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The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

THE FIRST DAILY PAPER IN ENGLISH PUBLISHED IN GERMANY.

No 873.

DRESDEN, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1908.

10 PFENNIGS.

The Daily Record is delivered by hand in Dresden, and may be ordered at any Post Office throughout the German Empire. It is published daily, excepting Mondays and days following legal holidays in Dresden.

Monthly Subscription Rates: For Dresden, mark 1.—; for the rest of Germany and Austria, mark 1.20. For other countries, marks 2.50.

A POLITICAL SURVEY.

(From our London correspondent.)

When the Cabinet Ministers shake the dust of the metropolis from their feet in a day or two to seek solace during the festive season far from the madding London crowd, they will take with them the painful knowledge that the next Session will without doubt be the most critical in the critical history of their three-year-old Administration. For the most militant of Radicals dare not deny that the pendulum is swinging back with a strong, steady, remorseless swing. The record of the past Session is a chronicle of ghastly legislative failure. It is a Parliamentary nightmare almost without parallel; and Mr. Asquith's speech announcing the adjournment, in which he gave a brief resumé of the closing Session, has been justly described as the swan-song of his Administration. For the Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues will return to resume their duties in the full knowledge and conviction that either they or the Upper House must go. As there is no question of the Peers going, the deduction is obvious. The close of the Session was rendered sensational by the reckless way in which Bill after Bill was thrown overboard by the despairing Ministers. The death of the Licensing Bill—always an ailing infant and a condemned—was closely followed by the ignominious withdrawal of its Educational twin, the latter measure disappearing amid the genuine regrets of Liberals and Unionists alike, for it contained the elements of that reconciliation which every right-minded politician in the British Isles is anxious to see speedily effected between the opposing forces of Anglicanism and Nonconformity. But in spite of its promise, the Bill bristled with debatable points to such an extent that its promoters became seized with panic, and declined to entrust their darling to the tender mercies of the wicked Peers. The withdrawal of the Bill commits the Government to a fresh attack on the intricate problem of how to please everybody and offend nobody. The old German proverb,

*Allen Menschen recht getan,
Ist eine Kunst, die Niemand kann*

applies with peculiar aptness to the education question, which has contributed not a little to undermine the Governmental structure now perilously tottering on its foundations.

I hear it stated that if you whisper the words "Licensing Bill" in the ear of Mr. Asquith or any of his fellow sufferers, you run the risk of bodily injury. Of all the bad moves made since the General Election launched the present Government into power on the crest of a wave of perfectly natural popular reaction, the defunct Licensing Bill was certainly the worst. No sooner had the project been first broached in public than a storm of protest came from every hole and corner of the Kingdom, daily increasing in strength. Had its promoters been acquainted with the elementary principles of Parliamentary strategy they would have hastened to eliminate the objectionable proposal from their programme. But where angels might have feared to tread, the "water-wagon" enthusiasts rushed blithely in, with the disastrous results now commencing to make themselves substantially felt. The last vestige of hope entertained by thoughtful Radicals was crushed by Mr. Asquith's utterances at the National Liberal Club last week. Previously there was a belief that speedy dissolution would result in the return to power of the Liberal party with a smaller majority, but with ample strength and a longer term before it. But Mr. Asquith fiercely repudiated the idea of dissolution. He was not, he said, in a penitential mood. They would stick to their guns and hurl defiance in the face of the Peers. This was no doubt excellent oratory for the occasion, when the Prime Minister was the centre of two hundred and sixty-six admiring stalwarts; but the country will demand something more than oratory when Mr. Lloyd George brings forth his anxiously awaited Budget, which, it is confidently predicted, will show a heavy deficit. The Old Age Pensions Act which the Government threw as a sop to their humbler supporters is likely to prove a very Frankenstein. And no more cheese-paring is to be allowed with the Navy. The Government is definitely pledged to make heavy provision for next year's shipbuilding programme, and the slightest symptom of hesitation in this di-



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rection would presage the speedy overthrow of the Administration. Refreshed by their holiday Mr. Asquith and his merry men will return after the festive season to embark on what is believed to be the final stage of their erratic course. They have admittedly no settled programme and, as the *Times* remarks, all this seems to foreshadow a policy of Monte Carlo—with particularly heavy odds on the bank.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

London, December 17.

At today's sitting Lord Morley, the Secretary of State for India, made a detailed statement as to the situation in India and the proposed reforms of the administration. In the opinion of competent judges, said his Lordship, the position of the Indian Government is as sound and as firmly established as ever it was. He then proceeded to justify the recent exceptional measures, pointing out the necessity of suppressing the excesses and conspiracies against which they were directed, but remarking that it would be a sign of weakness, because of bombs and murders to give up the policy of reform. If that policy were dropped, well-intentioned people would become Radicals and irreconcilable opponents. He himself and the Government of India had never wavered in their resolution to abide by the policy of reform. The reforms would consist in the establishment of a system of electing members of the provincial Legislative Councils in addition to those nominated by the Crown; in strengthening the Councils in the chief provinces and extending their powers. It was further intended to abolish the present constitution of the provincial Councils, in which the majority always consisted of officials, and to add one native member to the Executive Council of the Viceroy. The maintenance of British authority in India, said the Minister in conclusion, would be more effective if Great Britain had the support of the Indians themselves.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

London, December 17.

Sir Edward Grey, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said in answer to a question that the rumour that Portugal had contracted a German loan for which Delagoa Bay was the security, was entirely unfounded.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS.

Washington, December 17.

The House of Representatives at today's sitting unanimously passed a resolution requesting the President to inform the House what had occasioned the remark in his last message that, in passing a resolution that the action of the secret police department should be limited, the members of Congress had been influenced by the consideration that their own conduct had been watched by officials of that department.

MARATHON RACE IN NEW YORK. DORANDO BEATEN BY CANADIAN.

New York, December 16.

Longboat beat Dorando in the "Marathon" race yesterday. The Italian collapsed at the twenty-sixth mile. Longboat's time was 2hrs. 45min. 52-5sec.

New York, December 16.

Longboat broke the tape with plenty of strength in reserve, and while the doctors were endeavouring to resuscitate his opponent, the winner was lifted on the shoulders of the crowd, and carried in triumph to his dressing-room. The race was a splendid one, and thousands were unable to gain admission. When the end came men and women broke into a wild storm of cheering, hats were thrown into the air, flags were waved, and bands played, as the Indian swiftly lapped his fallen foe eight times. Dorando began to show signs of distress at the 20th mile. His attendants deluged his legs from syphons, but it was then only a question of when Longboat would sprint. Though Dorando set the pace, Longboat four times assumed the lead, and dashed off at a terrific pace for several laps, but on each occasion relinquished his advantage after the sprint. At the 20th mile Longboat for the third time sprinted furiously for half a mile. This last burst of speed helped to wear out Dorando, and when the Indian slowed down and allowed him to pass him, Dorando was apparently labouring heavily. At this point Longboat's attendants gave him some liquid in a phial. At the next mile Longboat again carried the Italian for three laps, and drank the contents of another phial, and in the 25th mile he made his last spurt. Dorando was becoming more and more distressed. The Indian increased his pace, and began to draw away from the Italian, who fell in a heap and rolled off the track when passing the score-board at the 25th mile, leaving Longboat to finish alone.

New York, December 16.

The Canadian started a slight favourite, betting being 5 to 4 in his favour. Dorando's time for covering the first five miles, when he was leading, was 28min. 27sec. At ten miles, which distance he covered in 58min. 57sec., the Italian still led, and he maintained the lead at 15 miles, when the time was 1hr. 32min. At 20 miles Longboat took the lead, the time being 2hr. 3min. 58sec., Dorando collapsing and falling at the last mile.

The *Central News* states that Dorando's fall slightly wrenched his right leg, and that he was physically unable to continue.

Tom Longboat, the winner of yesterday's race, is a Canadian Indian. As an amateur he took part in a great many long-distance races in America, on one occasion running 25 miles in 2 hours 24 minutes. In the recent Olympic Marathon Race, in which he ran under protest with regard to his amateur status, he gave a poor performance, collapsing early in the race. His friends, however, believed that this was due to the intense heat. He became a professional runner some weeks ago, and very shortly afterwards challenged Dorando, whom he has now so easily defeated.

The time of the Olympic Marathon Race was: Dorando (disqualified), 2hrs. 54min. 46²/₅sec.; Hayes, 2hrs. 55min. 18²/₅min. The time of the last Madison-square race, in which Dorando beat Hayes, was: Dorando, 2hrs. 44min. 20⁴/₅sec.

THE CONDITION OF THE PANAMA CANAL.

(From our New York correspondent.)

The fiscal year of 1907-1908 has witnessed any quantity of "grubbing" in the Panama Canal zone, but that there are still very great difficulties of the most varied kinds to be encountered is apparent from the annual report issued by the Chief Engineer

(Continued on page 2.)