

Office:
Struve Str. 5, 1.
Dresden A.
Telephone
1755.

The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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THE JAPANESE QUESTION. THE SITUATION REVIEWED.

(From our New York correspondent.)

The problem of Japanese immigration is becoming more complex as the days pass. The Pacific Coast complains that the possible dangers arising from the free entrance of Japanese settlers cannot be gauged by Eastern observers, who are thousands of miles removed from the scene. These dangers, it is contended, are thoroughly recognised by responsible Pacific Coast opinion, hence the seemingly arbitrary legislative measures which are now the subject of debate at Sacramento. On the other hand, a great weight of Eastern opinion is strongly against the action of the Californian authorities, which is described as gratuitously insulting to a friendly nation and a certain cause of renewed tension between Tokio and Washington. President Roosevelt, as you know, has made the matter a subject of closest personal attention, and several sharp messages have been despatched from White House to Governor Gillett of California, urging him to use his influence against the passage of the obnoxious anti-Japanese Bills. What the Japanese themselves think it is impossible to judge, in view of the amazing reticence which is exhibited by representative Tokio journals. Certainly they would have good grounds for strong comment, but it is believed that official influence is at work there in an effort to prevent fuel being added to the fire by angry native press outpourings. The entire question is one of interest to Europeans, but it is also one in which the difficulty of balancing respective merits is most pronounced. The Californians and Pacific Coasters generally say, with apparent reason, that none but themselves are competent to deal with the situation, and that deal they will, censure from White House notwithstanding. Oregon and Washington are solid in support of this attitude, while British Columbia long ago hoisted the "White Canada" banner. It is impossible to deny that the praiseworthy qualities of the Japanese settlers have caused them to loom large in the public eye. Had they been shiftless, idle transients, content to scrape a living by resorting to any odd job, and given evidence of no sound business instinct, it may be safely said that they would have been tolerated with amused contempt. The fact is, however, that where the Japanese goes he takes root and spreads his branches in a truly remarkable manner. If Californian reports are to be believed, an enormous amount of property and vast business interests are already in the hands of the gentle Nipponese, who lies low and says nothing while he ousts his white neighbour by sheer superiority of hard work. Colour is lent to this theory by the fact that the anti-Japanese agitation was originally started by the labour element in those parts; but now that the campaign is being actively prosecuted by leading men of the State, the hypothesis becomes untenable. The present recrudescence of the trouble is doubly unfortunate, coming as it does just after the conclusion of the agreement with Japan which was expected to remove all difficulties in the way of cordial mutual intercourse. The Mikado's Government has done its best to restrict emigration to America, and consistently displayed a most conciliatory spirit. But the Yellow journals of the West insist upon painting the Japanese as an insidious and ever-growing menace, who must be forcibly suppressed before they become too formidable. Developments are imminent, but whether they prove serious or not depends entirely upon the Western spokesmen, who, on the one hand, are influenced by popular opinion in their electoral districts, and, on the other, are anxious to disprove the Eastern allegation that a few Western States are defying the will of the Union. Practically the entire New York press, with the exception of the *Herald* (the pro-Chinese and anti-Japanese organ) and Mr. Hearst's journals, strongly condemn the attitude of California.

LAST OBNOXIOUS BILL THROWN OUT.

Sacramento, February 11.

The State Assembly of California has rejected the last anti-Japanese resolution, which asked that a plebiscite should be taken on the question of Japanese emigration.



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CABINET MINISTERS AT BAY.

AN EXCITING SESSION EXPECTED.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, February 11.

The safety valve has been screwed down over the seething turmoil of the Cabinet, but occasionally a jet or two finds exit to warn the public of the unrest within. It is now definitely known that Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Winston Churchill are the only two remaining Ministers who stand out against the demands of the Admiralty, the other malcontents having been won over by the persuasive efforts of Mr. Asquith. But so fierce a resistance is put up by the two honourable gentlemen that the projected programme of six Dreadnoughts for this year's Navy Estimates is by no means certain of materialisation. When disunion first broke out, we are told, the Lords of the Admiralty at once informed the Cabinet that unless their programme was accepted they would resign in a body. Obviously such a step would have plunged the Government into hot water with the electorate, and therefore, since the resignations have not yet been announced, it is presumable that the Admiralty programme has been accepted. Messrs. Lloyd George and Winston Churchill are playing a dangerous game. The present Administration will enter upon the Session which opens next Tuesday already heavily embarrassed with unsettled election pledges, and burdened with a record of legislation which, good or bad, has called forth protests from some of the most influential interests in the United Kingdom. By making the Navy its principal platform the Unionist party has an enormous advantage, for on this question the country may be said to be united; hence the lack of strategy evinced by the two Ministers mentioned above in opposing what the Admiralty has advised the nation is the "irreducible minimum consistent with national safety." Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's Administration undoubtedly came into office pledged to drastic economy in connection with the Army and Navy, and that pledge was later acknowledged by Mr. Asquith. It has so far been rigidly adhered to, so rigidly, in fact, that experts claim the efficiency of both Services has received a crushing blow. Further parsimony in this direction would certainly contribute to shattering the prestige of the Cabinet, and in the present state of the political firmament might bring the General Election several months nearer than even the most optimistic Unionist hopes for at the moment.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

London, February 12.

In this morning's *Daily Mail* it is declared that the Government has every intention of redeeming the promise made by Mr. Asquith on November 12th last, regarding the Navy. The journal states that the naval programme for the coming financial year will provide for the laying down of five improved "Dreadnoughts," with a reservation to the effect that a sixth similar vessel will be built if marked progress is made with the German shipbuilding programme. The programme also entails the immediate expenditure of three or four millions sterling more than the preceding Estimates. The command of the new North Sea Fleet will be delegated to a Vice-Admiral, who will also exercise jurisdiction over the Channel and Home Fleets.

THE ROYAL VISIT.

GALA PERFORMANCE AT THE OPERA.

(From our Berlin correspondent.)

The invariable brilliance of a gala performance at the Berlin Royal Opera House was many times outshone on Thursday night, when a performance of the Emperor's Assyriological pantomime "Sardanapalus" was given in honour of the Royal visitors. The glitter of rows upon rows of military uniforms in the parquet, and the brilliant array of costly toilettes and jewels in the balconies, to say nothing of the floral decorations of the balconies themselves, all made up a dazzling picture, culminating in the splendence of the Imperial box. Seventy Royal and distinguished guests were its occupants, forming a splendid setting for the four central figures—the Emperor and Queen Alexandra, with King Edward and the Empress on their right. Queen Alexandra's wonderful charm and grace of manner came fully into evidence on this occasion. She looked radiantly beautiful in a pale blue dress, clouded in silver, and was the cynosure of admiring eyes in every part of the building. She followed the pantomime with lively interest, and the Emperor was untiring in his efforts to explain exactly what was going forward, devoting his entire attention to his beautiful partner; while the Empress was hardly less vivacious in her explanations to King Edward. In fact, both the Emperor and the Empress were visibly at the greatest pains to render the Assyriological production intelligible and entertaining to their guests.

King Edward, by the way, looked exceedingly well, wearing the uniform of a German Admiral, with the orange band of the Black Eagle Order; the Emperor was clad in the uniform of his English Dragoon regiment. Their Majesties bowed three times to the audience before taking their seats. The Crown Prince and Crown Princess also had seats in the box.

As comparisons between the German and British rulers are the order of the day, it was particularly interesting to remark the English reserve of manner as shown by the King and Queen, in contrast to the vivacious gesticulations which characterised the conversation of the Emperor and Empress. King Edward greatly pleased the audience by the unconventional use he made of his opera-glasses, which he levelled at all parts of the house, exhibiting the greatest interest in the audience and the decorations. The latter were really magnificent, the Imperial box itself, which occupied about two-thirds of the grand tier, being a mass of hanging Marechal Niel roses, the Empress's favourite flower, and pink carnations. In addition to this lavish display, the balconies were adorned with exquisite festoons of pink carnations and hanging Persian rugs of delicately tinted silk, arranged at intervals between the festoons of flowers. A somewhat un-English feature of the performance was the fact that no national hymns or similar music announced the approach of the Royal party to the box. Moreover, as this was a gala performance, there was an entire absence of applause throughout the evening. These features gave a somewhat unique character to the whole, but the performance was none the less a spectacular show which would certainly be difficult to surpass. Their Majesties remained in the

(Continued on page 2.)