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The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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MORE FRICTION IN MOROCCO.

The apparently eternal Morocco question is as far from solution as ever. A few weeks ago optimists everywhere were confidently predicting peace and tranquillity in that troubled land as a consequence of the recognition of Mulai Hafid. The momentary unrest created in Europe by certain developments of the situation died a natural death, and already the French War Ministry were understood to be making arrangements for the early withdrawal of the army of occupation. But, contrary to expectation, confusion has now become worse confounded; Mulai Hafid's assurances to Europe of his intention to adhere to the Act of Algeiras have alienated a large number of the fanatics whose efforts gave him the throne, and who looked to him to wage unremitting warfare against the hated Frank. The newly fledged Sultan is thus on the horns of a dilemma. Concessions to Europe will inevitably generate further animosity between Mulai and his fierce adherents; defiance to Europe can only mean an indefinite continuance of the costly and peculiarly futile military operations which France has been carrying out in Morocco for the past twelve months. It will thus be seen that the situation was delicate to a dangerous degree without the appearance of further untoward incidents; but the evil genius who seems to dog the footsteps of everybody involved in the Morocco imbroglio has introduced another most serious phase into the problem. The bare details of the regrettable incident at Casablanca have already been published in these columns, but more detailed despatches since to hand indicate a seriousness attaching to it that at first was not recognised. The facts of the case, as gathered from our telegrams and other sources, are as follow: Five German deserters from the Foreign Legion, who had taken refuge in the German Consulate, were being sent by the Consul, accompanied by a secretary and a soldier of the Consulate, to be embarked on the German steamer "Cintra," which was about to leave for Tangier. Some gendarmes, however, tried to prevent the embarkation of the deserters, who threw themselves into the water and began swimming towards the "Cintra." They were instantly followed by the gendarmes, and a regular swimming match took place. Finally, before they were able to reach the German boat, the deserters were arrested, in spite of protests on the part of the German consular secretary. In the course of the dispute it appears the consular official and the guard were roughly handled by the French gendarmes. On learning what was taking place, the whole of the German colony rushed to the port, but the water-gate was shut by the French marine guard, and communication between the town and the port was interrupted for some time. The Germans then proceeded to their Consulate, where they lodged a strong protest with the Consul. Nobody in Casablanca conceals the extreme gravity of the acts committed by the French gendarmes. Tense excitement is said to prevail in the city. The German Consul has wisely recommended his compatriots to observe the greatest prudence, and hopes that the affair will be satisfactorily settled. On the other hand, the Moroccans are delighted to witness such incidents as these between Europeans, since they

demonstrate very forcibly the lack of unity existing between the various infidel Powers.

What the ultimate effect of this deplorable scrimmage will be, it is impossible to forecast at this juncture. The laudable reserve displayed by both German and French organs in connection with the incident is, however, a highly favourable augury of an amicable solution. It would appear that the entire question is one of international law, whose remarkably elastic statutes do not definitely state whether the German Consul was justified in according official protection to the deserters. According to German law, he was; but the French authorities claim that whatever the nationality of the deserters they were acknowledged to be serving under the French flag and were, therefore, subject to the same discipline and regulations governing other French soldiers. The best that can be hoped is that the matter will be submitted to a commission composed of neutral parties, pending whose decision the extremist organs of both countries should restrain their fulminations. But to deny that the incident has happened at a most inopportune moment, or that it can have no detrimental effect on international amity, would be to fly in the face of the facts. The devoted army of peace enthusiasts may well cry, with respect to Morocco, "How long, how long!" for that insignificant country has earned the unenviable reputation of being a veritable powder-mine, and the sparks engendered by this perpetual friction are today falling perilously near.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

LONDON'S NEW LORD MAYOR.

London, September 30.

The new Lord Mayor of London is to be Sir George Wyatt Truscott, a son of the late Sir Francis Truscott, who was Lord Mayor in 1879—80. Sir George was born in 1857, and is therefore only 51 years of age.

THE NEWCASTLE ELECTION.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, September 28.

Since the memorable contest in Mid-Devon, no bye-election has aroused so much interest throughout England as that which has just taken place in Newcastle. The Unionists may well be pardoned their elation over the result, for the turnover of votes is little less than astonishing; while Mr. Renwick, the successful Unionist candidate, has polled 1,921 votes more than did Sir W. Plummer at the General Election, the decrease in the Radical vote amounts to 6,703. The total poll was considerably smaller than in 1906. This may most probably be accounted for by the abstention of Irish voters. While these latter refused to cast their votes for a Government which, in their opinion, acted tyrannically and unjustly in the matter of the Roman Catholic procession in London, it was quite another thing to actually vote for a Tory candidate, who openly avowed his intention of doing all in his power to defeat any proposed measure of Home Rule for Ireland.

Mr. Shortt, the defeated candidate, ascribes his reversal to misrepresentations by his opponents and to the fact that a third candidate, a Socialist, polled votes all of which ought to have been cast for the Government candidate. But while it is perfectly true that had the 2,971 votes cast for the Socialist been added to Mr. Shortt's total he would have been elected by a majority of about 800, it is going very far to claim that but for Alderman Hartley's participation in the contest they would have gone to swell the Radical total. All those who voted Socialist were against the Government, which they accuse of sapineness in the matter of labour questions; and they would most probably have abstained altogether had not a candidate whose views coincided with their own made his appearance. The fact is that Mr. Renwick's success is entirely due to two causes,—viz., the bitter feeling which has been aroused among a large and interested class by the Government's Licensing Bill, and the growing favour which is being attached to tariff reform. Mr. Renwick, in his speeches, did not devote much attention to the possible iniquities of the Licensing Bill, but none the less the publicans and all connected with the brewing interest were loud in their denunciations of it and supported the Unionist candidate to a man. The new M. P. himself ascribes his victory entirely to the fact that he hammered tariff reform into the ears of his auditors at every meeting of the campaign. There is already, unfortunately, a large amount of unemployment in the country. From every large city comes the same story,—a terrible shortage of employment; and both in Glasgow and Manchester serious disorder has resulted. Only two remedies for this regrettable state of things have been suggested,—viz., Socialism or a change of the existing fiscal system. That the former does not meet with any very great amount of sympathy may be gathered from the fact that barely one-eighth of the votes polled at Newcastle were thrown into the Socialist urn. But close on 14,000 votes showed themselves in favour of Tariff Reform, a fact which may well give the Premier cause to think before he again announces that Protection is dead as a door-nail. As a matter of fact, in the nine bye-elections in which the Unionists have wrested seats from the Government, and in which increase in the Unionist vote has been 19,314 as against a decrease of 20,000 odd in the Radical vote, tariff reform has been the chief plank in the victors' platform. With the flowing tide of the bye-elections continuously against them, the Government appear to be riding for a fall by persisting in pressing the Licensing Bill through the Commons; but if, as appears likely, Mr. Asquith decides to appeal to the country next summer, much as the Radicals will dislike it, tariff reform will of a certainty be the burning question of the elections.

PREMATURE END OF A PLEASURE CRUISE.

[London, September 29.]

The steamer "Argonaut," outward bound from London on a pleasure cruise to the Mediterranean, came into collision with another steamer in a fog off Dungeness, and sank. The passengers, 118 in number, and the crew were saved in boats, but lost all their effects.

(Continued on page 2.)