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# The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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## A POLITICAL REVISION.

Rarely have the public utterances of a statesman received such minute and universal attention as those delivered by Prince Bülow in the Reichstag on Tuesday last. His speech was primarily and ostensibly an official explanation of the remarkable incident which has been the subject of widespread discussion in the civilised world for the past fortnight. But the Chancellor's words had a far deeper significance than this. As so many of our contemporaries have been careful to point out, the speech represented a land-mark in German policy, both home and foreign. There was no wild declamation against the Emperor's personal initiative in matters of moment to the nation at large, though this phase of the situation has been repeatedly emphasised by the Press since the publication by the *Daily Telegraph* of what may now be termed the historic Imperial "interview." The Chancellor merely acted as the mouthpiece of the progressive German nation, a nation rapidly awakening to the essentially delicate nature of international diplomacy, and to the difficulties to which individual zeal on the part of the crowned head, however well intentioned that zeal may be, exposes his responsible advisors. Bismarck, with his invariable political acumen, tersely expressed a sound principle when he declared that monarchs should never appear before the public without Ministerial clothing. A monarch may be the soul of wisdom, of patriotism, of integrity; but every word that falls from his lips is closely scrutinised by foreign observers who are only too ready to seize upon and misconstrue self-evident truths. We do not for one moment doubt that, viewed impartially and humanly, the remarks attributed to the Emperor in the *Daily Telegraph* were a kindly and earnest asseveration of goodwill towards the British nation, made without the faintest suspicion of other motives than the desire to end the regrettable acrimony which has too often characterised the intercourse between the two countries. The message was a fine example of straightforward manliness, eminently calculated to appeal to the best feelings of Englishmen; and had it not been for the insinuations and misconstructions gratuitously placed upon it by the Press, the ultimate result of the Emperor's bold step might have been a powerful reaction against the insidious influences which for so long have been conspiring to undermine the cordiality of Anglo-German relations.

That this obvious side of the question has been so systematically ignored in both countries is enough to weaken one's faith in the goodness of human nature. Wrightly or wrongly, the matter has been treated entirely and exclusively from a political standpoint; and on this basis German public opinion had an undoubted right to a clear exposition of the future conduct of the Empire's affairs. Prince Bülow on Tuesday gave a pledge that in future the Emperor will impose upon himself, even in his private conversations, that reserve "which is indispensable to a consistent policy and to the authority of the Crown." And then the Chancellor proceeded to make a highly significant pronouncement. "If such were not the case," he said, "neither I nor one of my successors could accept responsibility." Those words illustrate very forcibly the difficulties with which the speaker found himself face to face as the result of his august master's personal initiative in the affairs of the realm. He was called upon to play a most embarrassing rôle, involving the defence of the Emperor, of himself, and of his Foreign Office colleagues; and at the same time to retrieve the injury which his countrymen are convinced has been inflicted on their national prestige the world over. With his proverbial chivalry the Chancellor unreservedly accepted the blame for what his speech designated as a "signal and unexampled failure" of the internal organisation of his own Department. In his speech the Prince's well-known gift of facile rhetoric and neatly turned phraseology was conspicuously absent, thus denoting the intense emotion under which he was labouring. He recognised that the moment was ill-timed for an exhibition of purely aphoristic eloquence, which would have been but coldly received by the representative assembly to whom his remarks were addressed; and he therefore uttered no word that could have been regarded as aught but lucid and sincere. In the Reichstag and elsewhere it was recognised that the "interview" had raised a Con-



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stitutional question whose gravity cannot well be underestimated. The tone of the numerous interpellations put forward prior to the Chancellor's speech by representatives of parties usually of aims diametrically opposed was strikingly unanimous, and resolved itself into the great query which every civilised people is bound to put to itself sooner or later,—is the public weal to be under public control? We are as unable as we are indisposed to venture upon a forecast of the Reichstag's decision on this momentous subject, but the question, having been once raised, is certain to progress towards a final settlement in conformity with the great weight of popular aspiration.

## GENERAL NEWS.

### NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

##### IMPORTANT NAVY PRONOUNCEMENT.

London, November 12.  
Mr. Lee asked the Prime Minister whether the Government was prepared to maintain the two-Power standard in the sense that the British fleet should be superior to the fleets of the two next strongest sea Powers plus ten per cent.  
Mr. Asquith replied "Yes!" (Loud cheers from all parts of the House.)

#### PRESS OPINIONS.

London, November 13.  
The *Daily Telegraph* says the report that the Government intends to lay down six Dreadnoughts is incorrect. In official circles there is a disposition to confine the main programme to five Dreadnoughts, the building of which would be begun a short time before Christmas 1909. The *Daily Telegraph* remarks: "If the programme for next year is not fully sufficient, the Government will be confronted by a fleet agitation which will not be without an unfavourable influence on the foreign relations of the country."

#### SEDITION IN INDIA.

Calcutta, November 12.  
The scene at the cremation of Kanai, who was hanged on Tuesday for the assassination of Gossain, the approver, was more extraordinary than at first reported. The body was carried through the streets with face uncovered (contrary to Hindu custom), to enable thousands to gaze upon the "Murdered Kanai," while Purdah women followed in closed carriages.

Hundreds of rupees were collected to enrich the burning pyre, and there was a general rush to gather the ashes, which were carried away in vases of silver and gold, while fragments and bones were preserved for dispatch as relics to other towns.

### THE LOAD LINE IN MERCHANT SHIPS.

London, November 12.  
In reply to a question in Parliament today, why the Board of Trade delayed the application of the regulations of the Merchant Shipping Act respecting the load-line, grain cargoes, and life-saving apparatus, Mr. Churchill, the President of the Board of Trade, said that the negotiations with foreign Governments were making progress, and he hoped that by the 1st of October 1909, the end of the term prescribed for carrying out the regulations, the most important sea Powers would have voluntarily complied with the provisions of the Act.

### THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

London, November 12.  
Mr. Fisher, the leader of the Labour party, formed a Federal Ministry today.

### NEWS FROM AMERICA.

#### ALASKAN BOUNDARY. ADVENTURE WITH A BEAR.

Victoria, (B.C.), October 28.  
Mr. William F. Ratz, of Ottawa, who with a party of surveyors has been occupied during the past summer in the work of delimiting the Alaskan Boundary, has returned here. Mr. Ratz and his party spent the entire summer in crossing four glaciers, the highest point touched being 7,500 feet above sea level. Crevasses eight feet wide were jumped by members of the party, each carrying on his back a load of fifty pounds, and a none-too-light load on his mind, for many of these crevasses were thousands of feet in depth. Photographs brought back by Mr. Ratz give a vivid idea of the difficulties encountered in running the survey line between the United States and Canada. The most difficult of the four glaciers was the Dawes glacier, which was found to be very much broken on the surface. Mr. Ratz reports that one of his party had an encounter with a grizzly, in which the hunter rolled down a portion of the glacier in the embrace of the bear, but the animal was killed before the man had suffered injury.

#### FOUR MOTORISTS KILLED.

New York, November 12.  
An automobile accident is reported from Redbluff, California. A train travelling at a high speed crashed into a large automobile at a level crossing, and smashed it to atoms. There were five occupants, including the chauffeur, and four of them were killed on the spot. The fifth was badly injured, but will recover. The accident was due to the gates being inadvertently left open.

#### DECREASED RAILROAD EARNINGS.

New York, November 12.  
A statement just issued shows that the gross earnings of the United States railroads decreased during the fiscal year ended June 30 by 139,000,000 dollars, which is a net loss compared with the previous twelve months of 120,000,000 dollars.

#### A CHALLENGE TO SPIRITUALISTS.

Spiritualists on the other side of the Atlantic have been deeply interested in the extraordinary communications recently published in England, purporting to have been received through a lady medium from certain deceased professors. The matter has been fully debated, but the general feeling is that much stronger proof is required of the contention that messages can actually be received from the dead.  
The Metropolitan (New York) Psychical Society has taken the bold step of offering \$5,000 for satisfactory evidence of the possibility. According to the newspapers, which published the announcement, several well-known psychologists have already declared their intention to accept the challenge.

#### THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE.

Washington, November 12.  
The United States Supreme Court has now decided that the Panama Canal zone does not form part of the United States.

(Continued on page 2.)