

Office:
Struve Str. 5, I.
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The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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MODERN VIENNA.

Between the Saxon capital and the capital of Austria there exist many bonds of affinity. The Dresden public is ever ready to welcome the Viennese artists who continue to evoke our enthusiasm by their achievements in the world of music and art, and in many cases the two words "from Vienna" are sufficient to ensure the visitor a sympathetic reception. There are, moreover, many points of topographical and architectural similarity between the two cities. Both are remarkable for their urban beauty, and both lay a just claim to the progressiveness and enterprise which less than a couple of decades back were characteristics rendered conspicuous by their absence in the two capitals. The Vienna of twenty-five years ago was an unclean, ill-lighted, ill-paved town, possessing very inadequate means of communication, unhealthy and insecure. The Vienna of today is one of the most beautiful and brilliant cities of the world, certainly one of the handsomest capitals in Europe. This commendable metamorphosis is primarily the work of one individual, whose name will be held in affectionate reverence by his fellow-townsmen long after his active brain has ceased to plan new improvements and fresh enterprises for the city whose brilliant attractiveness he has done so much to create. We refer, of course, to Dr. Karl Lueger, the present Burgomaster of Vienna, whose career is the subject of warm eulogy in the columns of a current review. Dr. Lueger was born in October 1844, and, curiously enough, was dumb until his fourth birthday. His father dying when the boy was only two, his mother supported him and contrived that he should have an excellent education. For some years the future Burgomaster practised at the Austrian Bar, chiefly defending poor clients, from whom he received no fees. A persistent agitator and exposé of irregularities, he has been in much hot water. Identified with the Christian Socialist party, he was elected Burgomaster four times, but not till the fifth occasion of his election was he recognised by the Emperor. When finally, in 1897, the aged monarch confirmed the appointment of Dr. Lueger as Burgomaster, Vienna was decorated and illuminated in honour of the event.

A fundamental feature of his policy has been the municipalisation of all public enterprises. He took over the Viennese gasworks from an English company; the city now manages its gasworks itself. He turned out the old horse-trams, and installed modern electric street-cars; he introduced electric illumination of the streets; he built a great municipal slaughter-house and established central markets, the foregoing being only a few of the undertakings carried out since his term of office as Burgomaster of Vienna. In ten years, in short, Vienna has been brought up to the level of the great European cities. The outlay has been enormous, but the interest on the loans has been covered over and over again by profits; it is a remarkable fact—and one of which the municipal authorities of other cities would do well to take cognisance—that not a penny has been added to the rates in spite of the numberless improvements effected. The Viennese have not been slow to recognise to whom they are indebted for the utilitarian and artistic innovations which have made their city a queen among the capitals of Europe. If Dr. Lueger is not exactly *persona gratissima* in the Viennese salons, he is the idol of the *bourgeoisie*. At present, with Universal Suffrage, and a heavy preponderance of Christian

Socialists in Parliament, Dr. Lueger actually holds a balance of power in the city, the province, and—according to some authorities—in the country. The following passage throws an interesting light on and is descriptive of the character of a man against whom much has been said in his public, but, it seems, nothing in his private capacity: "Lueger has won his way to the hearts of his fellow-townsmen by optimism, good nature, sympathy, and personal interest in their affairs. An indefatigable worker, he has ever found time to laugh and joke, to sympathise, congratulate, or condole with the first comer, rich or poor, friend or foe. He has been godfather and wedding guest whenever and by whomsoever asked, a visitor to sickbeds and a lover of children. More popular still has been his constant attendance at golden wedding festivities, a much feted event in Austria, and it is estimated that during the first seven years of his Burgomastership he attended no less than 1,372 such celebrations. Although suffering from a painful disease, he has won immense admiration by his constant cheerfulness and gaiety, and, with the exception of several journeys taken to effect a cure, he has never relinquished his work for a moment." The Burgomaster is unmarried, and lives with his two sisters. When his sixtieth birthday was celebrated, in 1904, it was a species of national holiday. Popular bands in the city play a "Lueger March," and most Viennese parks possess a "Lueger statue." The personality of the popular Burgomaster is well-known to the countless Anglo-American visitors who annually flock to the gay Austrian capital, and whose coming, with resultant profit to the trading community, is in a large measure due to the beautifying policy of Dr. Lueger.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE INDISPOSITION OF KING EDWARD.

London, November 30.
King Edward, who has been suffering from a slight cold and confined to his room in consequence, is feeling much better. His Majesty still remains indoors, notwithstanding that a shooting party had been arranged in which King Haakon and the Prince of Wales were to take part.

GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, November 30.

The Licensing Bill being dead and buried with impressive funeral ceremonies, everybody is asking what the Government is going to do about it. Mr. Haldane's pugnacious speech the other day is not believed to represent the unanimous opinion of his colleagues, who, if they be not blind, cannot fail to have observed the trend of public opinion made manifest at the last bye-elections. For the Government to go before the country with the defunct Licensing Bill in one hand and a sorry record of legislative failures in the other would be to court overwhelming defeat. Nevertheless, it recognises that its legislative powers are rendered impotent by the attitude of the Upper House, which made remarkably short work of the obnoxious measure that for months previous had been arousing the ire of the masses. The truth is that the country is well-nigh

sick and tired of the grandmotherly tactics which have been a feature of the present administration. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's original, and Mr. Asquith's revised, Cabinet came into office burdened with a heavy load of election pledges, only a minimum of which could reasonably expect redemption. At the General Election the Radical candidates made the fatal mistake of promising too much, and they cannot justly complain if the electors demand a plain statement of what is to be done. During the Radical tenure of office the relations of this country with Germany have not been improved, in spite of the abundance of peace talk in which the Party representatives continue to indulge. What is the reason? Simply this: that the Radicals take their stand upon one firm principle, *i. e.* anti-militarism, a principle that makes it utterly impossible for them to sympathise with German ideals and must continue to exercise a chilling effect on the efforts to remove the last vestiges of mutual suspicion existing between the two nations. It is evidently impossible for the Radical mind to grasp the fundamental fact that readiness for war does not necessarily imply longing for war, but rather that it renders that deplorable condition a very unlikely contingency. Whether the retirement from office of Mr. Asquith's administration would usher in a new and brighter era of Anglo-German relations it would be presumptuous to definitely assert, but it needs little foresight to discern symptoms of an imminent change in the political situation.

GREAT BRITAIN AND HOLLAND.

London, November 30.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* learns that Great Britain and Holland will soon be brought into closer political connection. Holland wishes for a tariff convention with England, and it is possible that a further convention may be concluded guaranteeing the complete protection of Holland by Great Britain.

DEATH OF A MILLIONAIRE.

London, December 1.

Mr. H. Barnato, a member of the firm of Barnato Brothers, died here yesterday.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN.

In the light of the convention between the United States and Japan signed in Washington on Saturday, guaranteeing the integrity of China and the maintenance of the "open door" in the Far East, two questions which have for long been worrying those who wished to see a better state of affairs existing between the two dominant Powers of the Pacific, the pessimistic prognostications which a few short months ago enlivened the columns of some of our esteemed contemporaries look rather silly, to say the least. The signing of this agreement represents the death-blow to the evil suspicions against Japan carefully fostered by such organs as the *Herald* and other pronounced Japanophobes. It represents, further, a period of tranquillity in the Far East which must of necessity tend towards the tranquillity of the world at large. Japan is now connected by treaty with four great Powers, the United States, Great Britain, France, and Russia, and all these agreements guarantee the principle of the "open door" with regard to China. The problem of the Pacific has thus been solved in an

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