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AN INTERNATIONAL SURVEY.

ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS, THE MOROCCAN IMBROGLIO, AND THE CONGO PROBLEM.

Three events of international importance, if of somewhat incalculable potentialities, have come to a head within the last few weeks. We refer to the conclusion of Mr. Lloyd George's visit to Germany, to the vote of the Lower Chamber of Belgium in favour of the annexation of the Congo, and to the defeat of Abdul Asiz by his brother, Mulai Hafid, in Morocco. Except in so far as all three events tend to bring the Powers into fresh contact on living themes, they are not in any way connected with one another; yet we may perhaps assume that whatever leads to an active interest among the Powers may be placed within a single category. The course of affairs in Morocco and the Congo has for long been watched by many interested parties; and if Mr. Lloyd George's visit to Germany cannot be construed in quite the same official sense as a point of international importance, it has raised sufficient discussion to bring about the required compact of public and official opinion. Today, as we have repeatedly insisted, there is only one political topic in Europe, namely, the prospect of peace. This is the more remarkable as we do not stand, as Europe stood after the ravages of Napoleon, shocked and lacerated by the havoc of a quarter of a century's ruthless warfare. The demand for peace springs from no sentimental reaction, nor is it bolstered up by too fantastic an idealism. We are placed, it is true, on what appears to be the edge of a period of trade depression after the exuberant progress of some three or four decades; apart from all else, the great commercial powers cannot afford the time or the resources to prosecute selfish ambitions. But we should be underestimating the vital changes in the diplomacy of the twentieth century were we to believe that nothing but the play of circumstance or the driving force of interest lies behind the amity of nations and behind the readiness of statesmen to accommodate one another with almost unparalleled generosity.

If Mr. Lloyd George's visit will have achieved nothing more, it must still be admitted that it has helped to clear the atmosphere of the North Sea in no slight degree. The warmth of his welcome here, the generous attitude of the German press as a whole, and of the semi-official journals in particular, as well as the immediate response to the special requirements of Mr. Lloyd George's inquiry, are tokens for which all who value good relations between Germany and Great Britain must be thoroughly grateful. On the precise limits within which Mr. Lloyd George should have confined himself in dealing with foreign policy there must inevitably be differences of opinion, although we are inclined to think that a good result is apt to justify, or, at all events, to obliterate, a little indiscretion. Moreover, contrary to first impressions, it seems to have been established that Mr. Lloyd George has been acting with the full approval of his colleagues throughout the visit; and this, together with the fact that in no instance has he touched questions of foreign policy in any authoritative spirit, should be sufficient to remove the reproaches which have been heaped upon him in certain quarters, most of which, however, were due to unauthentic information. Doubtless Mr. Lloyd George understands, what we in Germany understand perfectly well and what we are trying to make English and German jingoes understand too, that Germany is faced with a grave financial situation involving an immense load of taxation; that, in a minor degree, the coming year will be similarly onerous for the English taxpayer; and that both for Germany and England tranquillity and concentration are essential. Germany, whom English extremists are accusing roundly of trying to stir up mischief with England, has no interest at present except in being on thoroughly good terms with England. We think the tone of the Press during the last week has tended to bear out this conclusion, and we must realize that the ground has been well prepared for the coming visit of the English Members of Parliament to the International Parliamentary Congress. Putting the matter upon the lowest plane and leaving on one side the recent amelioration in sentiment between the two nations,

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the interests of England and Germany are approximating to one another more closely and more obviously than they have done for some years past. Once this dark cloud of distrust is removed from the horizon of the Powers, there is good reason to believe that international relations will rest upon a more secure foundation than has ever been possible before.

The better feeling between England and Germany is no unimportant factor in the delicate negotiations on which the ultimate fate of the Congo and Morocco will, in a measure, depend. When Mulai Hafid sprang into prominence last year we did not hesitate, at that time perhaps over-boldly, to urge the prudence of supporting that capable usurper. In Morocco there are no nice moral values; the only aim that France and Europe can entertain is the stability of the country; and we urged then, what it would be superfluous to urge now, that from Mulai Hafid rather than from his well-meaning but incapable brother Morocco might hope for salvation. That the attitude of France has been strictly correct is, however, a matter of satisfaction; nor are we likely to be disappointed in her conduct now. She has declared her intention of acting in strict consonance with the parties to the Algeiras Convention. It will depend on them rather than on herself alone how far Moroccan affairs will be allowed to run their logical course; and it is, we consider, of good omen that the decisive battle has been fought at a moment when sentiment and circumstance are keeping the responsible Powers in a benignant frame of mind.

So, too, the welfare of the Congo, the vast moral responsibility which not only Belgium but the whole of Europe, the whole of Western civilization, holds in its maintenance, depends on the attitude of the Powers and the relations on which that attitude is based. It is not in this instance merely a case of practical interest; it is a case of the gravest moral interest. That the administration of the Congo should no longer be defiled by barbarities worthy of a Hunnish invasion, by a system of injustice beside which the jurisdiction of a Torquemada assumes the colours of an ethical crusade, and by the result that ten million dumb human creatures have been sacrificed to stimulate the debauches of a modern Commodus—these are demands upon the conscience of Europe as elementary as they are imperative. We cannot commend too warmly the high seriousness with which the Belgian Chamber has weighed the enormous burden of responsibility it is about to undertake, or the manner in which it is prepared to recognize the gravity of its task. That is another token of the ultimate disinterestedness of European policy, and a refutation of the pessimism which refuses to see some glimmer of hope behind the mask of professional diplomacy.

GENERAL NEWS.

KING EDWARD CONFERS WITH FRENCH AND RUSSIAN STATESMEN.

Marienbad, August 26.

M. Clémenceau, the French Premier, and the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Iswolski, arrived here today, and were invited by King Edward to luncheon, after which they had a ten-minute conversation with His Majesty. It is reported that the occurrences in Turkey and in Morocco were among the subjects touched upon.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S TRIBUTE.

London, August 26.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in an official notification, announces his return from Germany

with pleasant recollections of his visit. He had been much gratified by the friendly reception accorded to him, as well by the Government as by the German nation. The tone of the Press throughout Germany had been very friendly, and the comments of the newspapers on the relations between the two countries had been couched in a very good spirit.

SHIPPING CONFERENCE IN LONDON.

London, August 26.

At the meetings of the Conference of North Continental Steamship Companies yesterday and today, the Russian company carrying on traffic between Libau and New York adopted the scheme of the Conference. Other matters on the order of business were settled in a satisfactory manner.

AMERICAN VISITOR DUPED.

London, August 26.

An American, named Goetz, staying at a West-end hotel, has given information to the police of his loss of notes and valuables, amounting to £200, under circumstances which go to show that he has been the victim of "confidence" dodge men in London.

While doing the Rhine tour last month he met two well-dressed men, who, like himself, were apparently on pleasure bent. An acquaintance was formed, and the three journeyed together. Recently they met again in London, and there is little doubt that the men had made themselves acquainted with the American's movements, and found he was of good position.

The friendship was renewed, and the men, who then gave addresses at Fleet-street, succeeded on Friday, after a second or third meeting, in inducing the American to show his confidence in them. He parted with three £20 notes, a diamond stud, and a gold watch and chain. At Bridewell Station the men are stated to be well-known, and their early arrest is probable, but the American gentleman is on the eve of departure for New York.

CUNARD LINER IN COLLISION.

Liverpool, August 26.

In hauling alongside the landing-stage in the Mersey today, the Cunard liner "Etruria" was fouled by a lighter which ran with such momentum on to the serew of the liner that the combined power of several tugs was required to part the two vessels. Once clear of the big ship, the lighter sank immediately and one of her crew was drowned. As the "Etruria" will be unable to start on her voyage to New York on Friday, her place will be taken by her sister ship the "Umbria."

THE SEIZURE OF BRITISH TRAWLERS BY GERMAN WARSHIPS.

London, August 27.

The Grimsby and North Sea Fishing Company, owners of the steam trawler "Taurus" which was seized by a German torpedo boat, have resolved to bring the matter before Parliament through Sir George Doughty, M. P. for Grimsby. The Company asserts that the German authorities, when taking possession of the cargo and equipment of the vessel after the seizure, carried off everything movable in the vessel, thereby inflicting on the company a loss of £200. In view of the constant complaints of the fishermen, it is felt at Grimsby that the Government ought to take a decided step. A memorial will be forwarded to the Prime Minister, asking that a cruiser may be detailed for the protection of the fisheries.

THE MURDER OF MRS. LUARD.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, August 25.

Rarely has the country been stirred to such an extent as during the last two days in consequence of a particularly atrocious murder, the victim being the wife of Major-General Chas. E. Luard, one of England's most prominent soldiers. The crime was committed at about 3.15 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and it was left to General Luard to discover the body of his wife, pierced by two revolver bullets. The unfortunate lady was lying in a pool of blood; her dress was torn, indicating a struggle with the assassin, and four valuable rings had been

(Continued on page 2.)