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The Daily Record

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VIENNA AND CONSTANTINOPLE. GREATLY IMPROVED OUTLOOK.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, January 12.

The report from Constantinople which has just been received here to the effect that the Grand Vizier has officially communicated to the Austrian Ambassador Turkey's willingness to accept the indemnity offered has created a most agreeable impression. It is assumed that the Austrian offer was the outcome of sincere desires for an amicable settlement of the problems called into being by the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and that by this offer the Austrian Government has unequivocally dissociated itself from the bellicose attitude adopted by the majority of the Vienna newspapers. Its acceptance indicates a like conciliatory sentiment on the part of the Porte, and with the two parties chiefly concerned well on the way towards an amicable understanding, the war clouds which have for several months past been hanging over the Balkans may be said to be well-nigh dissipated. Previous to the official announcement that the proffered indemnity would be accepted, the Grand Vizier received the diplomatic corps at Constantinople today, and on behalf of the Government expressed his satisfaction at Austria's terms. He praised the conciliatory spirit displayed at Vienna, and paid a tribute to the labours of the Austrian Ambassador. The offer was not accepted without some dissent, which chiefly emanated from the Young Turkish element and the President of the Chamber, Refik Bey. All opposition was, however, finally overcome, owing, it is believed, to the arguments put forward with respect to the internal condition of certain districts in Asia Minor, where starvation, murder, and rapine are said to be rife. Servia is now the sole remaining unruly element in the situation, and in this connection it is worthy of note that the Russian Ambassador yesterday informed the Porte that his country in no way identifies herself with Servia, and unconditionally desires the maintenance of peace in the Balkans.

Here it is hoped that the embarrassments which have confronted Austria ever since her recent action will at least serve as a deterrent to further arbitrary breaches of international agreements, and Austria's attitude in the face of similar actions on the part of other Powers is recalled. In 1878, when Russia desired to substitute the Treaty of San Stefano for the Treaty of Paris without consulting the signatories of that instrument, the Austrian Premier, Count Andrassy, was loud in his protest. In 1871, on the occasion of Prince Gortschakoff's one-sided abrogation of the Black Sea status quo of 1856, Austria, though powerless to interfere, was hotly indignant. "Europe no longer exists!" declared the Austrian statesman, Count Beust. "Whoever may be the most successful soldier or the most unscrupulous diplomatist of the day must be tamely allowed to trample on the title-deeds of European public law." This dictum makes strange reading in the light of Austria's action with regard to the Treaty of Berlin.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN.

ALARMING STORY FROM HUNGARY.

Vienna, January 12.

Thus far it has not been possible to obtain official confirmation or denial of the sensational report recently published in a prominent Vienna journal with reference to the late visit of the King and Queen of Spain to the estate of Archduke Frederick at Feltorony, Hungary. The story, which at the time of its publication created immense interest and speculation, is to the following effect. One afternoon Queen Victoria Eugenie set out in a carriage to meet her husband and the Archduke who were shooting. When near the rendez-vous, loud cries for help were heard, and upon the shooting party rushing towards the spot they found the Queen with her face streaming with blood. King Alfonso is said to have been so shaken at the sight that he burst into tears. Medical assistance was speedily summoned, and the physicians declared that her Majesty had received no serious injury, but that a bullet had grazed her forehead. During the course of the investigation



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that followed a bullet was found embedded in the tree near which the carriage was standing when the shot was fired. Arrests followed, but all the suspects were released in the absence of any definite evidence. The Queen very soon recovered from the shock, and the Archduke beseeched all present to maintain silence with regard to the painful episode. The story got into print through the indiscretion of one of the game beaters.

THE CONGRESSIONAL STORM. POLITICAL OPINIONS.

Washington, January 13.

No rejoinder to the allegations put forward by Senator Tillman in his speech before the Senate on Monday has yet been issued from White House. It transpired that several influential Representatives spent a great part of Sunday in endeavouring to bring about a reconciliation between the President and some of his Congressional friends who have been disturbed by certain passages in his recent Message, but these well-meant efforts produced little result. Mr. Roosevelt is reported to have declared that he has evidence in his possession which he may use at an opportune moment, and which is calculated to implicate many other Congressmen in unsavoury transactions. Against this, other Congressmen boldly state that the President himself is not free from participation in the society of men who are accused of malpractices. The well-known deal between the United States Steel Corporation and the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company has been revived, but little credence is given to the allegation that the President used his official position to shield certain Federal officers against too searching enquiry. A good many prominent journals deplore the whole controversy, which appears interminable. While it continues exaggerations from all sides are the natural result. The one certain feature is the President's coolness in the midst of all this strife. He has stated that no word has fallen from him which has not been justified or supported by facts. One press report says that the bulk of Republican opinion is strongly against the course pursued by the Chief Executive.

CLOSE OF THE AERONAUT CONGRESS.

London, January 12.

The international Congress of aeronauts held its final sitting today. It was decided to offer prizes to the amount of 1,200,000 francs for flying machines and dirigible airships.

THE EARTHQUAKE.

ENGLISH LADIES' HELP.

Reggio, January 13.

Yesterday afternoon an Infantry officer, aided by two firemen, succeeded in rescuing a three-year-old girl from the ruins.

Messina, January 12.

The body of Mrs. Ogston, the wife of the British Vice-Consul, was recovered at Messina after a heroic struggle on the part of a number of sailors, ably directed by the British Military Attaché in Rome, Lieut.-Col. Delmé-Radcliffe. The body was found in a room on the fourth storey of the house crushed under the fallen roof. The American flagship "Connecticut" having meanwhile arrived, Admiral Sperry sent a launch with a burial party to convey the remains across the Straits to the English cemetery. The moment was a most impressive one when the bier on which lay the disfigured remains so long searched for was borne to the grave. The coffin was followed only by Col. Delmé-Radcliffe and a little group of English survivors, while men of another country, but speaking Mrs. Ogston's language, paid the last tribute of respect. The scene at the cemetery was most touching as the little party gathered round Col. Delmé-Radcliffe, who, as no clergyman was available, himself read the Burial Service. On his return to Messina Col. Delmé-Radcliffe asked for a force of sailors to excavate the ruins under which lie the dead members of the Huleatt family, and 100 men have been landed from H.M. cruiser "Lancaster" for the purpose. It is reported that Mr. Huleatt had three English ladies stopping at his house in Messina at the time of the earthquake.

The relief committee, composed chiefly of English people resident at Taormina, together with tourists of other nationalities, which has taken up its quarters at Giardini station (to the south of Taormina), is still doing splendid work. Miss Mabel Hill and her mother, Lady Hill, are practically directing the party, aided by the Hon. Mr. Kitson, son of Lord Airedale, Mr. and Mrs. Wright (English artists), and Dr. and Mrs. Dashwood, who take turns to meet the trains day and night, and care for the hungry, thirsty, and half-naked refugees. They are spending £80 daily for bread alone, and are enrolling every possible volunteer to provide clothes and help in nursing those of the most seriously injured, who are taken out at Giardini, where the station building has been transformed into a hospital. Mrs. Dashwood presided at the birth of two babies born in the telegraph office.

Naples, January 12.

Miss Catherine Weeden Cooke, of London, who was the only English woman in the train for Reggio on the earthquake, had a most trying experience. On arriving at Palmi she found that it was impossible to proceed, owing to the havoc that had been wrought. In the terrible confusion and the pouring rain the passengers nearly went mad. It took a long time to obtain a train to return to Naples, and in the meantime Miss Cooke was only able to obtain a crust of black bread. Forty English ladies at Naples have joined the Church working party in a huge room, where they are all making garments with feverish haste. Five sewing machines are continuously at work, and hundreds of yards of material are made up daily. The ladies are getting out great piles of clothes for men, women, and children for the Red Cross and other institutions.

Messina, January 12.

The Duke of Connaught has arrived here from Malta on board the cruiser "Aboukir," and has visited the ruins.

Rome, January 12.

General Mazza telegraphs from Messina that no more survivors have been found in spite of the most careful search. Twenty-four bodies were buried yesterday. The distribution of provisions continues, about 64,000 rations being issued to the people daily.

Constantinople, January 12.

The Turkish Chamber has voted 200,000 francs for the victims of the catastrophe in Sicily and Calabria.

(Continued on page 2.)