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The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS.

An article from the pen of Mr. Harold Spender, who accompanied the British Chancellor of the Exchequer on his recent visit to this country, has just appeared in one of the English reviews, and merits the attention of all who are desirous of witnessing the inauguration of perfectly cordial relations between Great Britain and Germany. Approaching the subject more from an economic than a political point of view, Mr. Spender lays stress on the danger of increasing armaments and the spirit of panic which invents or exaggerates anything that may suggest warlike purposes. It was stated in England very recently that the number of workmen at Krupp's arsenal had been suddenly and substantially increased. On investigation this proved to be exactly the opposite of the truth. The writer reports that the belief prevails in Germany that her older naval squadrons are composed of little better than coffin ships, and an enlarged fleet is therefore considered absolutely necessary. Mr. Spender also ridicules the deep cunning imputed by each nation to the other. He says: "German foreign policy, if one has to criticise it, has seemed for many years to have all the faults of a fitful impulsiveness more like the spasms of a caged tiger than the deep cunning of a fox at large." He concludes his article by urging that the only remedy for this deplorable state of affairs is to show that Great Britain is as ready for a fair understanding, on terms honourable to both, with Germany as with any other of the Powers with whom she has made these conventions. "We know," he remarks, "that our purposes are innocent and our thoughts blameless. We know that the King and Cabinet in this country are only working for the world's peace. We know that the German idea of an unpremeditated British attack on Kiel or Stettin is as foolish, as baseless as the British mirage of German spies and German schemes of invasion. We know that our British North Sea manoeuvres have no more hostile intent against Germany than the recent German military manoeuvres in Alsace-Lorraine against France. But it is not enough to know our own good intentions ourselves. We have to prove them to our neighbours. Germany will still continue to believe that all these agreements are aimed against her unless we give her the conclusive reply of showing ourselves willing to include her in the network, and to crown all the good work of the last ten years by an understanding that includes her."

In the article we have quoted the proposal to arrive at an agreement with regard to a mutual abatement of armaments is again put forward. We have never been among those who advocated this fantastic method of ending Anglo-German acerbity, since we believe it to be utterly impractical. The enthusiasts for armament limitation consistently ignore the very palpable fact that an agreement on the lines they suggest would be tantamount to signing and sealing a bond whereby Great Britain would be left in undisputed supremacy of the seas for untold ages. This, of course, would be a highly satisfactory state of affairs for Great Britain, but as a matter of pure principle Germany could not be expected to subscribe to an agreement of this nature. It should not be forgotten that in 1860 there was a feeling of intense hostility between France and England, which at any moment threatened to bring about an open rupture. At the psychological moment, however, cool heads in both countries met and drew up a Commercial Treaty, which was duly signed by re-

presentatives of Great Britain and France. This had the immediate effect of calming popular feeling, and ultimately led to the initiation of excellent relations between whilom enemies. Why, therefore, cannot this precedent be followed today? Another trenchant paper on the same important subject is a feature of the current *Fortnightly Review*. Discussing the possibility of arriving at a naval understanding with Germany, the writer declares that this country cannot, without a rescissory Act, go back on the Navy Act passed by the Reichstag last spring. This naval expansion, marked by the Navy Acts of 1900, 1906, and 1908, is due, says the writer, to the bogey prevailing in Germany that Great Britain will react Copenhagen at Kiel, and destroy the German Navy out of hand. He then pertinently enquires, Why does England wait? Every year that passes makes the coup more impossible. The obvious answer is that the idea has never entered the brain of a British statesman. It is a bogey wilfully invented against all the teachings of Anglo-German relations, and it was used to good purpose in this country for the furtherance of the agitation for a great Navy. The pivot of the entire matter is the Anglo-German press. Far from representing public opinion, the popular newspapers of both countries are, we believe, potent factors in the moulding of that opinion. If, therefore, an understanding could be arrived at between the editorial departments of all the largely circulating newspapers in Great Britain and this country, whereby all matter of a character likely to engender racial animosity would be rigidly excluded from the columns of the contracting organs, it is practically certain that Anglophobia in this country and Teutophobia in Great Britain would quickly succumb from lack of nourishment.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

London, October 27.

The Government Bill for the relief of the unemployed was passed yesterday after a long debate by 196 votes to 35. An amendment moved by the Labour party affirming that the Bill was quite inadequate to the object in view was rejected by 236 votes to 68.

BRITISH CONSULS IN GERMANY.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, October 26.

Sir Francis Oppenheimer, British Consul-General at Frankfort, Germany, has sent a letter to the press in answer to an article which recently appeared on the subject of the British Consular Service in Germany, and in which strictures on the administration of that service were contained. Sir Francis writes as follows:—

"I fear that as far as at least as the Consular post at Frankfort is concerned, the article calls for correction. As I was born in London, took my degrees at Oxford, and am a member of the English Bar, it is hardly correct to reckon me among 'the foreigners.' If my family name does not sound English, I need hardly remind you that I share this disadvantage with a large proportion of the oldest families in England. A German name, though no help in the discharge of the duties of a British

official in Germany, is certainly no detriment—officially. If privately it has occasionally led to a policy of pin-pricks, locally pursued, such proceedings have, owing to a personal inclination, only tended to make my post more interesting.

"As to the other statement that the Consular posts ought to be administered by salaried officials, I trust a willingness to serve one's country to the best of one's ability without salary is not thought incompatible with either official efficiency or British patriotism. Concerning the suggestion in the article that the Frankfort post ought to be made a centre for the collection of commercial intelligence in the interests of British trade, as far as Germany is concerned, I should welcome the proposal, if it were new. My mail bag and personal enquiries have, however, taught me that the suggestion has long since been adopted in practice—even if it has not yet been sanctioned in theory."

These remarks by Sir Francis Oppenheimer will be read with interest by all British subjects living abroad. It is true that a movement is afoot to radically revise the Consular service of this country, which, compared with the same services of foreign countries, leaves very much to be desired. It is understood that a Parliamentary Bill is in course of preparation, under the terms of which no individual other than a British subject, by birth or adoption, may be appointed to represent his Britannic Majesty abroad.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

MR. HEARST'S LATEST BOMBSHELL.

New York, October 26.

Mr. William Randolph Hearst, the founder of the Independence party, has made good his threat that he would make more political disclosures before the Presidential campaign came to an end. He has now published some letters purporting to show that the influence of the Standard Oil Trust was brought to bear on prominent men of both the great political parties of the country. This time the scene is laid in Pennsylvania, one of the strongholds of the Republican party. The letters read yesterday by Mr. Hearst at a public meeting are from Mr. John D. Archbold, managing director of the Standard Oil Company, who wrote the letters to Senator Foraker previously brought to light by Mr. Hearst. The present communications are dated 1902 and addressed to Mr. William Stone, who was then Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, and to Mr. John Elkin, formerly Attorney General of that State. The letters to Governor Stone speak of the influence exerted by the Standard Oil Trust on the appointments of judges in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Mr. Archbold mentions to the Governor the names of the candidates favoured by the Trust; for instance, it is said in one of the letters that the Trust recommended the appointment of Judge Morrison, "as he had special knowledge of the conditions affecting the oil industry." The letters to State Attorney General Elkin enclosed some of the 'Archbold "deposit notes" that have become famous, to the value of 5,000 and 10,000 dollars. These were intended to support the request that Mr. Elkin would oppose certain legislative measures that the State Senate of Pennsylvania had in view and which, as the letters expressed it, emanated from a spirit of hostility to the Oil Trust. These new revelations by Mr. Hearst have caused a great sensation throughout the whole country.

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