

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

The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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AMERICAN NOTES.

The informative despatches from our New York correspondent which we recently published gave a very good idea of the progress made thus far by the tariff revision movement in the United States. Since those despatches were mailed from New York no further interesting testimony has been forthcoming before the Committee of Ways and Means now sitting at Washington, in spite of the fact that several prominent captains of industry gave evidence last week, including Mr. Andrew Carnegie, whose "heresies" in regard to the tariff have aroused the ire of his colleagues in the steel trade. The American press is divided on the question. With its usual enterprise, the New York *American* telegraphed to manufacturers in all parts of the United States the question—"Do you favour reduction or increase of the tariff on your product?" and, if so, "Why?" As might have been anticipated, these gentlemen favour a reduction of duty on the raw material of their particular industry, but are not particularly anxious for any reduction of duty on the manufactured article. As an instance, the boot and shoe manufacturers unanimously favour a repeal of the duty on hides and a substantial reduction of the duty on leather, but would like to retain the present tariff on made boots and shoes. With free hides and a reduced duty on leather, American manufacturers say they can pay wages double as high as those of other countries and produce boots and shoes cheaper.

Last Sunday's edition of the New York *Times* contained an advance official canvass of the popular vote for Mr. Taft and Mr. Bryan as cast at the last election. According to these figures Mr. Taft received 7,659,680 votes, which is a bigger total than Mr. Roosevelt's in 1904. Mr. Bryan's vote was 6,450,690. The following table shows the aggregate popular vote for President under the emblems of all parties having a national ticket in the field according to the returns at present available:—

Republicans: 7,659,688 in 1908; 7,623,486 in 1901.
Democrats: 6,450,690 in 1908; 5,077,971 in 1904.
Socialists: 401,506 in 1908; 402,283 in 1904.
Prohibitionists: 228,014 in 1908; 258,536 in 1904.
Independence League: 82,300 in 1908; no figures for 1904.
People's party: 29,362 in 1908; 117,183 in 1904.
Socialist labour: 11,903 in 1908; 31,249 in 1904.

Mr. Bryan's vote in 1900 was 6,358,133.

A reference to the numerous articles published previous to the Presidential Election and forecasting the issue, reveals the fact that the majority of the forecasts placed the combined votes very much too high.

The Congressional storm clouds hovering over the head of President Roosevelt have apparently not yet broken, in spite of the half-dozen acrid speeches made last week by incensed Representatives. The secret service police, the cause of the trouble, was, it is recalled, originally created for the purpose of detecting counterfeiters and protecting the person of the President. Its scope has gradually been enlarged, until at the time of the great land fraud scandals its agents were chiefly responsible for the conviction of the culprits, amongst whom were a Congressman and a Senator. Enraged by the Government's success, the remaining land thieves began a campaign to persuade Congress to confine the secret service to its statutory duties. Mr. Roosevelt's free remarks on this action and the inference he drew from it have already been reported in our columns. The President added that the secret service agents were responsible for the conviction of the Senator and Congressman alluded to. The insinuations undoubtedly made by Mr. Roosevelt have naturally excited indignation amongst all parties of the Legislature, and, while the American public admires the courageous stand taken by the President, sympathy is not denied to the Representatives whose manners and morals have been pointedly impugned. It need hardly be recalled (writes a well-informed press correspondent) that of late years there has been, irrespective of party, mutual opposition between the majority of Congress and the White House. That a dramatic quarrel has not come before may in part be attributed to the desire of the Republican majorities to refrain from splitting their party just before an election. Now there is less reason for hesitation, and it may well be that legislators have on this occasion given loose rein to their resent-



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ment. In any case, and whatever happens during the next few days, it is not likely that the situation will be permanently affected. Things move quickly, if noisily, in America, and in a few weeks the quarrel will be a thing of the past. The President, according to his friends, is not in the least troubled by it.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO BERLIN.

The Vienna *Neue Freie Presse* published, a day or two ago, a telegram from its London correspondent stating that King Edward's contemplated visit to Berlin had been given up in consequence, not of the state of his Majesty's health but of "Berlin conditions." With reference to this report a Berlin contemporary says that nothing is known in Court or official circles in Berlin of such an alteration in King Edward's plans. On the 11th of August last his Majesty told the Emperor Wilhelm at Cronberg that he and Queen Alexandra thought of coming to Berlin at the beginning of 1909. The visit thus announced has not been countermanded.

THE AMBASSADOR TO BERLIN.

London, December 22.

Yesterday, after the holding of the Prorogation Council, the King received in audience at Buckingham Palace, Sir Edward Goschen, the British Ambassador to Berlin, who is now on leave of absence in England, and had a prolonged conversation with him.

LUXURIOUS CRIMINALS AT PRAGUE.

Vienna, December 22.

A telegram from Prague states that the police have made some startling discoveries throwing light on a number of highway robberies which have recently occurred in the Prague district. Acting on information brought to them, the detectives tracked a suspect to an underground cavern near the city, which was found to have been furnished in a luxurious fashion, and well-stocked with stolen goods. The arrangements for lighting and heating the cavern were perfect, and one of the chief features of its equipment was a choice library. Several arrests were made after a struggle, and search is still being made for other members of the gang.

DEPOSITION OF CASTRO.

EX-PRESIDENT'S FUNDS STOPPED.

CONSPIRACY AGAINST VICE-PRESIDENT.

New York, December 22.

An Associated Press despatch from Caracas states that the Bank of Venezuela has cabled to the European banks with which it is connected stopping the unlimited credit given to Senor Castro on his departure for Europe.

New York, December 22.

An Associated Press telegram despatched from Caracas on the 21st, runs: "Castro's fall has been accomplished since Saturday, after a plot against the life of Vice-President Gomez had failed. Ever since the demonstrations against the President on the 13th and 14th instant, an exchange of cable messages in cipher has been going on between Senor Castro in Berlin and his agents in Caracas. A prominent lawyer in Caracas lodged an accusation with the Venezuelan Federal Court against Castro of complicity in the attempt on the Vice-President's life, and proposed that the President should be arraigned."

A second Associated Press telegram continues: "The conspirators met on Friday at the house of the Secretary General of the Castro cabinet, M. Garbiras Guzman, who was in charge of Castro's affairs. The conspirators planned a *coup d'état*, and resolved to murder Vice-President Gomez, M. Paul, then Minister for Foreign Affairs, General Baptista, and a number of other persons of high rank and position, and then to assume the reins of government. Torres Cardenas, formerly one of Castro's private secretaries and the leader of the conspiracy, was entrusted with the execution of this plan. Vice-President Gomez heard of the conspiracy and, proceeding at once to the barracks of a regiment that was in a state of mutiny under the command of Castro's brother, arrested him and Torres Cardenas. The arrest of the other conspirators was then effected with the help of the Vice-President's friends. A crowd assembled in the Plaza Bolivar and gave free utterance to their satisfaction at the turn events had taken."

Caracas, December 22.

Vice-Pres. Gomez has issued a proclamation announcing to the people the discovery of the plot against himself and the Government, and promising, with the help of his Cabinet representing the public opinion of Venezuela, to uphold the guarantees provided by the Constitution and to bring about a peaceful settlement of international disputes.

New York, December 22.

The Associated Press learns from Caracas that M. Paul, formerly the Venezuelan Minister for Foreign Affairs, has been ordered to proceed to Europe, to settle all outstanding differences with foreign Powers. M. Paul is to start on the 24th instant.

Norfolk (Virginia), December 22.

The cruisers "Montana" and "North Carolina" have sailed to the southward with sealed orders, bound presumably to Venezuelan waters.

Washington, December 22.

According to a report from Port-au-Prince, the United States cruiser "Des Moines" and gunboat "Dolphin" will proceed to Venezuela.

London, December 23.

Reuter learns from Caracas, under date of the 18th instant, that the change of Government was not made known in Caracas until after the arrival from the interior of 1,500 troops loyal to Vice-President Gomez. Troops are being raised and armed in all haste, as it is believed that Castro's adherents will fight for him. The steamer "Manzanares," which is the private property of Castro, has been compelled to remain at La Guaira, as the Commander of one of the Netherlands warships threatened to seize it. In consequence of this attitude on the part of Holland, all freight and passenger traffic with Ciudad and Bolivar is at a standstill.

(Continued on page 2.)