

Office:
Struve Str. 5, I.
Dresden A.
Telephone:
1755.

The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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THE COMMAND OF THE SEA.

Speech after speech continues to be delivered by prominent English politicians on the subject of sea supremacy, and the burden of their remarks is always the same. Great Britain, they assert, must under all circumstances maintain the command of the sea, this being incumbent on her by reason of her traditions, her vast and ever growing commerce, and her world-wide responsibilities. At the same time most of the speakers are careful to affirm that at the present moment the British Navy is in a position of unquestioned supremacy. This statement is so manifestly true that we are constrained to wonder at the duration of the agitation now being engineered in England by a small but influential body of members of Parliament and publicists. These gentlemen continue to raise their voices in protest at what they term the "cheese-paring" policy adopted by the Cabinet towards the Navy. It is alleged that the British Navy is nothing more or less than a whitened sepulchre, sound and potential without, but rotten and hopelessly weak within; that Great Britain is being rapidly outpaced by a near neighbour in the race for sea-power, and that at any moment the fleet may be shattered, England's first and last line of defence disappear, and the British Isles overrun by legions of foreign soldiers. Journalists are of course playing a prominent part in this childish agitation, since the subject is especially prolific in sensational copy; and the agitation consequently rose to an immense height during the "silly season" this year, when news was extremely difficult to obtain. Unfortunately the question has ceased to have a purely local effect, and its continued discussion is doing much to imperil the good relations which at present exist between this country and Great Britain. Germany is naturally becoming rather tired of hearing herself described in the English Press as a rapacious Power determined upon bringing about the downfall of the British Empire and seizing its colonial possessions. By persisting in its present course a large section of the London Press is laying Great Britain open to the charge of pusillanimity, since foreign observers are not always aware that the newspapers are not in every case representative of public opinion.

What are the facts? An examination of any responsible Naval Annual at once reveals Great Britain's immense superiority in every type of fighting craft, including those of the much discussed "Dreadnought" type. At a few hours notice the British Admiralty is able to concentrate in the waters adjacent to the English coast an overwhelming preponderance of warships, supported by a system of dockyards, coaling and repairing bases not possessed by any other nation in the world. Behind this vast array of completed craft lie the inexhaustible resources which have contributed so much to British maritime supremacy. British ship-building yards greatly outnumber those of other countries; the foundries and arsenals engaged in Government work throughout the country represent an output of war materiel commanded by no other Power; and behind all stands a British public unflinchingly determined on maintaining the national sea forces at a strength consistent with national requirements. But these self-evident facts are carefully ignored by the "Syndicate of Discontent," as the little group of naval agitators has been not inaptly termed. They admit the numerical superiority

in fighting ships, but seek to minimise this by declaring that most of these vessels are kept in a continual state of disrepair owing to the failure of the Admiralty economists to provide sufficient funds to keep the ships in working order. Periodically these canards are refuted in the most convincing manner by fleet manoeuvres held on a scale unprecedented in previous naval history. Last summer Lord Charles Beresford had under his command in the North Sea a force of some seventy first-class men-of-war, exclusive of the deadly torpedo craft. What other nation is in a position to assemble such a Titanic exhibition of maritime power? Year by year the shooting records of the British Navy mount higher; year by year vessels are turned out surpassing their predecessors in individual potentiality, speed, and efficiency; and last summer the armoured cruiser "Invincible" shattered all Transatlantic records by crossing from the St. Lawrence to Portsmouth at an average speed of over 25 knots,—but all to no purpose. The naval agitators have been severely bitten by the "blue funk" microbe, and there is apparently no remedy save patience. The subject would be of minor importance were it not that, as we have mentioned above, the discussion bids fair to raise bitter animosity between two great and enlightened peoples. It is, perhaps, too much to expect that the engineers of this puerile agitation realise the highly reprehensible nature of their course; and it can therefore only be hoped that the German people will grasp the fact that the great mass of the English nation has no share in the movement, which is utterly unworthy of the best traditions of the nation.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE LORD MAYOR'S BANQUET.

London, November 10.
In returning thanks for the toast of "Her Majesty Ministers" at the Lord Mayor's banquet yesterday evening, the Prime Minister said that since Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman spoke in that place last year England had had a bad time. Prosperity had been followed by depression which had begun with the panic in the United States and been aggravated by a variety of causes. But he believed that if the peace of the world were kept, the relapse would not be of long continuance.

The attention of Europe had been called a few weeks ago to events that had happened in the Near East. They had witnessed a revolution in Turkey which was one of the most wonderful in the annals of history. He was glad to see the Turkish Ambassador among the distinguished guests, and he was convinced that he might, without hurting the feelings of any of his hearers, assure him on behalf of the whole nation of Great Britain's good wishes for the progress of constitutional government in the Ottoman empire. With regard to the action of Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria, said Mr. Asquith, the British Government held fast to the principle that an international treaty cannot be altered by one of the parties to it alone. Certain agreements between those two States and Turkey would require the counter-signature of the other Powers. Great Britain would on her part do all she could to promote a good

understanding. The British Government had no preconceived opinion against and no prejudice in favour of any particular way by which a settlement should be reached, and there never was a shadow of foundation for the idea that they were opposed to direct negotiations between Turkey and Austria-Hungary or between Turkey and Bulgaria. But the agreements must be signed by the other Powers and, as Turkey was the Power most injured, those who had injured her must find means to devise a settlement consistent with her honour and interests. Turkey must examine the proposals and then make her own. If Austria-Hungary or Bulgaria arrived at a direct settlement the way would be smoothed. "The waves of feeling in the Balkans are running high," said the speaker, "we are doing what we can to calm them. It gives me pleasure to state that our recent negotiations with the Russian Minister M. Iswolsky showed that Russia and England have approached the same standpoint in the Near Eastern question. We do not wish to see Europe divided into different groups. We are in full sympathy with France, and have been equally open with Germany and Italy, the allies of Austria-Hungary. We have adopted an entirely disinterested attitude, we ask nothing for ourselves; we desire only to maintain public right in Europe, and for Turkey a settlement that will prevent peace being disturbed and open the way to freedom for a good Government."

Referring to the relations of Great Britain to Germany, Mr. Asquith said: "It is almost exactly a year since the Emperor William was our guest in London. I cannot forget His Majesty's emphatic declaration that the leading object of his policy was the maintenance of peace and of good relations between Great Britain and Germany. In that spirit we wish to deal with other Powers, and certainly with Germany not less than any... Nothing will make us waver or neglect our duties, or be for one moment unfaithful to our friendships. That is the unalterable feeling and purpose of the whole country." The Prime Minister closed his speech with a few remarks on the home situation and the necessity for Great Britain of protecting her commerce, concluding with the words: "Governments come and go; majorities arise and disappear; but the British people will hold fast with one mind to one conviction, and that is our indisputable and undisputed supremacy at sea."

The First Lord of the Admiralty, in returning thanks for the Navy, said he was justified in stating that never in the history of the country had the British fleet been stronger than it was at that moment. The task of maintaining the supremacy at sea was a hard one. England held it now and hoped to keep it in the future.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

CEREAL AVERAGES.

Washington, November 10.
According to the returns of the Bureau Agriculture, the average yield per acre of maize will be 26.2 bushels. The total produce of maize is estimated at 2,642,687,000 bushels. The farmers have about 2.7 per cent. of the old crop of maize still in hand. The average quality of the new crop is marked 86.9.

(Continued on page 2.)