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# The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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## THE GERMAN EMPEROR AND THE KRUGER TELEGRAM.

### THE FACTS OF THE CASE.

The German Emperor was not responsible for the famous telegram sent to the late ex-President Kruger on January 3, 1896, which was really drawn up by the German Foreign Office. This startling revelation is made by Adolf Stein, editor of *Der Deutsche*, a journal not widely read in this country, in a book called "William II.," which has just been published at Leipzig.

The telegram announcing the Jameson raid arrived at Potsdam during the night of January 2. The Emperor came to Berlin early the next morning, and drove direct from the station to the official residence of Prince Hohenlohe, then Imperial Chancellor, in the Wilhelm Strasse. Both Prince Hohenlohe and Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, then Secretary of Foreign Affairs, advised the Emperor that it would be wise to congratulate the Boers on having repelled the attack by their own strength, without foreign assistance, this being a polite form of indicating that they could not expect any foreign aid. The Emperor raised several objections to sending this telegram, but ultimately allowed himself to be persuaded by the two statesmen to sign the message. Thus the telegram, which has so often been ascribed to the Emperor's impulsive haste, was really the quintessence of the wisdom of the German Foreign Office. The disastrous effects of this mistaken policy soon developed, but the Emperor remained silent, and bore the burden of responsibility which was not really his own, and was obliged to work incessantly for twelve years to prevent the worst consequences of his advisers' blunder. Adolf Stein proceeds to write an appreciation of British policy in South Africa, which, as he implies—may be regarded as an authentic interpretation of the German Emperor's own views. He says:—"If England desires to defend India and protect her trade in the Pacific Ocean she must possess South Africa, or all would be lost. England must possess unquestioned and unmenaced supremacy in South Africa to maintain her world-wide empire."

Although the above will be a revelation—in the most literal sense of the word—to most people, this is not the view taken by the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, which publishes the following comment: "We are unable to say with certainty whether every detail given by Herr Stein is founded on fact; but the substance of his remarks is certainly correct, and, indeed, has been no secret for some years past. For this celebrated telegram were the then Imperial Chancellor and the State Secretary of the Foreign Office indubitably responsible. Moreover, the text of the message did not emanate from the Emperor. It was primarily designed by Dr. Kayser, at that time Imperial Colonial Secretary, as we very well remember. Dr. Kayser's ready pen was frequently devoted to the services of high officials of the Foreign Office on occasions when they were indisposed to express their personal sentiments."

Assuming the Frankfort journal's declaration to be correct, the pity of it is that this incident of the Kruger telegram, which has, perhaps, rankled more tenaciously than any other episode in the minds of the British public, was not publicly cleared up long since. As we have repeatedly asserted, and as we still maintain, the personality of the German Emperor is distinctly popular amongst all classes of Englishmen; but an absolutely candid expression of affection towards the grandson of the revered Queen Victoria has hitherto been difficult for the British public, in view of this same wretched Kruger telegram incident. Herr Adolf Stein's revelation—as we must perforce call it—will, we profoundly trust, receive wide publicity in England. Its coincidence with the historic utterance of the German Emperor at the Guildhall banquet in London on November 13, 1907, is remarkable: "As to my endeavours in the cause of peace," said his Majesty on that occasion, "I am content to await the impartial verdict of history." History, indeed, is triumphantly vindicating the Emperor's policy, but there is, nevertheless, something tragic in the persistent misrepresentation to which his Majesty has been subjected solely owing to the injudicious procedure of his supposed responsible advisers.



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## JAPANESE FOREIGN POLICY.

### SPEECH BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

Tokio, February 3.

The foreign policy of Japan was exhaustively discussed in the Lower House yesterday by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Baron Komura, who opened his speech with a reference to the anti-Japanese legislation now under discussion in the State Legislature of California. These measures, he confidently hoped, would not lead to international complications; Japan maintained her implicit trust in the sense of justice of the American people. The primary aim of Japanese policy was the maintenance of peace and the development of national resources. Turning to the relations with Germany, Baron Komura remarked that Prince Bülows' declarations plainly demonstrated the frank, friendly attitude and the complete agreement which characterised Germany's intercourse with Japan in the Far East.

With regard to Great Britain, Baron Komura said that events of far-reaching importance in the relations of both countries had happily contributed to the establishment of peace in East Asia. The Anglo-Japanese alliance was constantly gaining strength and fixity. The relations to Russia would be more and more intimate, and both countries were observing with the greatest exactness the spirit and the letter of their treaty, which had resulted from the peaceable disposition of the two Governments.

Referring to China, the Minister remarked that, in view of the close relations existing between the two nations, it was clear that they would tighten the bonds of friendship and mutual respect. The questions long pending between China and Japan had lately been settled in a satisfactory manner, and others would be easily adjusted if treated in a spirit of conciliation. Japan was observing with sympathetic interest the progress of reform in China.

Baron Komura concluded by announcing that Japan intended next year to notify to the Powers the termination of all her existing commercial treaties. She purposed entering into new treaty negotiations which would not be encumbered with any unfair conditions, but would rest on the principle of reciprocity.

Tokio, February 3.

It is inferred from Baron Komura's announcement in the House that twelve months' notice will be given next year of the termination of all Japan's commercial treaties.

## KING EDWARD'S VISIT.

### THE DANGER OF EXTREMES.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, February 3.

The article foreshadowing Germany's official welcome to King Edward, which recently appeared in the *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, has been read, marked, learned, and inwardly digested over here. Its appearance is timely, since illusions which had hitherto been entertained both in Germany and Great Britain relative to the fundamental significance of the Royal visit should be dissipated in consequence. The semi-official journal points to the need of soberly considering existing facts, one of which consists in the acknowledgement that "there are no concrete political problems, general or particular, outstanding between the two Powers"; a second is that the misunderstandings of the past had their origin in evanescent feeling and sentiment rather than tangible grounds of dispute. No one will question the truth of these conclusions; indeed, they were so obvious as to awaken conjecture as to the need of reiterating them. As a matter of fact, however, there have already been a series of attempts on either side to create extreme hostility or impossible amity, the announcement of the King's pending visit having been adduced in support of the latter. All such attempts are equally impolitic. The endeavour to sow distrust between the two countries is not only wicked but also bad policy. Strained relations between two predominant Powers inevitably exercise a detrimental effect on the commercial prosperity of the world. Ill-advised efforts to raise a jerry-built structure of half-hearted friendship in a single day are also to be avoided, in view of the highly probable reaction. As the recent official German communication to Reuter's Agency pointed out, for the future it must be universally recognised that the self-interest of the two Powers is their sole guide in diplomacy and world-politics. Once the situation were candidly faced in this manner, there is little doubt that there would be firmer respect between the two peoples. A prominent Conservative organ, alluding to this view, says: "Sentiment leads to illusions, and illusions are only the prelude of disillusionment and subsequent irritation or quarrelling." If Germany and Britain are rivals, that circumstance need not be a reason for indulging either in carping or gush. "The former undeniably results in friction; the latter does so as inevitably, although possibly by a longer road."

London, February 3.

Mr. George Wyndham, M.P., member of the Opposition, speaking at a public meeting, declared that Germany was certainly endeavouring to attain naval supremacy, and that it was therefore absolutely necessary for Britain to build a large fleet. He further asserted that the recent declaration made by the Premier on this point, if, on the whole, sufficient, could not be taken as quite satisfactory. Since the beginning of the Liberal era many ships had been built—by Germany! The speaker compared German and British naval shipbuilding to the fable of the tortoise and the hare. England, he remarked, emulated the hare, and laboured under the impression that she was always able to overtake the German tortoise at the last moment.

## THE JAPANESE IN CALIFORNIA.

Sacramento, February 3.

The Judicial Committee of the Lower House has recommended the adoption of a Bill providing that the law under which Mongolians and Indians are excluded from the public schools shall apply to Japanese, although the Governor of the State has declared in the Senate that the anti-Japanese legislation is unconstitutional.

Carson City, February 3.

The House of Representatives of the State of Nevada has passed a resolution approving of the Californian Bill against the Japanese and describing them as an arrogant people. The resolution, as originally drawn, contained a clause condemning the interference of President Roosevelt, but that part of the wording was afterwards struck out.