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The Daily Record

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AMERICA AND JAPAN.

Reading between the lines of the Tokio despatch which recently announced the postponement of the Japanese Exhibition, it is not difficult to discover why the Mikado's Government have deemed it advisable to put aside this project for a further term of years. Their decision has manifestly been influenced by the really serious condition of the national finances, upon which an Exhibition on the scale planned for that at Tokio would have thrown no inconsiderable strain, and might have further complicated the already complex task of making both ends meet. The sweeping reductions in the original Japanese Budget, that were the subject of recent comment in these columns, may do something towards alleviating the distress under which a large section of the agrarian population is said to be labouring in consequence of enormously increased taxation since the war with Russia. In the first flush of victory the country light-heartedly embarked on an extensive programme of naval and military expansion, without pausing to reckon whence the money was coming. To a very considerable extent this programme has now been abandoned, for among thoughtful people in the Island Kingdom the belief is gaining ground that nothing is likely to disturb the existing balance of power in the Pacific for several years to come. The necessity of being in readiness to fight if called upon to do so is still recognised, but indications are not lacking that the feverish building of warships and creation of fresh battalions is quite unjustified. Therefore, the millions saved out of the Military Budgets are to be devoted to the furtherance of commercial and industrial activity, which is, after all, the backbone of every nation.

The utterances of President Roosevelt contained in a letter to Mr. Root concerning the postponement of the Tokio Exhibition could hardly have been made at a more opportune moment. "The people of the United States," said the President, "hold Japan in peculiar feelings of regard and friendship, and no other nation is more anxious than we are to make the Exhibition a success." Such words have a double significance in view of the continuance of the absurd agitation for a Chinese-American alliance against Japan, of the anti-Japanese character given by a section of the New York press to Australia's reception of Admiral Sperry's battleships, of persistent rumours that Japan is building up a navy by secret purchases abroad, and of hair-raising alarms sounded by such fire-eaters as Captain Hobson, of osculatory fame. We may take it from Mr. Roosevelt's words that the Chinese alliance project finds no favour in official circles, as every American statesman knows full well that the advantages accruing from a binding agreement with China exist solely in the fevered imaginations of sensational newspaper writers. Alliances of any nature are diametrically opposed to the lines of America's foreign policy as laid down by George Washington and consistently pursued ever since. Friendly relations with all Powers are sought after by the Washington authorities, but a cold official stare greets the least mention of "entangling alliances."

A prominent New York evening journal very tritely remarks that those American citizens who are still obsessed by the Yellow Peril bogey forget that Japan has repeatedly declared by word and deed that she anxiously desires to remain at peace with every one. It does not matter that Japan has made open confessions of financial difficulties. According to the yellow journals Japanese statesmen are perjured villains, and Japanese concessions only a trap for unwary Powers. Publicly uttered sentiments of this nature cannot fail to arouse the liveliest suspicion in Japan itself, where people are already asking whether the United States is determined to bring about a collision by thus stirring up public sentiment against a friendly nation. Indeed, it is widely rumoured that Mr. Takahira's visit to Oyster Bay last week was for the purpose of discussing with Mr. Roosevelt the advisability of cancelling Japan's invitation to the Atlantic Fleet in view of the marked anti-Japanese tone of the American press. This invitation was originally extended in all good faith, and if, as is not improbable, it is eventually cancelled for the reasons given by Mr. Takahira, the Japanophobe journals

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will have scored a distinct triumph—in the cause of international discord. The people of America will soon be in a position to say with old Thomas Fuller that "the press beginneth to be an oppression of the land."

From the Washington despatch which we published yesterday it is obvious that the United States Government are fully alive to the necessity of providing adequate defences for American interests in the Pacific. Honolulu and Hawaii are to be very heavily fortified, and accommodation provided for warships using these points as bases for operations in adjacent waters. Honolulu in particular is a position of the highest strategical importance, owing to its comparative proximity to the Pacific Coast; and as its seizure would be an object of primary importance to a hostile naval squadron, American military experts are gratified at the projected defence work to be undertaken there very shortly. It is, however, unfortunate that the plan for creating a permanent battle squadron for the Pacific has apparently been abandoned. So long as the Pacific Coast depends for its protection on a hopelessly inadequate squadron of cruisers there must always be a good deal of tension existing between Japan and her trans-Pacific neighbour, Californians and other dwellers on the Pacific Coast will naturally regard with alarm every new move on the part of Japan towards increasing her fleet, in the knowledge that upon them would fall the brunt of an attack from that quarter. In the best interests of both countries, therefore, it is to be hoped that Congress will abandon their previous policy of parsimony when the next Navy Estimates come up for discussion. The detrimental effect upon international relations exercised by a Power showing a disinclination to adequately maintain its defensive obligations is evidenced only too plainly in the tension—now happily disappearing—between Great Britain and this country.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

PROPOSED ANGLO-AMERICAN EXPOSITION IN LONDON.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, September 7.

A proposal which is certain to meet with great enthusiasm in both England and America has been put forward by Mr. Imre Kiralfy, the man who has made such a huge success of the Franco-British Exhibition now running to its close at Shepherd's Bush. Mr. Kiralfy suggests that the grounds and buildings left vacant at the close of the present show in October should be prepared for a great Anglo-American exhibition next year. The project, although it has not yet been thoroughly gone into, has already won popular estimation here, where the advantages that would accrue from such an exposition are heartily recognised. It is believed that the "American invasion" next year would be on a phenomenally big scale, with resulting benefits to hotel and shop-keepers. Moreover, the plan would go a long way towards eliminating the perceptible friction created by certain unfortunate happenings in connection with the Olympic Games. So far the management of the present exhibition has expressed its complete approval of the scheme, which Mr. Kiralfy says would rival the World Expositions of Paris, Chicago, and St. Louis. Further

advances must come from America, and it is satisfactory to note that the idea is already being taken up by several American newspapers in a very cordial manner. American manufacturers and business men of all descriptions should welcome an opportunity of making the British public acquainted with their goods, while English firms anticipate that the Exhibition would bring them into touch with valuable American connections.

It has now been decided by the promoters of the Anglo-French show to leave all the magnificent buildings intact, so that the holding of an Anglo-American exhibition would not entail the vast preliminary expenditure necessary when a site has to be leased and special edifices erected. Everything, in fact, is favourable to Mr. Kiralfy's plan, and it is sincerely to be hoped that sufficient support in both countries will be forthcoming to render the project, not only possible, but an unparalleled success.

TRADE CONTINUES TO RAPIDLY DECREASE.

London, September 7.

The Board of Trade returns for the month of August show a decrease of £6,544,396 in the value of the imports and of £7,012,368 in the exports, as compared with the corresponding month last year.

THE DEMANDS OF LABOUR.

Nottingham, September 7.

The Trade Unions Congress, at which 1,750,000 workmen are represented, assembled here for the first time today. In his opening address the President, Mr. Shackleton, M. P. for the Clitheroe division of Lancashire, dealt with the question of the unemployed, and recommended a shorter working day as the remedy. He also called upon all present to endeavour to obtain the lowering of the age limit for old age pensions. Finally, he proposed that the British Government should suggest the holding of an international Trade Unions Conference in London, at which all the European Governments and the United States of America should be represented.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

HARRY THAW'S LIFE IN PRISON.

Harry Thaw's treatment is again the subject of adverse comment in the American press, thanks to the report of the secretary of the State Prison Commission protesting against his luxurious confinement in Poughkeepsie Gaol pending the outcome of the apparently interminable litigation. From this report it appears that Stanford White's murderer has a corridor containing 13 cells to himself, ordinary prisoners being crowded two in a cell to make this arrangement possible. He gets his meals from the best hotel in Poughkeepsie, his rooms are full of floral offerings from people whom the secretary of the Prison Commission not inaptly describes as "unincarcerated female lunatics." The rooms themselves are furnished like a railroad magnate's office, and Thaw is by no means kept the close prisoner suggested by certain of his sympathisers. As a matter of fact he is frequently taken on outings for the ostensible purpose of attending hearings which never come off. The entire routine of the prison is dislocated for his convenience, and the secretary pertinently asks what would be the effect of all this luxury upon a neighbouring pickpocket peering through the bars of his cell, and upon public opinion in general. It is now generally recognised that if Thaw is not returned without delay to the asylum to which he was committed, the idea will become fixed that because he is possessed of wealth he has privileges denied to an impecunious criminal.

ARMED MANIAC AT OYSTER BAY.

New York, September 8.

A maniac armed with a revolver was taken into custody yesterday on the estate at Oyster Bay, L. I., Mr. Roosevelt's country home. This individual desired the President to despatch troops to Boston, where he said burglaries and other crimes were rampant. It transpires that the arrest was made as the result of a rumour which had reached the police to the effect that President Roosevelt would be fired on during his ride today. This rumour, however, the police characterise as an invention.

(Continued on page 2.)