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1755.

The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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THE CHRISTMAS WEEK.

The benevolent genius which is popularly supposed to superintend the affairs of men during the festive Yuletide season does not apparently exert his beneficent influence to the extent of warding off battle, murder, and sudden death, incidents which occur with the same frequency at Christmas time as in the less joyful seasons of the year. Thus a good many events have happened in the past week to keep the nerves of the public on edge, and indeed, Christmas week itself came within an ace of being rendered sadly conspicuous by an overwhelming disaster. We refer to the conflagration which broke out in the Herald Square Theatre, New York, on Tuesday evening, and practically gutted that well known resort. It seems almost miraculous that there was no loss of life, for the outbreak occurred while the theatre was filled by a large audience. Happily, however, when the alarm was given shortly after the commencement of the last act of the play, the audience remained calm, and filed out in an orderly manner meriting the highest praise. Such panic as occurred was confined to the actors on the stage, where the danger was greater than in the auditorium. The players fled into the street without waiting to obtain their ordinary garments, and a strange spectacle was presented to the vast crowd assembled there by the painted and powdered ladies and gentlemen who walked about the theatre still in their stage finery. The damage to the theatre is very extensive, but at present it is impossible to mention any exact figure. The building, which had a seating accommodation of thirteen hundred, was the property of the Shubert Brothers.—Christmas Day itself did not fail to provide Paris with another sensation, in the form of a savage attack on the President of the Republic by a waiter named Mattis. Luckily the prompt action of the gentlemen who were accompanying M. Fallières prevented the miscreant from inflicting serious injury on the President. We print full details of the outrage in another column.—The brawl between an English soldier and a German customer in a Cairo coffee house is also reported elsewhere, but we are inclined to believe that the less publicity given to affairs of this description the better will it be for the cause of international amity.—Tempestuous weather on an almost unprecedented scale contrived to make Transatlantic passages last week the reverse of pleasant. Here again the world was spared great disasters. All the liners reported overdue have since reached their respective ports, storm-battered and coated with ice, but safe and comparatively sound. Dauntless seamanship triumphed over the angry deep, save in the case of the steamship "Irada," which was wrecked off Mizen Head on Tuesday, with the loss of six lives.—Few new developments in the Near Eastern situation are to be reported. It is true that conditions in the Balkans have not yet changed for the better, and that ominous rumblings have made themselves heard; but there is no reason for believing that the arbitrament of the sword will be substituted for the diplomatic negotiations which are still proceeding with a view to settling the entire question.—The Christmas week was rich in "might-have-beens," but on the whole nothing of a particularly noteworthy nature occurred to seriously upset the world's tranquillity. Perhaps one of those who least appreciated the conviviality of the season was ex-President Castro, who is still undergoing treatment in Berlin. His Christmas Box from Caracas was certainly not calculated to cheer the spirits of the fallen dictator.

FRENCH PRESIDENT ATTACKED.

M. FALLIERES INJURED.

SUPPOSED POLITICAL MOTIVE.

As President Fallières was taking his usual walk on Christmas morning along the Champs Elysée, accompanied by M. Ramondon, his chief Secretary, and Lieutenant Colonel Lason, he was suddenly attacked on the Place de l'Etoile, at half-past nine o'clock, by a young man who rushed upon him with uplifted arms, seized him by the head and beard, and inflicted a slight wound on his neck. The man was promptly knocked down by the two gentlemen and handed over to some policemen in plain clothes who were within hail. The President, whose hat had fallen off and his walking stick been broken in the attempt to ward off the man's rush, but who had shown no excitement or alarm, continued his walk through the Trocadero Garden and the new park of the Champ de Mars, returning to the Elysée by way of the Place de la Concorde. On reaching home at half-past 10 o'clock, he found M. Clemenceau, the Prime Minister, to whom the incident had been reported by telephone, anxiously awaiting him.

The prisoner's name is Mattis; he is a native of Savoy, and 34 years old. In his pockets were found a card of the *Patrie Française*, a medallion of General Mercier, some stamps bearing the portrait of the Duke of Orleans, a card of the "Yellow Syndicate," and a chauffeur's certificate. He says he had planned the attack ever since the remains of M. Zola were transferred to the Pantheon, and that he had carried it out with full deliberation; that he does not regret it, but on the contrary thinks he has only fulfilled his duty in assaulting the President. His landlady states that she knew nothing of Mattis' Royalistic tendencies, that he lived quietly, paid his rent regularly, and was always in employment of some kind.

The magistrate before whom Mattis was examined, ordered a search to be made by the police at the offices of the newspaper *Le Jaune*, and M. Hamard, the Chief of the police, proceeded on Sunday to carry out the order; but as no one belonging to the newspaper came to the office, M. Hamard sealed up the entrance door. Later in the day M. Brétry, a member of the Chamber and the Manager of the *Le Jaune*, arrived at the office and removed the seals.

Immediately on the news of the attack reaching them, all the Ministers and the President of the Chamber went to call on President Fallières, and expressed their indignation at the assault. Most of the foreign Ambassadors, Ministers, and Chargés d'Affaires also paid their respects to the President.

A later telegram states that the police have renewed the seals on the doors of the *Jaune* newspaper, which were broken by M. Brétry. M. Brétry declared that he would break the seals again when he had occasion to use his offices.

MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO A CRUISER.

Paris, December 28.

According to a telegram from Brest, the armoured cruiser "Gloire" has been obliged to return to port from a cruise in consequence of the machinery having been seriously damaged by a malicious act. In approaching the land she ran ashore near Hoedie island, but got off again without damage; she is commanded by Captain Jaurès, a brother of the Socialistic deputy.

PEACE IN VENEZUELA.

GOMEZ AS NEW PRESIDENT.

Caracas, December 27.

The accession to the Presidency by General Gomez is now recognised throughout the country. The revolutionary movement has come to an end without any serious shedding of blood. General Celestino Castro, brother of the late President, has abandoned his threatening attitude and given up the command of the troops under him, besides delivering to the new Government a large quantity of arms and munitions of war, some six thousand rifles and three million cartridges. It may be taken for granted that Castro has now ceased to be an important factor in the affairs of Venezuela. The Press is free; the cattle monopoly has been raised; the frontier question with Columbia has been satisfactorily settled; and steamship traffic between Venezuelan ports and those of neighbouring States is again in full swing.

London, December 27.

That Castro persists in turning a blind eye to the events of the past week in Venezuela is evidenced by a Reuter report to the effect that he has sent a cablegram to Caracas ordering Venezuelan warships to attack the next Dutch vessel which makes a hostile move or even appears before the port of La Guaira. The Venezuelan Government has issued a manifesto decreeing that commercial traffic with Trinidad be resumed, and that traffic on the river Meta is now free. The salt monopoly has been dissolved. The Bermuda Asphalt Company have reopened their offices in Caracas.

New York, December 27.

A report from Caracas states that President Gomez may demand the extradition of Castro if it is proved that he was the sender of the cablegram which contained the order to murder Gomez.

AMERICAN SUGAR MAGNATE DEAD.

San Francisco, December 27.

Mr. Claus Spreckels, the sugar magnate of the Pacific coast, is dead.

The late Mr. Spreckels was born at Lamstedt in Hanover in 1828, and emigrated to America at the age of eighteen. He soon became interested in the sugar industry, and probably did more to develop this branch of American trade than any other individual. He established the Bay Sugar Refinery, procuring his raw material from Hawaii; invented new refining processes; acquired sugar properties in Hawaii; laid out a beet-sugar farm of 1,500 acres at Watsonville, Cal.; and founded the Oceanic Steamship Company, playing between San Francisco and Honolulu. Dresden readers will be interested to note that Mr. Spreckels' daughter married a local banker, Herr Geheimrat Hahn, who subsequently became insolvent and served a term of imprisonment.

BRAWL IN A CAIRO COFFEE HOUSE.

Cairo, December 28.

A brawl occurred on Sunday in the German restaurant "Gambrinus" between English soldiers and German civilians. One of the soldiers, who is said to have been drunk, had got into a dispute with a German and struck him with his cane. Other Germans then took their countryman's part, while more soldiers joined their comrade, and a free fight ensued, in the course of which one of the soldiers was badly injured and carried off bleeding to the military hospital. Enquiries are being held into the affair by the English military and German consular authorities.