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The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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ENGLAND'S DEPRESSING TRADE OUTLOOK.

The statistics of British trade during the month of August have been published by the Board of Trade, and dreary reading they will prove to all classes of Englishmen. Without doubt they place an additional weapon in the hands of the Tariff Reformers, who will certainly use it to the very best advantage. Following upon the recently concluded Free Trade Congress in London, these figures furnish a striking commentary on the timeworn platitudes which interlaced the utterances of both British and foreign Free Trade enthusiasts. Those delegates hailing from abroad who were loud in their praises of England's tariff system—or lack of system—were very naturally regarded somewhat askance by impartial spectators. The countries they represented have profited to an enormous extent by the Cobden principles on which the British tariff arrangement is based, while taking very good care to erect solid tariff walls around their own frontiers, practically excluding British goods. Their attitude was the reverse of disinterested, and therefore the speeches made by foreign delegates to the Congress were rightly disregarded by all save that section of the London Press which seizes with avidity upon anything calculated to detrimentally affect the welfare of the British Empire. It appears from the Board of Trade statistics that England's foreign trade during August of this year shows a decrease compared with the corresponding month of last year of no less a sum than £13,556,764,—£6,544,396 being lost in imports and £7,012,368 in exports. In the course of the next few days we are certain to hear all manner of ingenious excuses put forward by Free Trade journals to account for this really startling commercial deficit, but facts are stubborn things, against which the most skilful empirical arguments cannot permanently prevail. As a matter of fact, however, the Cobdenites have not yet demonstrated their ability as players of a losing game. They have contented themselves with stuffing the electorate with contentions which were long since discredited by change of circumstances; the fact of fifty years ago may well be the fiction of today, this being especially true when applied to that very mutable period elapsing between the decease of the "Apostle of Free Trade" and this present year of grace, 1908.

We have neither the space nor the inclination to enter upon a dissertation regarding the respective merits of Free Trade and Protection; we believe this vexed question can best be settled by studying the progress made by modern nations under a system of Protection, or vice-versa. The United States and Germany, together with Great Britain, are the foremost commercial Powers of today. The two first-named have tariff systems framed on lines of the utmost stringency, in spite of which the import and export trade of both has maintained a steady increase ever since the inauguration of the protective arrangement. Great Britain, in contrast, has steadfastly held true to the doctrine of Free Trade, and compared with her two great commercial rivals has been losing ground with appalling rapidity for some years past. Here, surely, is prima facie evidence sufficient to convince open-minded observers that, in view of modern conditions, under Protection a nation flourishes and waxes exceeding fat; whereas, under the Cobden regime, it is placed at an enormous disadvantage in the strenuous battle for a share of the world's trade. Free Trade England is comparable to a warrior who, preparatory to facing two equally powerful opponents, has his right arm strapped behind his back by well-meaning friends, on the pretext that some hundred years before a warrior thus handicapped had won in a similar conflict, the friends forgetting to mention that on the occasion cited the opponents were so diminutive as to be quite insignificant. A great thinker once remarked, speaking metaphorically, upon the infinite pathos he found in the spectacle of worn-out old rags clinging desperately to the drooping bones of a defunct creed. There would also be pathos, not unmixed with satire, in the spectacle of Cobdenites feverishly attempting to prop up their crumbling idol with pillars of sand, were it not a matter involving the vital welfare of a great nation and therefore call-

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ing for the serious attention of all to whom that welfare is dear. The old order changeth, and woe to them that are too stiff-necked to adapt themselves to the new, seeking to stem the tide of progress by vain argument and pointless verbiage. The question is one over which the curse of partisanship spreads its malign influence, whereas its national importance should rescue it from the sordid considerations of the party arena. The original tariff reform proposal emanated from Mr. Chamberlain; ergo, it behoved all good Liberals to fight it tooth and nail, irrespective of the merits of the said proposal. Had it been brought forward by a member of the Liberal party, the boot would, no doubt, have been on the other leg. Such things are inseparable from government by the party system.

We venture to assert that a few more issues of monthly statistics similar to or worse than those for August will set the British electorate a-thinking, a mental exercise to which it is not exceedingly prone, preferring to leave it to the prophets of the ha' penny Press. But no student of history can deny that when it does really start to think something usually happens. What will happen in this case is already anticipated by enterprising agents of the Unionist party, who are busily engaged in preparing the field for that General Election which discerning politicians profess to regard as imminent.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

HAUNTED HOUSE AT HULL.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, September 8.

A Central News telegram from Hull says that something of supernatural nature is alleged to have taken place at a house in Sykes-street, Hull, and the police have been called in to solve the mystery surrounding the extraordinary manifestations which have occurred.

The house is occupied by Mr. James Gilson and his wife, and the latter's brother was buried from there on Friday. In the small hours of Saturday morning the family were up, when unusual noises were heard. Mrs. Gilson says that a comb flew out of a comb-box and fell into a bowl with a loud noise. Her husband picked it up, when the brush fell out in the same way.

The occupants were more terrified when, according to Mrs. Gilson, a pebble came through the kitchen door, which was closed. Mrs. Gilson fainted, and the others ran out. P.C. Hynes, who, observing the commotion, arrived on the scene, declares that as he passed through the kitchen into the inner room a box of blacking flew past his helmet;

cups and glasses also flew from the table and were smashed.

The house was thoroughly searched, but no one was found; and as no solution was forthcoming the alarmed occupants passed the night in a neighbour's house. Later, other officers arrived, including P.C. O'Kelly, the heavy-weight champion wrestler at the Olympic Games, but there were no more manifestations. All the occupants have now left the house and removed the furniture, and Mrs. Gilson is ill as a result of the shock.

MR. CHURCHILL'S WEDDING.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, September 8.

Lord Hugh Cecil will be best man at the wedding next Saturday at St. Margaret's, Westminster, of Mr. Winston Churchill and Miss Clementine Hozier. The marriage service will be conducted by the Bishop of St. Asaph, and Bishop Welldon will give the address. The bride will be led to the altar by her brother, Mr. William Hozier, who is a young officer in the Royal Navy, and will be given away by her mother. She will wear a bride's dress of Venetian white satin, cut in the Venetian style, and trimmed with some very valuable Venetian lace which her future mother-in-law, Mr. George Cornwallis West, is lending for the occasion. She will be attended by five bridesmaids, namely: Miss Nellie Hozier (the bride's sister), Miss Madeleine Whyte, daughter of Lady Whyte (cousin of the bride), the Hon. Venetia Stanley, daughter of Lord and Lady Stanley of Alderley (cousin of the bride), Miss Horatio Seymour, and Miss Claire Frewen (niece of the bridegroom).

GERMAN HUMOURIST'S LONDON SUCCESS.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, September 8.

Mr. Robert Steidl, the German humourist, who has been a revelation to the patrons of the Alhambra for the last few weeks, has been exclusively engaged by Mr. Alfred Moul to appear for a term of years. He will return to the Alhambra next spring, and also, by permission of Mr. Moul, will appear at Drury Lane in the pantomime of 1909-10.

WIRELESS TELEPHONY.

London, September 8.

Dr. Lee De Forest, who is responsible for the invention of a system of wireless telephony as well as telegraphy, has arrived at Plymouth from New York, and will visit London within the next few days in order to arrange for demonstrations of his system to be given before the Admiralty. He expects the trials to take place at Portsmouth on the "Vernon." Dr. De Forest asserts that by his wireless telephone system ships can maintain conversations over a distance of 75 miles.

Details of the De Forest system of wireless telephony were given yesterday in a despatch from our New York correspondent.

ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS.

Herr Bebel, the leader of the Socialistic party in Germany, writing to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, a prominent English Socialist member of Parliament, says:—"There exist no grounds on which a war between the two highly civilised peoples—Englishmen and Germans—could be justified. We shall continue to act from this standpoint, and should our rulers exhibit any tendency to provoke a war we shall leave nothing undone that may be in our power to prevent such a war."

Herr Bebel goes on to say that in spite of the war clamours of certain elements in Germany and England, "I cannot admit that the opposition between the ruling classes of the two countries has reached so tense a point as to foreshadow an early outbreak of war. That such a war may break out in the course of time I hold to be quite possible. Preparations for war are carried on with such vehemence, and they claim such an immense part of the resources of the nations, that this state of things cannot last very long. It is provoking the catastrophe which it is meant to prevent. I think, therefore, that we should calmly and carefully follow the development of things, enlightening the people, and especially the working classes, upon the possible consequence in proof of the spirit in which we desire to work." (Continued on page 2.)