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The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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THE NEW LONDON PLAY.

IDENTITY OF THE AUTHOR.

(From our London correspondent.)

The identity of "Patriot," the author of "An Englishman's Home," a play which is "bringing home to the average Englishman his responsibilities in the matter of military defence," and of which an account has appeared in your columns, has been an open secret in dramatic circles since the night of the production at Wyndham's Theatre. So far as the general public are concerned, however, the secret had been well kept until Tuesday, but now that Major Guy Du Maurier, brother of Mr. Gerald Du Maurier, the producer of the play, has been openly proclaimed the "patriot" in question, some further details of the production may be given.

"Mr. Gerald Du Maurier brought the play before Mr. Curzon as far back as February last year," said Mr. Vaughan, general manager for Mr. Curzon, to a press representative on Tuesday afternoon. "Mr. Curzon always liked it, but there were difficulties in the way of its production at the time. Of course we never anticipated that it would arouse public interest to the degree it has, but we looked upon it as more than a stirring drama. We realised its exceptional interest as dealing with a leading question of the day, and dealing with it in a way not only that would cause no offence, but would stimulate enthusiasm. It was written really from purely patriotic motives. In regard to Mr. Barrie's association with it, what he did was very kindly to attend a few of the final rehearsals." As to the suggestion which has been made that the original ending of the drama should be restored, by which the invaders are triumphant, Mr. Vaughan said that there was no intention of altering the present termination. "So far as the ending is concerned," he added, "it is a concession to popular sentiment which I do not think detracts in any way from the lesson of the play."

Mr. Gerald Du Maurier, who was also seen, was emphatic in his denial that any aspersion of the Volunteer system is intended by certain passages in the play. "It must also be remembered," he said, "that the work was written before the introduction of the Territorial system. As a matter of fact, my brother is a keen Territorial himself." Major Du Maurier, who is abroad, and who learned of the success of his play by cable, is the eldest son of the famous Punch artist. He saw service in Crete in the 7th Fusiliers, and when order had been restored he was appointed an administrator of justice. He won the D.S.O. during the war in South Africa, when he commanded a battalion of mounted infantry, and became a major in 1900. Major Du Maurier has gained considerable distinction as an amateur, both as an actor and an author.

Considerable amusement has been caused by a rumour that the War Office has decided upon the erection of recruiting stations in the vicinity of every theatre where this patriotic play is to be produced, in the expectation that the dormant martial spirit of young men in the audience will incite them to at once join the Territorial Army. The idea is doubtless an excellent one, but it would be too much to expect this degree of enterprise from that essentially conservative department. As I stated in a previous despatch, the play has practically no literary merit, but as an object lesson its efficacy is unquestionable. It will shortly go on tour through the provinces, and arrangements are in progress to give it representation by several different companies.

THE GERMAN-AMERICAN MAIL SERVICE.

As a good deal of misunderstanding still appears to prevail with regard to the actual arrangement of the new postal system between Germany and the United States, which came into effect on January 1, 1909, the following explanation will be of interest:—

All letters, not over 20 grammes in weight, stamped with a ten-pfennig stamp will be accepted for transmission to the United States, but only directly from a German port (Hamburg or Bremen). On the other hand, letters franked with the twenty-pfennig stamp will be despatched to the United States by the quickest possible route, either from a German or a foreign port. Letters forwarded under the reduced tariff (ten pfennigs) are liable to prolonged delay in delivery during the winter and spring, as in these seasons the service of fast steamers between German and American ports is much curtailed. We have already published letters from readers who have suffered grave inconvenience by such delay, in some cases nearly a month having elapsed between the mailing of a letter in America and its delivery over here. It is therefore advisable in all cases where a prompt reply is desired to put the usual twenty-pfennig stamp on letters to the United States, and, further, to write on the envelope the words "Schnellster Weg," which will ensure its transmission to its destination by the quickest route.

Acting upon suggestions made by several readers, we are making arrangements whereby a table of useful information with regard to American mails will regularly appear in the Daily Record. It is our hope to commence this innovation within the next few days, and we trust it will prove of value to our American readers.

CABINET DISUNION IN ENGLAND.

London, February 4.

The Daily Chronicle of this morning, commenting on the current reports of a coming Ministerial crisis and the probable retirement of three Cabinet Ministers, writes: "There is undoubtedly a sharp divergence of opinion with regard to the Navy estimates. Some of the Ministers—as we hear, Lord Morley, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Winston Churchill, and Mr. John Burns—considered the Admiralty ship-building programme went too far. The opponents of that programme are of opinion that ships can be built faster than trained crews can be provided for them, and that the introduction of so comprehensive a building programme simultaneously with the King's visit to Berlin will prejudice the effect of that visit."

THE AMERICAN BATTLESHIP CRUISE.

The Berlin Lokal-Anzeiger's correspondent in London telegraphs to his paper as follows, under date of February 3:—"Reports which have reached here from New York state that the arrest of the captain of the United States battleship 'Georgia,' which was made by order of Rear-Admiral Sperry at Gibraltar, has caused a great sensation. Captain Edward F. Qualtrough, the officer in question, is charged with intemperance and impolite conduct at a banquet given at Tangier by the American Minister there, to which all the members of the diplomatic corps and many other guests were invited. The accused officer, who attributes his reprehensible behaviour to mental strain, will be tried by court martial tomorrow, at Gibraltar, Rear-Admiral Schroeder presiding."

THE RUSSIAN POLICE SCANDALS.

AZEFF AND THE GOVERNMENT.

St. Petersburg, February 3.

All the Parliamentary Parties have held conferences to discuss the Azeff affair. The Constitutional Democrats decided to introduce an interpellation of their own in the Duma today. The Octobrists decided to support the interpellation in principle, while rejecting urgency. The Extreme Left drew up an interpellation recounting the relations of Azeff with the Russian Police, and with Ratchovsky, head of the Russian Secret Police in Paris, and asking whether the Minister of the Interior is aware that this is not an isolated case, but forms part and parcel of the activities of the secret police.

The interpellation further asks what measures are to be taken to bring to trial Azeff, Ratchovsky, and the other police officials taking part in acts of criminal provocation. It says that the conduct of the secret police threatens public security, demoralises the country, and has for its motive the desire to strengthen the forces of reaction, and to justify the adoption of exceptional measures. The interpellation also accuses the Government of arresting M. Lopuchin in order to stifle further revelations.

All the papers devote many columns to the affair. There was great excitement yesterday morning in the lobby of the Duma, which is reassembling after the Christmas recess.

The Daily Telegraph correspondent in St. Petersburg gives a long account of the alleged connection between Azeff and the Revolutionary party, and the sensational arrest of M. Lopuchin, the ex-Director of Police. How can we explain (he says) the conduct of Azeff, who was the very soul of the revolutionary movement on the one hand and an agent of the Russian police on the other hand, who devised the plot against the lives of M. de Plehve and the Grand Duke Sergius, which were remarkably successful, and hatched a conspiracy against the life of the Czar, which was utterly abortive? I am now enabled to affirm that this and all the other plots hatched against the life of the Emperor since January, 1905, were absolute child's play. Doubtless they might have been serious if carried out seriously, but they were all so conceived that the originator of the conspiracy must have known and intended them to prove abortive.

We are forced to the conclusion (adds the correspondent) that the person who organised these attempts intended one to be a failure and all the others to prove successful. This person was Azeff, who was paid by the Czar's Government on the one hand, and implicitly obeyed by would-be regicides on the other hand. That is one important point to remember. This is another: The revolutionists have come to the conclusion, after a very thorough investigation, that Azeff betrayed them, although he did manage to have certain personages assassinated. The Russian Government, after very elaborate researches, has come to the conclusion that Azeff kept faith with it, despite the fact that he did contrive to have the Grand Duke and the Czar's devoted Minister assassinated, and their reason is that he managed to save the person of the Emperor.

The only conclusion in harmony with the facts is this. The Russian police, profoundly convinced of their own utter helplessness, and superlatively anxious to preserve at least the life of the Czar to the Fatherland, made a compact with the redoubtable Azeff, "The Great," as he was called,

(Continued on page 2)