and predilection to oratorical gymnastics are notorious. Not yet have we forgotten the deliberate insult hurled at the Colonies by the present President of the Board of Trade during the Imperial Conference. His declaration at that time to the effect that the door had been "slammed, barred, and bolted in the face of Protection" represented one of the most deplorable utterances ever made by a supposedly responsible politician, and since then no thoughtful person has paid much attention to this specimen of precocity who was recently the recipient of a well-earned snub at the hands of the Manchester electorate.

Mr. Lloyd George, on the other hand, earned general respect by his administration of the Board of Trade, and his transfer to the Treasury was everywhere regarded as an ill-considered move. At the Board of Trade his known business attainments were a national asset; at the Treasury he has so far remained an unknown quantity. In his latest rôle of peace agent, however, he does not appear to advantage. Indeed, he displays a perfectly astounding inability to grasp the rudiments of statesmanship if he actually believes—as his words indicate—that the peace of Europe is to be secured for ever and a day by indiscriminate lip service. He appears unable to trace the line of demarcation between social reform and foreign policy, though the veriest tyro should be aware that the one is as far removed from the other as the poles. Further, Mr. Lloyd George has obviously failed to grasp a self-evident truth, namely, that the significance which was formerly inseparable from the public utterances of a Cabinet Minister has largely vanished since Ministers have taken to usurping each other's positions with monotonous frequency. Familiarity breeds contempt, a maxim that members of the British Cabinet appear to have forgotten. It really looks as though the one essential qualification on the part of the aspirant to Cabinet rank is genius for stump oratory.

What would the people of Germany say if Herr von Sydow, on a visit to one of the English Spas, were to accord an interview to a London Press representative and deliver a speech setting forth Germany's foreign policy; or if Admiral von Tirpitz held forth on the pressing necessity for social reform. But such comparisons are of little value owing to their impossibility, and only in England may we witness the spectacle of that free and easy camaraderie among responsible Ministers which permits the respective Governmental departments to become hopelessly mixed, so that it requires no little perspicuity to distinguish the actual policy of each Department. The situation would be comical were it not so dangerous, for we do not hesitate to assert that so long as British Cabinet Ministers continue to play to the international gallery, regardless of the dignity due to the high offices they fill, the smouldering suspicions enter-

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tained in this and other countries with regard to British foreign policy can never be completely extinguished; rather is it probable that they will increase in volume. We consider the *Standard* to have fulfilled a public duty in thus admonishing the two statesmen named above, and the very fact that one of the accused gentlemen has deemed it necessary to issue a public denial makes it plain that the warning has not been without effect. Every friend of Great Britain should be thankful that Mr. Lloyd George received a hint to check his excessive enthusiasm before paying his promised visit to Berlin, where there is an unmistakable and sensible tendency to discourage Government by idealism.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

TWO CABINET MINISTERS REBUKED IN THE PRESS.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S STRONG PROTEST.
London, August 19.
The *Daily Chronicle* publishes a communication from its correspondent at Baden-Baden, with reference to an article that appeared in the *Standard* of the 17th instant imputing to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Lloyd George, and to Mr. Winston Churchill, the President of the Board of Trade, that they were assuming the supervision of foreign affairs in order to drive Sir Edward Grey to resign his office as Secretary of State. The *Daily Chronicle's* correspondent took the opportunity of Mr. Lloyd George's presence at Baden-Baden to ask him for an interview on this subject. As a result of that interview, the correspondent was authorised by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to publish a statement strongly protesting against the imputation of the *Standard*. No one, Mr. Lloyd George is reported to have declared, has a greater admiration for Sir Edward Grey or greater confidence in his distinguished abilities than he and Mr. Winston Churchill have. He would not have thought it worth while to take any notice of the article in the *Standard*, if it had not been telegraphed to Germany, and there been noised abroad and used to create an impression that there was a split in the British Cabinet.

SEVENTY-SIX LANCASHIRE MINERS ENTOMBED.

London, August 19.
Yesterday evening an explosion occurred in the Maypole Colliery near Wigan, and 76 miners were entombed. The poisonous fumes render it impossible for the rescuing parties to enter the shaft, so that there is little prospect of any of the men being saved. Up to the present three bodies have been recovered.

A later telegram gives the number of bodies recovered as eighteen.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

BRIGHTER RAILROAD HOPES.
Interest in the New York financial world is largely centred in the railway returns for the first week of the present month, which, while showing

a decrease of over 12 per cent. on the figures for the same period of last year, are a marked improvement on the concluding week of July. There is a general belief that a better time is at last coming for the railroads, apart altogether from questions of increased freight rates. The market, having recovered from suspicions engendered by the vast operations of the "Chicago Crowd," receives the highly satisfactory reports from the crop districts with confidence, and as the farmers have certainly had a bumper year the railroads are bound to share in the resultant prosperity.

THE ANTI-JAPANESE MOVEMENT.

Too much cannot be said in condemnation of a certain section of the New York Press—a section which ought to know better—for endeavouring once more to foment feeling against Japan. The vapourings of a more than usually silly season are likely to prove lethal when newspapers of the standing of the *Herald* proceed unchecked with such a campaign, devoting columns a day to an attempt to prove that "the ambition nearest to every Japanese heart is that the day may come when Japan can whip America." The particularly foolish allegation quoted above was made recently by the *Herald*, and is typical of the arguments seized upon by other papers engaged in a movement the supporters of which seriously advocate an alliance with China.

EARTHQUAKE SHOCKS IN CALIFORNIA.

Frankfort o. M., August 19.
The *Frankfurter Zeitung's* New York correspondent reports that several shocks of earthquake have been felt at Eureka, in California.

HONOURS FOR STADIUM ATHLETES.

"The world's champion athletes," that is to say, the American winners at the Olympic Games, will be honoured shortly in New York, says a contemporary's correspondent, much as Admiral Dewey was honoured on his return after the Spanish war. The trifling circumstance that Great Britain won twenty-three events in the Stadium and the United States only won eighteen was never extensively published in America, or, rather, it was explained that the Britishers secured "a nominal majority" by counting the scores in croquet, diabolo, or marbles, leaving the Americans the virtual victors "in all the big events." There is hardly a sporting writer or newspaper in the country who has not given the American public the impression that the Americans carried all before them in the Stadium, and this "despite the favouritism of the officials" and the disqualification of Carpenter, &c.

There is always an intense desire in America to see the triumph of her representatives abroad, and the public eagerly believed all that has been written there regarding the completeness of the American victory, with the result that the returning team will have an unexampled reception. New York City will be decorated, national guards will parade in the streets, the procession will be long and representative, and on the steps of the City Hall, which corresponds to the London Mansion House, President Roosevelt may present each athlete with a gold medal. The only thing lacking is money, and this, it is hoped, will be furnished by public subscription.

The proposal to extend the freedom of the city to each competitor has been denounced by an Irish-American Alderman as truckling to London. However, it was resolved that the novel distinction of conferring the freedom of New York should be granted. It will cost nothing, as one Alderman remarked after the meeting of the Board yesterday, and will enable the recipients to visit the gaols, hospitals, and other public buildings of New York without let or hindrance.

Bishop Greer, the successor of the late Bishop Potter, in New York, said publicly last Saturday that the "American athletes are good losers and good winners," but the facts of the case so far as the Olympic Games are concerned, if one may judge from chats with returning athletes arriving in New York, prove exactly the converse to be true. This is not surprising when one considers that the average athlete in America is taught to believe that defeat means disgrace, and that the "national honour is involved."

(Continued on page 4.)