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The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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The Daily Record is delivered by hand in Dresden, and may be ordered at any Post Office throughout the German Empire. It is published daily, excepting Mondays and days following legal holidays in Dresden.

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THE WAR CLOUD IN THE NEAR EAST.

Sensational events occurring in other quarters of the globe during the past few months have diverted attention from a very serious development of the situation in the Balkans. We refer to the arbitrary seizure by Bulgaria of that section of the Oriental Railway which passes through Roumelia, and the curt refusal of the Principality to withdraw its troops from the vicinity of the line. The action of Bulgaria has naturally aroused much indignation in the Ottoman Empire, where it is generally believed that Bulgaria is taking unfair advantage of the temporary confusion engendered by the introduction of a Constitutional régime in Turkey to exert pressure on the Porte for her own aggrandisement. Bulgaria is certainly displaying a reprehensible amount of self-assertiveness and recklessness in connection with the Oriental Railway incident; in fact, it is quite patent that a resort to arms on the part of Turkey would exactly coincide with the unuttered desire of Prince Ferdinand's Government. At first sight it might be thought that Bulgaria was practically inviting national annihilation by thus boldly defying the power of the Ottoman, but an investigation of the circumstances shows that, on the contrary, so far as military power is concerned, the Principality has little reason to fear its imposing neighbour. The Bulgarian army is said by experts to be a model of general efficiency; the spirit of its officers and of the rank and file is characterised by intensely patriotic ardour and strict adherence to duty; its equipment is the best that money and experience can produce. Furthermore, the army possesses a great advantage over the Turkish military forces, in as much as it can be mobilised and concentrated at any point on the frontier within a remarkably short space of time. In contrast to this, the Turkish army cannot be brought up to full war strength in a shorter period than four months. An experienced Balkan traveller, writing of the Bulgarian army says: "The zeal of the officers, which had its root in a patriotic idealism that bore a strong likeness to religion, was intense. Not only did they feel themselves braced to put forth a heroic effort on an emergency, but they were buoyed up against the tedium of sameness, that stirs no fibre of imaginative sensibility, and the dejection and spiritual dryness engendered by oft-deferred hope. They watched and waited, and made themselves daily better equipped for the work which they fervently trusted they would soon be called upon to perform. Drill was frequent, and was gone through with the ardour of a revival service. Measurements and plans were made on either side of the frontiers, maps were studied, lines of outposts drafted, entrenchments were thrown up, reports from Turkey were received and discussed; in a word, the tactics adopted by the Prussians before the war with France were imitated and improved on."

The key to all this feverish military activity in the Principality is to be found in those secret hopes and ambitions that have a place in the heart of every patriotic Bulgar. In no country in the world has history such an influence on the mind of the people as in that hill-bound territory where Prince Ferdinand holds sway. The Bulgarians remember how time and time again their efforts to expand and develop into something more than an obscure people have been nullified by Austria, by Turkey, and even by friendly Russia. Now they believe the psychological moment to have arrived, and there is very little doubt that the seizure of the Orient Railway is to be interpreted as a direct challenge to the Porte. Unfortunately for Bulgarian hopes, however, the Porte shows a singular disinclination to decide the vexed question by the arbitrament of war. The Young Turks realise perfectly well that a war at the present juncture would not improbably work havoc with the extensive and intricate schemes for the political and administrative regeneration of Turkey. If there is any strength left in the reactionary party, the crossing of the frontier by the first Bulgarian soldier might be the signal for the immediate re-establishment of the abhorrent autocratic régime, on the plea that the exigencies of the moment demanded such a measure. Now no observer of ordinary intelligence who has followed the complicated details of Balkan

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policy can fail to see that the inauguration of Constitutional government in the Ottoman Empire will be the death-blow to the prestige so laboriously acquired in those regions by certain of the great European Powers, since their representatives were known to be in close touch with the Sultan, and, therefore, in sympathy with the clique which for years had maladministered the affairs of the Empire. The Young Turks have already given evidence of their determination to cut all European leading-strings, and, consequently, those Powers who flourished most under the late régime will be left severely in the cold by the new order. It is, therefore, obvious that any movement likely to abolish, or even delay, the inauguration of Constitutionalism in the Sultan's realms would have the whole-hearted secret support of the certain Powers to whom we have referred. It is plainly to their interest to incite little Bulgaria against the Turks, to use her as a cat's-paw for the promotion of their ulterior policies. As we previously remarked, Turkey is unreasonable enough to delay her declaration of war on the upstart Principality who is goading her so truculently. The Porte has contented itself with appealing to the Powers to exert pressure on Bulgaria and induce her to yield up the stretch of railway she has so piratically seized. Against such pressure the Principality must perforce abandon her present aggressive attitude, but it is open to question whether the said Powers will use their influence in a disinterested manner. Many competent writers aver that war in the Near East is inevitable and imminent. We do not know if these assertions are completely justified, but the data available suffice to render them by no means improbable.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH'S RETIREMENT.

Lord Tweedmouth, who, as we reported yesterday, has retired from his office as Lord President of the Council, did yeoman service to his party as Mr. Marjoribanks in the position of Chief Whip, and it was quite expected when Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman was forming his Cabinet that Lord Tweedmouth would be chosen for one of the principal offices carrying Cabinet rank. He went, it will be recalled, to the Admiralty in the capacity of First Lord. Towards the close of his period there the incident of the exchange of letters with the German Emperor caused a considerable stir in the political world, and when, on Mr. Asquith succeeding Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman as Prime Minister last April, the Cabinet changes then made included Lord Tweedmouth's transfer from the Admiralty to the office of Lord President, there

were not wanting those who traced a connection between the incident of the letters and the change in his official position.

It is, however, practically certain that Lord Tweedmouth's breakdown of health, or threatened breakdown, was known to his intimates long before it became public property, and that the new Premier decided to place him in a position where the lightness of his duties would ensure him comparative rest and assist him to recuperate, if improvement was possible. Unhappily, the hopes of his friends have not been realised, and his resignation has accordingly been tendered and accepted.

During the greater part of his illness Lord Tweedmouth has been living at a villa in Wimbledon, where he has been the object of every care and attention on the part of members of his family, particularly his sister, the Countess of Aberdeen. It is understood that the patient is to stay for a time with her ladyship in Ireland, in the hope that the change of air and scene may help to bring about an improvement.

THE STEAM YACHT CATASTROPHE.

With reference to the wreck of a steam pleasure yacht (the bare details of which we published in yesterday's issue) the following details are now to hand:

The well-known steam yacht "Argonaut," under the management of Dr. Lunn, left Tilbury on Monday night for a cruise in the Mediterranean, her first intended port of call being Lisbon. She had on board 120 passengers, many of them of social rank, and a crew of the same number. After rounding the North Foreland the "Argonaut" ran into a thick fog, which prevailed all night, but she slowly made her way past the Downs and Dover, and at half-past eight on Tuesday morning was off Dungeness. Here, without any warning, she was run into by a tramp steamer, the "Kingswell," from the Tyne, which cut the "Argonaut's" bow, causing a great rent under the water-line. The vessel was at once seen to be in a perilous condition, and the boats were quickly lowered. Most of the passengers were at breakfast, but some had not left their cabins, and all had to be hurried on deck and placed in the boats. This was carried out in good order and without a sign of panic, though the alarm was so sudden that most of the passengers only got away with the clothes they were wearing, some not even securing a hat. After the passengers the crew left the yacht, the captain being the last man to abandon the vessel, which sank shortly afterwards. The boats at once made for the "Kingswell," which was standing by, but it was then found that this steamer was also in a very dangerous condition, and it was impossible to take the rescued persons from the "Argonaut" on board. They therefore, had to remain in the boats in scant clothing and in the deep fog for some three or four hours, when they were picked up by the London steamer "Southmoor," which towed them into Dover, where they landed at four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon.

BRITISH REVENUE DECLINING.

London, September 30.
The returns show a further falling-off in the public revenue of £2,081,293 in the last quarter, as compared with the same period last year.

DIAMOND INDUSTRY REVIVING.

Kimberley, September 30.
The De Beers diamond mines, which have been worked on shortened time since July 1, will resume full time six days a week from October 3.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE PRESIDENT AND MR. BRYAN.

New York, September 30.
President Roosevelt declines to answer Mr. Bryan's last letter, as further correspondence on the subject would be apt to become personal.

ELECTION BETTING.

New York, September 30.
The betting yesterday on the result of the Presidential election was five to two in favour of Mr. Taft, and several extensive bets at those odds were made in this city. It is reported, however, that

(Continued on page 2.)