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# The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

THE FIRST DAILY PAPER IN ENGLISH PUBLISHED IN GERMANY.

No 818.

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## THE NEAR EAST.

Now that the excitement caused by the series of dramatic events which have lately attracted the eyes of the world to the Balkan Peninsula is simmering down, a conviction is steadily growing that in spite of the indignation aroused by Austria-Hungary's arbitrary annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the spontaneous declaration of independence by Bulgaria, nothing remains for the dissenting Powers but to make the best of what they at present consider a bad job. A despatch we publish today indicates the readiness of Great Britain, Russia, France, and Italy to take part in a conference for the purpose of revising certain clauses of the Berlin Treaty in accordance with the altered conditions. Such a conference must of necessity be something of a farce, and it is obviously only to be convened in order the "save the face" of Europe. It is not improbable that a stern censure will be passed upon the Austrian Government, and perhaps upon Bulgaria also, but hard words never break any bones and the real work of the conference will be to confirm the present *status quo* in the Balkans.

While the Austrian Government has undoubtedly committed a breach of ethics in thus violating a solemn international treaty, there is every reason for believing that the ultimate results of her action will be highly beneficial. The London *Times* has been publishing a number of articles on the balance of power in the Balkan Peninsula, written by a military correspondent who is travelling through that territory, in which the excellent administration of Austria-Hungary in the province of Bosnia is the subject of unstinted praise. The correspondent says that Serajevo is a credit to the Austrian Government. Its present condition shows what can be done when the Asiatic rule of the Turk is replaced by a strong European administration. Mitrovitz, Novi Bazar, Sienitz, Priepolie, Plevlie, through which the *Times* correspondent passed on his way from Uskub to Serajevo, are typical Turkish country towns—filthy, slovenly, uncared for, ungoverned, and giving no indication of modern progress. Serajevo, with its fine public buildings, cleanly bazaars, and sanitary streets, stands out in striking contrast as the well-ordered capital of the Turkish province of Bosnia, which has been administered for the past thirty years by the Austro-Hungarian Government. What has been done at Serajevo has been done elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Good roads, clean towns, thriving villages, light railways everywhere indicate the civilising progress of strong administration. Judged by results—international politics apart—the best work done by the Congress of Berlin was when Bosnia and Herzegovina were taken from Turkey and handed over to the Government of the Dual Monarchy.

Unfortunately, there is reason to believe that various claims for "compensation" at the expense of Turkey will be put forward if the proposed conference meets, and unless the assembly turns a deaf ear to the specious arguments with which it is certain to be assailed, Turkey in Europe may cease to exist. Serbia is loudest in her demands for adequate compensation, though upon what grounds she bases her claim is not very clear. King Peter's domain is at present in the throes of a violent attack of war-fever, and his amazing heir-apparent is taking advantage of the situation to pose as a popular hero. The Crown Prince of Serbia, who has won universal notoriety by his cheap swashbuckling and frequent acts of a blackguardly character, is at present busying himself with the task of inflaming Servian popular opinion against Austria. He delivers airy speeches from the balcony of the palace at Belgrade, offering to lead his brother patriots to victory or to death, but so far the Government retains sufficient common-sense to refrain from gratuitously entering upon a campaign foredoomed to defeat. We read with amazement of the cheers which greet this royal mountebank's rhetoric, remembering how a few short months ago we were entertained with picturesque accounts of his exploits, such as the shooting of a cigar out of a soldier's mouth, and incidentally maiming the soldier; emptying a shot-gun into the back of a lackey who had committed the heinous crime of bringing in the princely coffee a shade too hot; and filling in the intervals by engineering filibustering plots against neighbouring States. A goodly proportion of the wild tales told in connection with the Crown Prince may be imaginary, but there is enough evidence to prove

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that he is a particularly repulsive specimen of dissolute youth, who, if destiny eventually seats him on the Servian throne, is likely to prove a fruitful source of trouble. In this case it is a great pity that Carlyle's proposal concerning young men cannot be carried into effect,—viz. to incarcerate obstreperous specimens in a barrel until they reach years of discretion.

## GENERAL NEWS.

### NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

#### THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

London, October 12.

The House of Commons met today for the autumn Session. The Prime Minister, speaking on Balkan affairs, said: "As Sir Edward Grey and I have already publicly declared, it is impossible, in the interest of the value of treaties, to recognize an alteration of them by a single State without the consent of the other signatories. To that principle we adhere, and we are of opinion that the events which have lately occurred in the near East render a consultation of the Powers necessary, with the object of coming to an agreement that should take due account of the interests of Turkey or of any other State which may have been prejudiced by recent changes. We confidently hope that a solution will be found, and we shall use our influence to ensure its being a peaceable and a just solution. The final arrangement of a Conference has not yet been accomplished, and the questions how an agreement on the subject can be obtained and what the subjects of discussion shall be, are now being considered. We hope, however, that those who naturally feel themselves prejudiced by what has occurred will not by hasty action precipitate a crisis, but that they will show the moderation and reserve which have hitherto distinguished them. They may rely upon it that a general wish exists that just regard shall be paid to their interests."

#### THE BRITISH ATTITUDE ON THE NEAR EASTERN CRISIS.

London, October 12.

Reuter learns that the discussions between Sir Edward Grey and M. Isvolsky will not terminate with the interview which is to take place at the Foreign Office today. As the negotiations are still in progress, no official communications respecting them are made to the Press. Reuter is neverthe-

less in a position to state that there is no foundation for the belief that an extension of the Anglo-Russian Convention in some way or other is being considered, and that the discussions between M. Isvolsky and Sir Edward Grey are confined to the situation in the near East. It may again be distinctly affirmed that both Ministers are agreed as to the necessity of a Conference, and that the present discussions at the Foreign Office, which followed the negotiations between France and Russia on the same subject, have removed some of the difficulties that stood in the way. It is now considered probable that recent events in the Near East will render it necessary to extend the circle of questions to be discussed at the Conference. Joint declarations have been or will be made at Constantinople by the three Powers, formally reaffirming the principle that no alteration of the Treaty of Berlin can be permitted without the consent of the Powers signatory to it.

### NEWS FROM AMERICA.

#### UNEASINESS IN REPUBLICAN CAMP.

The Republicans are getting rather anxious respecting the political position in New York City and State. The local leaders of the party complain that they have been practically deserted by Governor Hughes, who has been on the stump on behalf of Mr. Taft in the West and Middle West.

The matter has been brought to the attention of President Roosevelt, and at his request Mr. Hughes will start work in New York State this week. It is about time that he should take a direct hand in the work there, for his interests and those of the party have undoubtedly suffered through his absence. The Independence League has been making great strides in New York, mainly at the expense, it is believed, of the Republican party.

The Democratic party managers say that all is well all over the State, and their claim seems to be borne out by the facts as published. Tammany has been working among the common people with the patient industry and tact characteristic of that most powerful organisation, with the alleged result, as announced by its chief, Mr. Charles Murphy, that "New York City is all right."

Lieutenant-Governor Chanler's friends (we gather from the *Globe*) are putting a lot of money on his chances of election to the Governorship at odds slightly in favour of the Democratic candidate.

#### NEW PLAYS IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON.

Two new plays were presented in New York last week, both of which received a mixed reception by the critics. The one produced at Daly's, called "Myself—Bellina," by Miss Rachel Crothers, attracted general interest because it was the vehicle by which Miss Maxine Elliott, with an excellent cast, chose to make a welcome reappearance in New York. The other was a drama by George Cameron, entitled "Agnes," in which that favourite actress Miss Nance O'Neil was the central figure at the Majestic Theatre.

"Myself—Bellina" has an old homestead in New England for an environment, and there is an attempt at a Salome dance, cut short by the intervention of the puritanic conscience once paramount in that section—a feature of the play regarded on the stage as an unsuccessful sensation. Miss Elliott's Salome (says the New York correspondent of the *Times*) bore little resemblance to the flimsily dressed dancers on the vaudeville stage with which New York is over familiar. The motive of the play, the critics remark, bears marked resemblance to that of Sudermann's "Magda," with the obvious difference that the latter is much the greater play. As in "Myself—Bellina," no weak spots are to be detected in the cast of "Agnes," but only in the play. The author has hit upon an Enoch Arden motive, availing himself of the modern interest in psychology and the mysteries of double personality for a plot. This is clumsily woven in the opinion of the critics, until the third act, when the play takes a new turn and holds the audience with breathless interest, due to the intensity of the acting, Miss O'Neil's chiefly.

To a large section of play-goers, last week's greatest attraction was the reappearance of Mlle. Adeline Genée in "The Soul Kiss" at the Grand

(Continued on page 2.)