

Office:
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1755.

The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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TENSION IN THE BALKANS.

A DANGEROUS SITUATION.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, January 27.

"There's trouble in the Balkans!" was a phrase one heard every day some thirty years back, and that this perennial danger spot is as acute today as at any moment since the Berlin Conference is only too plain from the latest reports. Turkey and Austria-Hungary having apparently shelved their differences and banished the spectre of war by invoking the charms of common sense and mutual interest, firebrand Serbia must needs introduce a new and very serious element of danger into a situation already highly charged. Serbia's sentimental motives are as easy to conceive as her material reasons are difficult to imagine. Her statesmen still cherish the vision of Slav preponderance in the Balkans—that is to say, an administrative and autonomous preponderance, not a mere matter of numbers—and the Serbs would willingly make great sacrifices to achieve this ideal; but there is a difference between disposition to make a national sacrifice and the contemplation of national suicide, such as Serbia would invite by declaring war against her great neighbour. There has been a superfluity of foolish talk in various newspapers circulating in the Balkans, the tenor of which was that England would signalise Austria's advance against Serbia by a naval demonstration in the Adriatic. Moreover, the *Times* special correspondent in the Balkans alleges that Austrian officers talked to him seriously of the shiploads of guns, rifles, and ammunition which Great Britain is sending to the Serbs as gifts, just like those which are supposed to have come into Serbia from time to time from Russia. This correspondent further testifies to the sincere belief prevailing amongst even thoughtful Serbs that neither Great Britain nor Russia would tolerate an Austrian invasion of Servian territory. And yet over and over again has this absurd conviction been utterly repudiated by responsible mouthpieces at London and St. Petersburg. Apparently, however, it is still held by the majority of Serbs, otherwise it is difficult to account for the bellicose attitude of Belgrade towards Vienna. Austria recognises the dangerous possibilities of this attack of spleen, for she has already concentrated no fewer than 50,000 picked troops in the vicinity of the Servian frontier. At any moment a frontier "incident" may precipitate a sanguinary conflict, of which the result would be a foregone conclusion.—Grave reports from Sofia also come to hand as I write. Bulgaria has mobilised her division stationed at the Turkish frontier, and the official explanation of this step is not calculated to allay rational suspicions at Constantinople. In English political circles there is a distinct aversion to mentioning a Balkan conflict as being probable; nevertheless, general opinion inclines to the belief that the next few days will decide whether the sword is to be drawn or to remain in the scabbard.

INDIAN ARMY REFORM.

Calcutta, January 27.

Lord Morley has sanctioned the abolition of the Military Supply Department, and the change will probably come into force on April 1. By the abolition of this department effect is practically given to Lord Kitchener's original Army scheme, his proposal being that both personnel and supply should be concentrated under the control of the Commander-in-Chief.

THE KAISER'S BIRTHDAY.

AMERICAN AND DANISH TRIBUTES.

Washington, January 27.

President Roosevelt today despatched a cablegram to the German Emperor, expressing his congratulations on the occasion of His Majesty's 50th birthday. Count Bernstorff, the Ambassador, gave a banquet in the evening at the German Embassy, which was attended by the Embassy staff and a large assembly of representative Americans.

Copenhagen, January 28.

The journal *Bertingske Tidende*, published a leading article in its edition of yesterday evening, in which the following passages occur:—"In sympathy for the person of the Emperor all are united, foreigners as well as Germans. All acknowledge in the Emperor an upright, knightly nature, which has invariably worked for the best. The Emperor's attitude towards Denmark has aroused in us friendly sentiments for him. Accompanied by the general sympathy of the Danish people, therefore, our Crown Prince will today convey in Berlin the congratulations of the King, the Queen, and the Royal House of Denmark."

JAPANOPHOBIA IN CALIFORNIA.

Sacramento, January 28.

The Californian State Legislature has postponed the discussion of all anti-Japanese Bills in consequence of various alterations which are to be made in them in deference to the wishes of the Federal Government.

Sacramento, January 27.

A resolution has been brought before the Californian Senate calling upon Congress to request Japan to recall the Japanese Consul-General in San Francisco, as he had endeavoured to influence the legislation of the State by requesting the Governor to prevent the passing of anti-Japanese Bills.

RADIUM RESEARCH IN ENGLAND.

London, January 28.

Reuter learns that King Edward will shortly issue a decree, founding a British Institute for radium research. The Institute will not confine its work to researches, but will contain a regular medical department whose province it will be to determine by experiments how far and in what ways radium can be employed for curative purposes. The Council of the Institute will include Sir Frederick Treves, Sir William Ramsay, and Professor Thompson. Sir Ernest Cassel has given a large sum of money to be devoted to the object of discovery in this sphere, and a company has been formed in Cornwall for obtaining radium from pitch.

THE AMERICAN NAVY.

Washington, January 28.

President Roosevelt has appointed a Committee of eight naval officers to formulate principles for a new organisation of the American Navy by which its effective preparation for war shall be assured in time of peace, and to make proposals thereon.

NEW U. S. SECRETARY OF STATE.

Washington, January 28.

The appointment as Secretary of State of Mr. Bacon, former Assistant Secretary of State, was today ratified by the Senate.

THE LOSS OF THE "REPUBLIC."

HEROISM OF THE CAPTAIN.

Washington, January 27.

The loss of the White Star liner "Republic" resulted in the introduction at today's sitting of Congress of a proposal advocating the compulsory equipment with wireless telegraphy apparatus of every ocean steamer leaving an American harbour.

New York, January 27.

When the Revenue cutter "Manhattan" brought Captain Sealby, of the "Republic," and the working crew who stayed on board until just before the liner sank, to the White Star pier yesterday, a great crowd of officers and seamen were waiting to give them a hearty greeting. Captain Sealby was hoisted shoulder high and carried the length of the pier. Other men carried Jack Binns, the wireless telegraph operator of the "Republic," who stuck so faithfully to his post. Everybody was shouting or blowing a horn.

The passengers are unanimous in their praise of the coolness and seamanship of Captain Sealby, and they tell how when they were being transferred to the "Florida" he refused to leave his ship, although everyone realised that she would only remain afloat for a short time. It was while the passengers of the "Republic" were being transferred to the "Baltic" that the steerage passengers of the "Florida" became impatient and tried to rush the boats. Several rushes were made, but the officers of the "Florida," assisted by some of the "Republic's" passengers, who used their fists and convenient handspikes, kept them off. One of the officers had to draw a revolver, while another used a rope's-end.

One of the injured first-class passengers of the "Republic" has died in hospital at Brooklyn.

James Connolly, the writer of sea stories, whom Mr. Roosevelt had sent on the "Republic" to join the American battleship fleet, tried to send the New York press an account of the shipwreck by ethergram, but the captain refused permission. So soon as the newspaper tug was near enough his copy, wrapped in a piece of canvas and weighted with one of the "Baltic's" deck quilts, was thrown to the reporters. Before noon two evening papers had published it. Among other things Mr. Connolly says: "The 'Florida's' bow swept through seven saloon state-rooms, and two on the lower deck were torn to shreds by the 'Florida's' anchor, which was found later in one of the wrecked compartments. Her nose had cut through ten-foot widths of deck, smashing bunks, wash-basins, trunks, and mirrors, and leaving the rooms gaping to the outer world. Mrs. Lynch and Mr. Mooney were cut in pieces. Mrs. Mooney was in the berth below her husband, and was not injured. In six minutes the electric lights went out, and men and women lightly clad were flying round the dark passage ways. There were no emergency lanterns, only a few candle-ends sputtering and matches. The first transference to the 'Florida' occurred two hours after the collision. The sea was smooth, and the air was not cold at that time, but during the shifting from the 'Florida' to the 'Baltic' the sea was rough, rain was falling, and there was thick fog."

Experts do not believe that the "Republic" will be recovered from the sea. Her injuries are such as to involve the ruin of the cargo, and the position in which she now lies is a bad one for salvage work.

(Continued on page 3.)