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DRESDEN, THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1909.

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THE JAPANESE BOGEY. THE ORIGIN OF THE AGITATION.

(From our New York correspondent.) Few agitations could be more puerile or ill-timed than the present anti-Japanese movement on the Pacific Coast. It is essential that one fact be understood in Europe,-viz. the campaign by no means represents a popular movement even in California itself; it is a deliberate attempt on the part of Mr. Hearst and others of his kidney to create for their saffron journals an abundance of inflammatory and sensational copy, duly brought into prominence by startling headlines. It is safe to say that there are not half a dozen sane men in California who disinterestedly approve of the measures just read for the third time before the State Legislature. They are the work of influential press busybodies and labour leaders, the motives actuating the latter being perfectly obvious to everybody having the smallest acquaintance with labour conditions in the State affected. Mr. Roosevelt's characterisation of the measures as "iniquitous" is endorsed in every quarter. A month or two ago the entire vexed question of Japanese immigration was in a very fair way towards settlement by diplomatic action on the part of the Governments of Washington and Tokio: there was serious talk of an American-Japanese entente, the basis for which was certainly supplied by the regal welcome accorded to the officers and men of Admiral Sperry's battleships in Japanese waters. Is this fair structure of racial amity and smooth diplomatic intercourse between the two dominant Powers of the Pacific to be jeopardised by the malignant efforts of a few blatant demagogues? Mr. Hearst and his few isolated supporters-amongst whom we must not forget to include the redoubtable Hobson, of "Merrimac" fame-say that Japan is the inveterate enemy of the United States and is only on her best behaviour until the armed forces of the Mikado are in a position to successfully measure themselves against the Union. In support of this remarkable assertion they adduce not one single sound argument. On the contrary, they are faced with indubitable evidence of Japan's desire to live at peace with the whole world and develop and strengthen her internal affairs, which were thrown into sad confusion by the costly struggle with the Muscovite. Last autumn she made sweeping reductions in her Naval and Military Estimates; and during the negotiations with Washington over the emigration question she displayed throughout a most conciliatory spirit. Indeed, even if Japan were ready to fly at our throats tomorrow, she would be totally unable to do so. Modern war is a matter of funds; and in the matter of funds the Mikado's Government is badly hipped,-One beneficial result may accrue from the present disgusting attitude of the Pacific Coast agitators. It should have the effect of stimulating Congress to supply the necessary cash for the creation of a powerful permanent Pacific squadron, in the presence of which the perennial "yellow scare" must die of malnutrition. A nation armed and ready is rarely troubled by the spectre of invasion, which plays such havoc with the tranquillity of neighbourly intercourse. Until such a squadron is in being, however, the Japanese bogey will flourish and grow with each succeeding year, and keep the Cabinets of Washington and Tokio in a continual state of nervous tension.

TERRIBLE MINE DISASTER. RESCUERS CUT OFF AND KILLED.

Pittsburg, January 27. Three men were killed by an explosion which occurred yesterday in the Boswell coal mine, in Somerset county. A rescue party of fifty men which entered the pit soon afterwards has been cut off by the falling-in of a gallery.

A later telegram mentions a report that 22 of the entombed men are dead.

SUPPOSED JAPANESE SPIES IN ECUADOR.

London, January 27. An Associated Press telegram from Guayaquil states that three Japanese have been arrested on suspicion of being spies, as they were taking photographs on the frontier near Cuenca.



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INTERNATIONAL ARMAMENTS.

SOME INTERESTING FIGURES.

(From a correspondenta)

With reference to the international output of warships, Lloyd's figures clearly show that the British output has been decreasing, while foreign production is more than maintained. Only in exceptional years has the total warship tonnage launched in Britain been less than half that of the collective output of all foreign countries, but for the past year it is less than one-third, notwithstanding the inclusion in the British total of a larger proportion than usual of foreign tonnage. The British total for the past year is only 49,560 tons-less than in any year since the beginning of the century, and little more than one-third that of the previous year, and one-fourth of the year of maximum output. Germany, on the other hand, has built for her own navy two tons for every ton launched for the British Navy, their total being 97,660 tons, which is the fargest on record, and compares with 14,800 tons in the previous year, and 62,678 tons in 1906. The United States, which comes next on the list, have increased their total, as compared with the previous year, nearly five-fold, although it is less than in several preceding years-notably 1904, when the output was 170,000 tons. In 1908 there were launched for the United States Navy eight vessels of 52,850 tons, which is nearly 3,000 tons in excess of the tonnage of British warships. The total number of warships launched in the world was 127, of 309,689 tons, of which Britain built for her own and other navies thirty-six vessels of

74,186 tons. From statistics published in the Neue Revue it appears that the naval and military expenditure per head of population of various Powers amountedin Great Britain, for 1905-6, to 29.5 marks; in France, for 1906, to 23.1 marks; in Germany, for 1906-7, to 22.3 marks; in Italy, for 1906-7, to 10.1 marks; in Austria, for 1906, to 8.1 marks; in Russia, for 1906, to 7.4 marks. The case alters, however, on analysis of the percentage of expenditure on armaments of the total national expenditure. It is then found that Germany expends 48 per cent. of revenue, the United States 47 per cent., France 30.6 per cent., Great Britain 29 per cent., Italy 22 per cent., Russia 20 per cent., Spain 18.6 per cent., Japan 18 per cent., and Austria-Hungary 13.2 per cent.

THE LONDON SHOOTING OUTRAGE.

DEAD ASSASSIN IDENTIFIED.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, January 26. The body of the desperado who committed suicide after shooting many people at Tottenham on Saturday and is now lying at Walthamstow mortuary has been identified as that of Jacob Lapidus, aged 25. He was a member of a notorious Russian revolutionary family, and his first appearance in London was four years ago, when he worked for his society in carrying over revolutionary literature. He disappeared two years ago, when his brother, who was a member of one of the most active Terrorist societies in Paris, met with a fatal accident while carrying bombs with a comrade in one of the parks outside the battlements of Paris. Jacob's brother was instantly killed by the explosion of one of the bombs, and his companion was terribly wounded. The latter, however, recovered, and is now serving a long term in a French penal settlement. Lapidus's companion in crime is still in hospital in a critical condition. Now that the full story of Saturday's outrage is known, there is no doubt that for wild sensation it surpasses anything which has occurred in London for a decade or more. The police had many marvellous escapes. Inspector Gould and Sergt. Hale were in the vanguard of the fight, and the latter's previous military experience was of immense service to the pursuing party. Hale assisted in directing the chase, and, although unarmed himself, he kept in close touch with the fugitives, meanwhile instructing those in pursuit how to take advantage of every point of cover during the more critical stages of the fight. Hale seemed to bear a charmed life. On one occasion, close to the river Lea, he got within short range of the men, when a perfect torrent of bullets was poured at him by the robbers, who had now gained the bridge. Hale managed to spring behind a telegraph post for temporary shelter, and several bullets struck

WARSHIPS IN THE NORTH SEA.

the post in front of him.

EXTENSIVE BRITISH PROPOSALS.

London, January 27. According to statements in this morning's newspapers, the coming spring will witness yet another distribution of British naval forces in home waters The Admiralty will take steps to decrease the Channel Fleet and to augment the North Sea division of the Home Squadron. The Nore Division of the Home Fleet at present consists of six battleships and six armoured cruisers. If the redistribution is eventually carried out in accordance with authoritative reports, the newly constituted Home Fleet at the Nore will consist of a very imposing array of huge fighting ships, not one of less than 16,500 tons displacement, and representing altogether forty-eight 12-inch guns (850-lb. projectile, capable of piercing 17 inches of Krupp armour at 5,000 yards), and twenty 9.2-inch guns (350-lb. projectile, piercing 11 inches of armour at 5,000 yards). Moreover, an entirely new battle squadron is to be created under the name of the "North Sea Fleet," and will consist of eight 16,350-ton battleships and six 13,550-ton armoured cruisers, the latter with an average speed of 23 knots. Thus, when these plans are carried out, the British naval forces in the North Sea will be represented by 19 powerful battleships and 12 armoured cruisers, comprising the fastest and most heavily armed fighting fleet in the world. The new fleet will be based on the Scottish Coast, either at Rosyth or Cromarty.

BRITISH MONARCHS TO VISIT SPAIN.

Madrid, January 27. The report is confirmed that King Edward and Queen Alexandra will pay a visit to the King and Queen of Spain at the Villa Carola on February 17, in return for the visit paid by their Majesties King Alfonso and Queen Victoria to England last autumn.

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