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The Daily Record

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THE JAPANESE BOGEY.

A telegram from Tokio that we printed in these columns yesterday was deserving of more than ordinary attention, since it very effectually refuted the allegations made against the Mikado's Government by a section of the American Press and its quondam Chinese friends. The despatch stated that no less a sum than \$100,000,000 was to be deducted from the Imperial Budget, of which—and this is particularly significant—30 per cent. was to be taken off the army and 10 per cent. off the navy estimates. Japan thus gives striking proof of her intention to husband her available cash for the purpose of developing commercial and industrial interests at the expense of increased naval and military strength. This, we consider, is a scathing rebuke to the newspapers and those interested people who have for months past been doing their level best to create animosity towards Japan in America and Europe. The anti-Japanese campaign has been conducted with truly Machiavellian cunning; the wildest rumours have been created and exploited to their utmost capacity; in the complete absence of facts to support their absurd allegations, the Japanophobes utilise fiction with equally pernicious results, so far as distorting public opinion is concerned. But their tactics occasionally reveal the innate weakness of their case. One day last month an individual stepped ashore at Cherbourg, and was instantly pounced upon by representatives of a Paris contemporary which makes itself extremely conspicuous in the ranks of the Japanophobes. This individual was a Chinese journalist from Hong Kong. He has since posed as the representative of popular opinion in China, not a very modest claim considering the population of that country is something over four hundred millions. Moreover, the journal whose destinies he is said to control is by no means the most prominent organ even in the city of Hong Kong, which has in addition a dozen or more prominent newspapers, not one of which, so far as we can learn, supports the virulently anti-Japanese attitude of Mr. Li's journal. Nevertheless, he has been advertised far and wide as the spokesman of China's teeming millions, groaning beneath the heel of brutal Japan and clamouring for an alliance with the United States as the only means by which the Celestial Kingdom may be saved from complete disintegration by the brigands from Nippon.

It is extremely satisfactory to observe that, in spite of the hysterical behaviour of a few American papers, and the fatuous arguments they adduce in favour of concluding an alliance with China, next to no impression has been made in the United States with regard to this matter. Thoughtful Americans are asking themselves whether it is compatible with the elementary principles of courtesy or good taste to instigate a campaign of slander against a nation which has extended a very cordial welcome to the United States battleship fleet, whose officers and men will soon be enjoying the hospitality of the Japanese people. The Japanophobes declare that they are simply fighting for the maintenance of the "open-door" policy in the Far East: when and by whom has this policy been menaced? That Japan is slowly but surely gathering her strength for an armed onslaught on the United States: what vestige of proof can be brought forward in support of this assertion? That Japan's "dearest wish is to whip the United States": what Japanese newspaper, statesman, or responsible individual has given utterance to this wish? These questions could be continued indefinitely, but we fancy those we have put would require even more ingenuity than is possessed by the anti-Japanese party to answer them convincingly.

As for the proposed alliance between the United States and China, this could only be construed by Japan into a direct and gratuitous menace, and there is nothing to show that aught save strife would be engendered by its ratification. Indeed, the advocates of the alliance frankly admit its offensive character, arguing that in the event of hostilities breaking out between the United States and Japan the latter country would be taken in the rear by a numerous, well-drilled (*sic*) Chinese army. Meanwhile those who really know the attitude of America towards the Chinese are consumed with mirth at the idea of such an alliance. It is not

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too much to say that the Chinese are heartily detested by the majority of American citizens, who know full well the demoralising influence exercised by the yellow men among the poorer classes of the great American cities possessed of Chinese colonies. The Chinaman is usually ranked below the negro, and the general opinion is that he has well earned this classification. The spectacle of a great and highly civilised nation entering into a compact with a people who are admittedly still existing in a state of semi-barbarism is so difficult to conjure up that we find it impossible to regard the alliance agitation now in full swing as anything more serious than a natural phase of the "silly season."

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE AMERICAN EXODUS.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, August 31.

London is rapidly becoming denuded of the countless American visitors who have been in evidence for the past two or three months. No fewer than eight hundred of them left here on Saturday to catch outward bound Atlantic liners at Liverpool, Southampton, and Queenstown. The shipping offices report their inability to guarantee berths on the best boats unless booked at least three or four weeks in advance. And the exodus is not yet at its zenith. The second week in September is expected to be a record in this connection. I am informed by the London representative of a prominent Transatlantic shipping company that tourist traffic from the United States the present year has surpassed all previous years, but it is worth recording that most of the visitors have made less prolonged stays this year than formerly. This circumstance is attributed to the financial panic, which is supposed to have curtailed the funds usually expended by American tourists in England and the Continent. It is needless to say that London tradesmen of all descriptions are always regretful to see the last of these usually openhanded visitors.

THE SEVENOAKS MURDER.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, August 31.

The police investigations in the affair of the murder of Mrs. Luard are at a complete standstill. So far no clue worthy of the name has come to light, and it has now become plain that the robbery motive is quite untenable. During the last few days the police have confined themselves to searching for the revolver with which the deed was committed, the rings torn from the murdered lady's fingers, and enquiries among the inhabitants of the district as to whether any suspicious individual had been seen on the afternoon of the crime. There is a growing conviction that a far deeper motive than the mere theft of two or three rings underlies the case, but the entire affair is surrounded by an apparently impenetrable mystery. It is recognised that each day that elapses renders the task of detecting the miscreant more and more difficult, and there is but too good reason to believe that the crime must be recorded as still another victory scored by the criminal over the representatives of the law.

THE NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR.

Tokio, August 31.

Baron Kato, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed to succeed Count Komura as ambassador at the Court of St. James', London.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

TELEGRAPHING FROM AIRSHIPS.

(From our New York correspondent.)

When a captive balloon was employed near Santiago by the American troops for purposes of reconnaissance, an old-fashioned telegraph wire conveyed reports from the aerial observatory to headquarters. When an airship which is not anchored and which has been equipped with engines and propellers is engaged in similar service, other means of communication must be employed. Hence the question has arisen here as to whether Hertz wave telegraphy will meet the requirements of modern military aeronautic practice.

Major Edgar Russell, of the United States signal corps, according to the *Tribune*, finds that a wire hanging from a dirigible balloon will pick up a message from a land station twenty-five or thirty miles away. It may be assumed that it will prove equally efficient when the direction of the wireless message is reversed. Efficiency and safety, however, are not identical, and the wisdom of trying to send dispatches at all from airships of a certain class is still uncertain. The transmitting device used in wireless telegraphy emits sparks when at work, and sparks are sad mischief makers if they gain access to explosive gas, like that which gives buoyancy to a balloon. At least one aeronaut, Severo, is believed to have lost his life while manoeuvring at a great elevation because he failed to keep the sparks of the ignition device of his engine at a respectful distance from his gas bag. Count Zeppelin's airship was wrecked while on the ground, but the disaster was due to the explosive character of the hydrogen employed for inflation.

Much study is now being devoted to methods of properly shielding Hertz wave transmitters so that no unfortunate consequences may result from their use in airships like Captain Baldwin's. Several plans are said to be under consideration at Washington, one being the adoption of a covering of gauze such as gives safety to the miner's lamp. It is to be hoped that the experiments now in progress will result in the discovery of a thoroughly trusty safeguard. No danger from an explosion on an aeroplane need be expected, but it might be a pity to limit the War Department to airships of the kind which the Wrights and Mr. Herring have built for the U.S. Government.

HOTEL LIGHTED BY CANDLES.

(From our New York correspondent.)

The Hotel Albany, Broadway and 41st street, literally became the house of a thousand candles on the night of August 21st, owing to an accident to its emergency electrical plant. The hotel was plunged into darkness because of a defect in the regular lighting system. The guests were alarmed and had to grope around in the dark, using matches for light until the emergency electrical plant was put in operation.

This worked well for an hour or two, but suddenly every electric lamp in the place again went out. The manager sent bellboys out with \$60 and soon the candle market in the Tenderloin was cornered. But when the candles arrived at the hotel Manager Murphy found himself "up a stump," for he had forgotten to get candlesticks. After a few minutes he thought of a scheme. He sent men out for empty beer bottles, and soon everybody in the hotel was living by candle light. The repairs on the defective lighting plant were not completed until 9.30 o'clock.

THE "LUSITANIA'S" ACHIEVEMENT.

(From our New York correspondent.)

The last westward run of the "Lusitania" was regarded here as tantalizing in its promise. Hitherto, in order to keep well away from fog and ice, she has taken the southern course. On this voyage she followed the northern, saving 110 miles in distance and more than four hours in time. A second thing in her favour was the breaking of her own record for speed. In the reports of the performance there is an apparent, though probably not a real, discrepancy. (Continued on page 2.)