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The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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THE NEW SESSION.

Today witnesses the opening of the new Session of the English Parliament, a Session which, it is universally expected, will prove more exciting from a political point of view than any preceding one in the history of the present Administration. Great issues are at stake, and the Cabinet is therefore preparing for the fight on a measure consistent with the expected opposition to their designs. It is proposed, once and for all, to end or mend the House of Lords, that bogey which persistently looms large on the Liberal horizon. We have heard much of the Government's intention to go to the country on this issue, but such language has of late been notably conspicuous. The truth is that the electorate refuses to view the Lords as the hateful anachronism they appear to militant Liberals. The Upper House is too old an institution for a people with the deep-rooted conservative instincts of England to cast forth at a word, particularly when that word emanates from parties distinctly interested in its summary removal. Experienced prophets are already daring to predict that the Upper House will pass unscathed through the coming fight—or, at least, will come out on top. The weak point in the Government's plea is the fact that the Lords have thrown out just those Bills which aroused heated opposition from the middle classes,—the Education Bill and the Licensing Bill, and in this it is fairly certain that they enjoyed the support of a popular majority. The indictment against the Upper House which, it is believed, is in course of preparation by the Cabinet, must necessarily be backed by theoretical arguments rather than concrete instances of misbehaviour. There is also the danger that by ferociously attacking this venerable institution, the Liberals will lay themselves open to the charge of revolutionary tendencies, even a hint of which would suffice to lose them numberless votes from the confirmed monarchical electors of the middle and lower classes.

The Navy is another snag on which the Government is not at all unlikely to split in this Session. Rarely have Naval Estimates been awaited with such keen expectation as those for the current fiscal year. There have been many indications of heart-searching in the Cabinet relative to these Estimates. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is quaking for his Budget, already known to be hampered with a serious deficit, and is therefore naturally against lavish outlay on the Fleet. On the other hand, the Opposition—and, it is believed, a large number of Liberal members—are united in their demand that the Navy be handsomely provided for this year. They claim that the Government, by its experimental and costly legislation in social matters, such as Old Age Pensions, has got itself into a deep financial hole, and is now inclined to extricate itself by means of the Navy, which would certainly suffer during the process. Another difficulty facing the "little-Navyites" are the repeated Ministerial pledges given on behalf of the Fleet; these cannot be repudiated, and if they are skilfully dodged the country will demand the reason. If Mr. Asquith succeeds in piloting his unwieldy craft through the shoals of the present Session he will earn the reputation of a phenomenally gifted party leader. The difficulties are appalling, while the resources, in spite of the Government's vast majority, are pitifully inadequate. With reported disunion in the Cabinet, open rebellion amongst the Government's Irish, Labour, and Socialist supporters, and at least two serious conflicts looming ahead, the Prime Minister will need all his legal diplomacy and masterful determination to steer a straight course from today.

MORE EARTHQUAKES IN SOUTHERN ITALY.

Rome, February 14.

A very violent undulating earthquake shock, lasting several seconds, was felt in Reggio di Calabria at 20 minutes past 8 o'clock yesterday evening. The people rushed out of their huts in alarm, but no damage is reported. A similar shock, lasting about six seconds, was felt in Messina at the same time, terrifying the people, but not otherwise harmful.

Brancaleone, February 14.

A very violent earthquake occurred here at 8.32 p.m. yesterday, causing the people to rush out of their dwellings into the open air.

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THE BRITISH CHANNEL FLEET. LORD CHARLES BERESFORD TO RETIRE.

London, February 15.

It is officially announced that Admiral Lord Charles Beresford will relinquish command of the Channel Fleet on March 24th next. His retirement will inaugurate a complete rearrangement of the British naval forces in home waters. All the latest and most powerful ships of the Channel Fleet will be assigned to the Second (Nore) Division of the Home Fleet, retaining their original crews, based on Sheerness. This official announcement thus substantially confirms the *Daily Mail's* report on the 12th inst., according to which all British commissioned warships in home waters will be assembled under the command of Admiral Sir William May, who will have 150 fighting units under his orders.

The *Daily News* learns that nothing has been definitely settled with regard to the naval ship-building programme for the current year, as the Cabinet's decision was held over until after King Edward's return from his Berlin visit. The journal believes that in some respects the Cabinet has abandoned its former attitude towards the naval programme, and from economical motives will only sanction the construction of four "Dreadnoughts" for the current fiscal year. If this supposition is correct, it would appear that Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Winston Churchill have succeeded in bringing their Cabinet colleagues over to their point of view, as it is known that a few days ago a majority was in favour of making generous provision for the Navy this year.

MAXIM GORKI TO BE ARRESTED.

St. Petersburg, February 14.

A warrant has been issued for the apprehension of Maxim Gorki. He is described in the warrant as a house-broker, of Nijninogorod.

FATAL MINE ACCIDENT.

Friedrichshütte, February 14.

Last night, owing to dampness, part of the framing in a gallery in the Friedensgrube mine collapsed just as a relief gang arrived at the spot, and seven men were buried. The accident was discovered later by an inspector who was going his rounds, and the work of rescue began at once. Up to 9 o'clock this morning the bodies of two hewers and two haulers had been recovered; and it is probable that the clearing away of the débris will be completed today.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO BERLIN. PRINCE BÜLOW ON THE RESULTS,

London, February 14.

The German Imperial Chancellor, Prince Bülow, according to the Berlin correspondent of Reuter's Bureau, expresses himself very hopefully with regard to the results of the Royal visit to Berlin, and has made the following declaration:

"The trend of the conversations between British and German statesmen has also created sincere satisfaction on the German side, and established the probability that through the visit of his Majesty the King mutual trust and loyalty will characterize the political aims of both Empires. The negotiations relative to the Balkan question have revealed a generous understanding between the two countries, and also that the maintenance of peace is the guiding policy of Great Britain and Germany. Both Governments are similarly at one in their attitude towards the new régime in Turkey. Prince Bülow hopes that public opinion in both countries will be guided by the example set by their Sovereigns and statesmen of honourable, peaceful aims, based upon a sincere and mutual understanding."

Berlin, February 14.

Newspaper reports to the contrary, it is certain that the inability of Count Stolberg, President of the Reichstag, to attend the banquet in honour of King Edward was due to a sudden case of illness in the Count's family. This unfortunate event happened just at the last moment, so that there was no time to issue an invitation to the Count's representative. On the other hand, all the members of the Reichstag presidency, the presidency of the "Herrenhaus" and Chamber of Deputies, besides a number of deputies representing various Parliamentary parties were invited to attend the State ball.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, February 14.

King Edward and Queen Alexandra arrived at Victoria Station yesterday evening shortly before six o'clock. A large and distinguished number of people had gathered on the platform to welcome their Majesties, including the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, the Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey, and other notabilities. Great crowds gathered along the short route from the station to Buckingham Palace and heartily cheered their Majesties. It was remarked at the station that both the King and Queen looked well, and apparently none the worse for their boisterous Channel crossing.

An official announcement just made states that the King is greatly gratified as a result of the Berlin visit, and that his Majesty bore the return journey quite satisfactorily. He finds himself in decidedly better health than when he started the journey to Berlin. His Majesty caught a slight chill while in the German capital, and the raw weather which the Royal visitors experienced on the Continent rendered precautionary measures advisable. His Majesty's health is now, however, completely re-established. The Queen is also thoroughly well.

An influential weekly review, *The Outlook*, commenting upon the return of the King, has the following to say: "It is at last possible to speak hopefully of Anglo-German relations. A step has been taken which removes one of the greatest obstacles to their improvement. We refer, of course, to the Franco-German agreement in regard to Morocco. In itself it is a comparatively small matter; but in its implications it is of the first moment. So long as France and Germany were at odds over Morocco it was impossible for us, who had made friendship with France the basis of our European policy, to be on terms of cordiality with Germany. The essence of the new Franco-German compact is that Germany renounces all political ambitions in Morocco and confines herself to the peaceful rivalries of commerce. The status quo as it existed before Mukden is restored, and the Shereefian Empire ceases to be a bone of contention between Paris and Berlin."

(Continued on page 2.)