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The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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THE DREAD OF INVASION.

Quite naturally the remarkable speech delivered in the House of Lords this week by that veteran fighter Lord Roberts has aroused something very like a sensation in Great Britain and here in Germany. On this side of the Channel, however, there is a tendency to overlook the explanatory remarks which preceded the Field Marshal's utterances, and in which he stated that what he had to say must in no way be construed as being inimical to Germany, whom he merely cited as an example to give point to his arguments. But the gallant orator would have done well to pause and reflect on the possibilities for misrepresentation which his words afforded. They have been twisted into an expression of a frightful dismay at the growing power of Germany, whereas in reality Lord Roberts was manifestly urging the adoption of measures calculated to avert just such an attitude. His motives, if not his methods, are above criticism. During the greater part of a long life he has devoted his entire energies to the service of his country, and his career is a shining example of lofty patriotism which many of his countrymen who spend their breath in scoffing at what they term his pernicious activity would do well to imitate. Nobody who has ever had the pleasure of conversing with this battle-scarred veteran can agree that he is in any way hostile to Germany as a Power or as a people. He deals with the questions of her relations towards England entirely in the abstract, though we confess ourselves wholly unable to agree with his conclusions. In examining his contentions, however, it is necessary to clear the mind of all misapprehension with regard to his personal feelings. He is convinced that under the present system of military administration the coasts of Britain are left defenceless save for the Navy, and he soundly argues against the riskiness of placing all one's eggs in a single basket, however substantial that receptacle may be. The figures given in his speech before the Upper House with regard to the embarkation and debarkation of hostile troops are open to criticism, but they are noteworthy nevertheless. In view of the policy consistently pursued in these columns it is unnecessary to remark that we strongly deprecate any move likely to add fresh fuel to the fires of racial animosity which occasionally blind the vision of men the world over; but we are convinced that were the proposals of Lord Roberts to create a British citizen army of a million men carried into effect, the immediate result would be the dissipation of the coldness which too often characterises intercourse between England and Germany. This fact is so obvious that it must be accepted as a truism.

For some years past there has been a growing feeling of insecurity in Great Britain as a direct consequence of the inadequacy of home defensive measures. Synchronising as this circumstance did with the development of Germany's power, the growth of her maritime forces, and the industrial expansion which is bringing her prominently before the eyes of the world, it is small wonder that the British people have become accustomed to regard her with some disquietude. By thoroughly reorganising the army and embracing some system—compulsory training, national service, call it what one will—whereby a large body of troops ready for instant action would be called into being, England would at once achieve several desirable objects. The effect of military training upon the national physique has proved highly beneficial in those countries where the system is already in force; whilst a comfortable feeling of security against every possible exigency would at once permeate every class of Englishmen. Thereupon the ground on which has been erected an artificial structure of acrimony that constantly casts its shadow over Anglo-German relations, would quickly crumble away. There would be no more talk of the "German Peril" which has been held up as a bogey so frequently of late. There is one instance fresh in the public memory which we may cite in support of our argument. Few publicists in England or France had the courage to propose an *entente cordiale* while the feverish struggle for naval power continued between the two countries; but as soon as it was seen that the French Navy was falling rapidly behind in the race, thus ceasing to loom on the English horizon as a dangerous menace, a sincere friendship grew up be-



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tween the trans-Channel neighbours and has flourished ever since. If the present British Government, instead of busying itself with impossible visions of the millennium which is obviously not yet due, would turn a strong hand to the business of national defence and introduce legislative measures whereby the military forces of the country were established on a really adequate scale, there is not the least doubt that within a remarkably brief space of time the last symptoms of friction would disappear in the relations between Great Britain and Germany. Unfortunately, however, there is little hope of witnessing such a desirable consummation during the present régime in England, under which a kid-glove and lavender water policy is pursued with resulting detriment to the cause of international amity.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. PERSIAN AFFAIRS.

London, November 26.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in reply to a question by Mr. Dillon whether the Government had knowledge of the character of the Constitution assured to Persia, said the answer was in the negative.

Mr. O'Grady (Labour party) having asked whether the documents relating to the representations which had been made to the Shah with respect to the Constitution would be published, Sir Edward Grey said that representations had been made from time to time and he could of course publish the documents relating to Persia, but their contents would furnish very unfavourable comments on the action of the Shah and his Ministers, as well as on the attitude of the Medjlis. He was sure that they would not be agreeable to any party in Persia and he did not think that their publication would be of any service to Persia.

Replying to further questions, the Minister said that Great Britain and Russia had joined in making representations to the Shah with the object of inducing him to carry out his promise to summon a Parliament. He had, however, been in some doubt as to the prudence of that step, as it was a departure from the strict principle of non-intervention. On the other hand, the unrest in Persia, if long continued, might lead to the greater danger of intervention by one Power or the other.

THE EDUCATION BILL.

London, November 26.

The second reading of the new Education Bill was passed today by 323 votes to 157. The minority consisted of the Unionists, the Non-conformists, the Nationalists, and a few Radicals.

BOMB OUTRAGE IN INDIA.

Calcutta, November 26.

A bomb was thrown yesterday at a train crowded with Europeans as it was running into Barrackpore. Happily no damage was done to the train or to any one in it. In consequence of the serious state of affairs, the Viceroy has cancelled his tour through the provinces and taken up his residence in Calcutta.

THE "DAILY GRAPHIC" BALLOON.

London, November 26.

A correspondent in Berlin telegraphs as follows to the *Daily Graphic*:—"Königsberg correspondent states authorities Dvinsk detained Expedition Under surveillance to frontier."

The *Daily Graphic*, which has not received any message direct from the members of the Expedition, adds:—"The unusual method of their entry into Russia has probably laid them under the suspicion of being spies; but we are under no apprehension that they will suffer any worse fate than that referred to in our correspondent's message—that of being kept under close surveillance during their progress from Dvinsk to the Russo-German frontier."

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

LINERS IN COLLISION.

New York, November 26.

A steamer, supposed to be the "Finance," belonging to the Panama line, has sunk after being in collision with the White Star liner "Georgic" off Sandy Hook. The "Georgic" is only slightly damaged. It is believed that the passengers and crew of the sunken steamer were saved in boats. The "Finance" left New York for Colon on Monday, and had probably anchored in the lower bay on account of the fog. She had 100 passengers on board.

A later telegram states that six passengers and two of the crew of the "Finance" are missing.

New York, November 26.

The fog which settled over New York City and harbour two days ago is still as dense as ever, and all sea traffic is at a standstill. A large number of steamers and sailing vessels are anchored off Sandy Hook, where all indications point to their remaining for a considerable time longer.

The "Kronprinzessin Cecilie" is one of the liners unable to leave the harbour.

MOTOR RACES IN GEORGIA.

Savannah, November 26.

The international Grand Prix was won today by an Italian "Fiat" automobile. A German "Benz" was second.

REPORTED ATTEMPT ON THE EMPRESS DOWAGER OF RUSSIA'S LIFE.

St. Petersburg, November 26.

The *Novoye Vremja* publishes a report from Riga dated the 20th instant that, shortly before the arrival of an important train at the station Pondery between Dvinsk and Rjeshiza, a man waiting at the station was arrested on suspicion. He was armed with a revolver and violently resisted his arrest, firing his revolver and mortally wounding a police official. The man is a Left, named Avotin; the *Novoye Vremja* says his obvious purpose was to murder the Empress Dowager, who was then on her way from Copenhagen to be present at the funeral of the Grand Duke Alexis Alexandrovitch.

BRITISH ENTERPRISE IN RUSSIA.

St. Petersburg, November 26.

A British syndicate has offered to purchase the St. Petersburg tramway system, and has made an offer of twenty-seven million roubles to the Municipal Council. The fact calls forth further protests against "foreign invaders," who are just now the subject of a bitter campaign, but the press is told that the Council is likely to accept the offer.

(Continued on page 2.)