

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

The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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DANGEROUS PRESS TACTICS. FRENCH PREMIER AND JOURNALISTS.

(From a Paris correspondent.)

Paris, January 19.

Were it not that French newspaper readers are becoming accustomed to the frantic endeavours made by each Paris journal to outstrip its rivals in serving up every day a fresh dish of sensational pabulum, the latest attempt on the part of the Press to create an international "incident" might well have had incalculably serious results. In last Monday's edition the *Libre Parole* reproduced what purported to be an interview granted by the French Premier, M. Clemenceau, to various members of the Press Syndicate. The Premier was represented as having freely discussed foreign politics with the reporters, and to have directed their attention to the numerous difficulties with which the European situation was confronted. "Every Power," the Premier was reported to have said, "is now attempting to find a solution of these many difficulties, and in case of failure it may well be that we shall be engaged in a war with Germany this spring." Upon the heels of this preposterous report came an official denial from the Foreign Ministry. This morning the *Figaro* publishes what it claims are the true facts of the case, as follows: The utterances actually made by the Premier have been reproduced in a false and distorted form. M. Clemenceau, who is naturally most annoyed by the fictitious declarations which have been attributed to him, will embrace an early opportunity of contradicting this canard and revealing his actual convictions with regard to the maintenance of peace in Europe. This he will do either in the form of a speech or a magazine article, and, in view of certain rumours which have of late been widely circulated, such a procedure is in the highest degree advisable. The Premier's anticipated explanation of his attitude towards the many questions of European policy cannot fail to have a good result.

Thus perishes the latest, and certainly one of the most unscrupulous, attempts to revive acerbity between France and her powerful neighbour. Few sensible people could have supposed M. Clemenceau really capable of giving expression to the utterances published in the *Libre Parole*, but there are always many readers eager to swallow concoctions of this nature provided the necessary spice of political excitement is not lacking. Fortunately in this case the official denial followed so promptly that the poison had little time to work, but the episode furnishes yet another incident of the dangers which menace international amity owing to unscrupulous press tactics.

MR. ROOSEVELT'S LECTURES.

OXFORD, PARIS, AND BERLIN.

The best of good news came to hand from Washington yesterday morning. A cablegram stated that Mr. Roosevelt has accepted the invitation extended to him by the University of Berlin to deliver a lecture there, and will fulfil this engagement, according to present arrangements, in May, 1910. Thus the President will afford the three principal scholastic centres of Europe an opportunity of hearing his views on many important problems, as he has already signified his acceptance of the invitations from Oxford University and the Paris Sorbonne. At the former he will deliver the 1910 Romanes lecture, but so far as can be ascertained Mr. Roosevelt has not yet decided on the subjects he will choose for his discourses at any of the universities. One thing is quite certain: his reception in Berlin will equal that accorded him at Oxford and Paris, for nowhere is the personality of the United States President held in more esteem than in the Prussian capital. The cablegram further announces that Mr. Roosevelt is unable to take advantage of further invitations of this description. His lecture tour over here will of course take place after his return from the African shooting expedition, arrangements for which have now been completed.



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KING EDWARD'S VISIT.

MORE FRIENDLY PRESS COMMENT.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, January 20.

The newspapers continue to discuss King Edward's pending visit to Berlin in a very cordial spirit, and to see in it an augury of improved relationship between Great Britain and Germany. This morning's *Daily Chronicle* contains a typical article of this nature. "We sincerely hope," it writes, "that the visit of King Edward to the German Emperor will contribute to the strengthening and closer intimacy of friendly intercourse between the British and German peoples. The political situation at the moment is more favourable to a development of this nature than recently. The Near East question is nearing settlement; the naval policy of both countries is quite clear and straightforward, and will remain so if that measure of freedom in commerce claimed by each is mutually conceded. There is, in fact, no scope for unworthy suspicious and unnecessary misunderstandings on either side. His Majesty's visit, we trust, will help to eliminate the erroneous view that British policy is governed by the desire to isolate Germany."

Other prominent journals are not behindhand in commenting in a like amicable spirit on the visit of the King, which will manifestly be one of the most popular His Majesty has paid since his accession. As I mentioned in a previous despatch, the hearty echo these sentiments are finding in the German press has created profound gratification over here.

PRESIDENTIAL SALARY INCREASED.

Washington, January 20.

The Senate has resolved to raise the remuneration of the President of the Union from 75,000 to 100,000 dollars, including travelling expenses.

THE UNITED STATES AND LIBERIA.

Washington, January 19.

President Roosevelt has referred to the Senate a letter from State Secretary Root requesting authority to send a Commission of three Americans to Liberia, to assist the Government of that Republic. The President commends the request to the favourable consideration of the Senate.

THE FIRE FIEND AT MESSINA. THE CITY OF THE DEAD.

CHARITABLE WORK BY QUEEN ELENA.

Messina, January 20.

The rescue and salvage work here is proceeding under extraordinary difficulties. The fire which broke out on Monday night compelled the aid of every available helper to check the rapid spread of the flames, which, fanned by a strong wind, bid fair to annihilate what little was left of this city. It is now believed that the conflagration had been smouldering for many days among the huge masses of inflammable material under the ruins, and the fierce wintry gales sweeping across the Straits fanned it into sudden activity. The blaze has now been isolated, but must be allowed to burn itself out, as the combined labour of soldiers, sailors, and other workers has been unable to extinguish it. No more rescues have been reported of late, and there is little possibility of any further survivors being recovered, but this does not prevent every effort in the direction of still saving life.

Rome, January 20.

At the request of the Queen, Dr. Quinco, the Court physician, has left Rome in order to supervise the medical arrangements, and the distribution of clothing and linen which has been prepared at the Quirinal under Her Majesty's eye, in places on the Calabrian coast and inland where medical help is scarce.

Rome, January 20.

The controversy as to whether Messina is to be rebuilt on its former lines or finally abandoned is still in full swing. The newspapers state that a mere village will probably represent Messina for many years to come, as even should the rebuilding project eventually be decided upon, the work of clearing away the enormous quantity of debris and constructing new foundations must extend over a lengthy period. Plans for the erection of so-called earthquake-proof houses are engaging the attention of architects, but pressmen who visited the scene shortly after the disaster state that one building of this description was utterly wrecked. The Musella plain, not far distant from Messina, has been selected as a site for the erection of temporary habitations, after having been inspected by Signor Casana, the Minister for War. The problem of providing temporary accommodation becomes daily more pressing, as the majority of the survivors refuse to leave their household goods lying under the ruins to the mercy of plunderers. Both Catania and Palermo, however, are crowded with refugees, and great difficulty is experienced in finding shelter for them. General Mazza, the provisional commandant at Messina, continues to send favourable reports regarding the health of the troops and survivors. Conditions at Reggio remain the same, but no further rescues have been reported from there since Saturday.

Milan, January 19.

Signor Barzini, writing in the *Corriere de la Sera*, accuses the authorities at Messina of inactivity, want of energy, and pedantry.

LONDON—BERLIN TELEPHONE SERVICE.

NO DIRECT LINE CONTEMPLATED.

London, January 20.

Reuter's Agency learns that, contrary to previous reports, no negotiations between the English and German postal authorities are contemplated or in progress with reference to the establishment of a telephone cable between London and Berlin. The opinion held by the English authorities is that such a line would be impossible; this view is based on the experience already gained in connection with many much shorter lines now in operation between England and Belgium, all of which operate in a very unsatisfactory manner.

THE CHOLERA IN ST. PETERSBURG.

St. Petersburg, January 19.

There were 48 fresh cases of cholera today in St. Petersburg and 12 deaths. The number of cholera patients is 283.