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The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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RUSSIAN OFFICIALDOM.

The silence from Russia is practically unbroken; occasionally, it is true, there filters through to the outer world a report of so many executions having taken place in such and such a fortress, grim reminders of the struggle still being waged between the forces of revolution and reaction. For the rest, however, the conflict is conducted in camera; all sorts of sanguinary dramas may be enacted behind the scenes, but the spectators in the auditorium are left wondering. In spite of the unceasing activity of the Russian censor and the consequent silence of the national and foreign press, it is possible to gather illuminative details of the movement destined to set Russia's official habitation in order. At the present moment a searching investigation into the methods of the police administration is in course of prosecution. Already we have heard of amazing revelations in connection with the Warsaw police force, where corruptive influences have permeated all ranks. There are unmistakable signs that some one in authority is dealing with the tainted officials with a strong hand. The authorities have finally realised that without impeccable representatives their efforts to clear the land of the forces continually working against law and order are unavailing. It is an easy matter to criticise the system of a foreign country and to thank Providence that we are not as others are, and criticism of this nature has been directed against Russia ad nauseam. But facts are facts, and the latest reports from St. Petersburg prove conclusively that the officials responsible for the maintenance of public welfare in the capital are sadly lacking in integrity. Numerous arrests of highly placed police officials were made in St. Petersburg last week. Among those taken into custody was the renowned detective Kunzevitch, to whose efforts were mainly due the apprehension of numberless criminals and political suspects, many of whom are now exiled in Siberia, while others have expiated their crimes on the scaffold. Kunzevitch was arrested in company with fourteen other colleagues, and the charges against them include one of participation in the direction of a secret gambling den. When such men as these are employed as thief-takers, the line of demarcation between prosecutor and prosecuted becomes faint indeed. Every friend of Russia must fervently hope for the day when tranquillity will once more prevail in the Tsar's dominions, but until the axe has been laid at the root of the tree of corrupt officialdom and the Augean stables thoroughly cleansed, it is futile to anticipate the dawn of enlightenment and progress.

THE AMERICAN BATTLESHIP FLEET.

INCIDENTS EN ROUTE.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, January 18.

A lengthy cable despatch from Malta appears in the Times from its special correspondent with the U.S. battleship fleet, in the course of which he says: "I saw the American battleship fleet before it started on its voyage; I saw many of the ships at Seattle; and now I see two of them again here. If the 'Wisconsin' and the 'Kearsage' are to be taken as examples of the fleet, it is in an excellent condition. The most extraordinary feature of this extraordinary cruise is the lack of incident attending it, outside the lavish hospitality which has been everywhere offered to the officers and men. A few—very few—sailors have been drowned; a typhoon



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was encountered after leaving Japan; but, otherwise, the things that appear to have left the greatest impression on the minds of the Americans are the kindness of the Australians and Japanese, and a fight in New Zealand in which, the American sailors frankly and admiringly admit, "one Britisher licked six of us!"

THE GUILLOTINE.

MORBID CURIOSITY IN FRANCE.

(From a Paris correspondent.)

Many people in Paris with inconveniently long memories are recalling the French Prime Minister's famous anti-guillotine speech which he delivered comparatively recently, when he passionately exclaimed: "While I remain Premier, not another head shall fall in France!" This declaration reads strangely in view of the quadruple execution in the Pas de Calais Department last week, but it is generally known that M. Clemenceau was forced to abandon his humanitarian attitude in face of the great weight of public opinion which clamoured for the reinstatement of the sinister guillotine. Ever since reports began to appear in the newspapers relative to the impending abolition of the death penalty in France, crimes of all descriptions increased by leaps and bounds, until affairs finally reached a point at which murder was often committed as a corollary to the most trifling burglary or outrage. Then the Chamber manifested its sound sense by calling M. Deibler, the famous executioner, from his long retirement and ordering him to set his dread machine in order for its ghastly work. The morbid interest exhibited by Parisians in the guillotine is strikingly shown by an incident which occurred one evening last week. The "red widow," as the instrument is called, is lodged in the Rue de la Folie-Regnault, in a shed boarded up from the street. On the evening in question the fate of the Marseilles murderer Camajore was still uncertain, and a rumour spread that the guillotine was to be secretly removed during the night in order to be placed on board the morning express. Thereupon a stream of people in cabs and on foot commenced to flow towards the Folie-Regnault, and soon a vast crowd had gathered, merely in the hope of catching a momentary glimpse of Deibler and his apparatus. All the wine-shops, cafés, and other places of amusement in the vicinity kept open all night, but nothing happened to reward the patience of the multitude. This repulsive exhibition of morbid curiosity has caused considerable comment. There is every likelihood that the guillotine will be kept busy for some weeks to come, as dozens of condemned criminals are incarcerated in gaols all over the country.

L'AFFAIRE STEINHEIL.

REPORTED CONFESSION.

Paris, January 18.

Madame Steinheil is said to have admitted to a fellow prisoner that she herself murdered her husband and her mother.

THE SICILIAN CATAclySM.

MORE VIOLENT SHOCKS.

PROPOSED ROYAL TOUR OF GRATITUDE.

Rome, January 17.

The *Corriere d'Italia* reports today from Messina that a party of soldiers found a woman of seventy years of age under the ruins yesterday, still alive but so exhausted that she could not speak. She was taken to a field hospital, where the doctors hope she will recover.

Messina, January 17.

General Mazza has sent the following telegram to the Premier, Signor Giolitti. "The Committee of the department of Public Works sent to report on the measures necessary for the reestablishment of the harbour traffic has arrived. The building of huts continues and will make more rapid progress when the 200 military carpenters who are on their way are able to get to work. But a great quantity of wood is still needed, for the construction of barracks for the artisans and labourers who must be employed in rebuilding the city, as well as for the owners of houses who are searching the ruins of their property. The Portuguese steamer 'Vasco di Gama' has anchored here with relief stores."

Messina, January 17.

Several shocks of earthquake were felt last night. One, at a quarter before 1 o'clock, was violent enough to bring down walls that were still standing.

Rome, January 18.

There are rumours here of a whole series of visits abroad by King Victor and Queen Elena during the present year. The month of May has been chosen for the promised visit to London, their Majesties making a stay of two days in Paris en route; and both visits will be of an entirely official character. The King is anxious to express personally his gratitude to the nations which have offered their sympathy and assistance to Italy in her time of trouble; and, if it is found practicable, both the King and Queen will pay visits to most of the European capitals. In particular, His Majesty desires to offer his thanks in person to the people of the United States, who have been among the foremost to send assistance to those in need; but the length of the journey would necessarily occasion some inconvenience. The matter is being carefully considered, however, and in official circles here it is believed that every effort will be made to carry out the King's wishes in this respect.

FAMOUS BOSTON BUILDING DESTROYED.

28 KILLED AND INJURED.

New York, January 17.

The Boston Coliseum has been destroyed by fire; at the moment, too, when an automobile exhibition was being held within its walls. Three chauffeurs perished in the flames, and 25 firemen were severely hurt in their gallant efforts to save the building. The damage is estimated at three million dollars.

THE NEW GERMAN MINISTER TO MEXICO.

New York, January 17.

Consul-General Bünz, who has been appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to Mexico, left yesterday to take up his duties.