

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

# The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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## THE FUTURE OF TURKEY.

In common with all juvenile institutions, the Turkish Parliament shows a predilection to adopt extreme courses. It has not yet attained the ripe dignity of its European prototypes, nor can it be expected to reach this desirable stage in a single day. The people wrung the concession of an inch from stubborn Abdul Hamid, and forthwith took a generous mile. They are prepared to show all whom it may concern that, once having got the reins in their own hands, they intend to follow their own sweet will in spite of all opposition. Europe looks on with some amusement, not unmixed with trepidation, at the Turkish kaleidoscope so suddenly set in motion last autumn. Six months ago the Ottoman Parliament did not exist; since then there has been a General Election, a complete revision of the Cabinet, and Parliamentary procedure of a strenuous nature sufficient to satisfy an Irish Nationalist. Few will be found to blame the deputies for keeping a sharp watch on the methods of the Grand Vizierate, which is popularly believed not to have lost its entire resilience under gentle pressure from the Yildiz Kiosk. The downfall of Kiamil Pasha—who, despite his alleged breach of the Constitution, was by general consent one of the ablest statesmen of the Empire—doubtless represents a victory for the upstart Committee of Union and Progress, but it is not unlikely to ultimately prove a Pyrrhic victory. This committee is composed of militant Young Turks who conceived themselves outraged by the somewhat arbitrary dismissal of two Ministers by Kiamil Pasha. They entertained other grudges against the venerable Grand Vizier, and now they are boasting that for the past two months they steadily worked to bring about his ignominious overthrow. Of their success there can be no question, but weapons such as they used are invariably liable to injure the hand of the wielder. Their ends, laudable though they apparently are, have been achieved by persistent, unscrupulous intrigue and subterranean plotting, worthy of the Yildiz Kiosk's brightest days. Is not this a stimulating example to the reactionary forces which are ever alert on the flanks of the Constitutionalists for an opportunity to effect a coup d'état? Indeed, the Committee by their action have deliberately handed over to their Absolutist opponents a trump card, and it remains to be seen whether this will be played for what it is worth. The fall of Kiamil Pasha could not well have occurred at a more inauspicious juncture. Whatever his faults may have been—and even according to his most inexorable opponents they were little more than venial—over and over again he had demonstrated his comprehensive grasp of the Empire's foreign affairs. Some there are who emphatically assert that had he not been at the helm during the negotiations with the Dual Monarchy and Bulgaria, war would even now have been flaming across the Balkans and licking at the flimsy foundations on which the new Turkish régime is based. All agree that the deposed Vizier did much to restrain the volatile elements of his country during a time of critical danger. His reward has been contemptuous dismissal following on a "no confidence" vote, for although he was officially reported to have resigned, under the circumstances "thrown overboard" would be the more appropriate. The new Cabinet is said to be composed of optimists, of men who are confident of their ability to guide the Ottoman ship of State into calm waters. Every European statesman must hope for such a result, but he cannot close his eyes to the fact that the revision of the Cabinet was engineered from start to finish by the powerful Committee of Union and Progress. That body has tasted power, and found it passing sweet; the temptation to repeat the operation is a danger that will exist for just so long as the country tolerates the management of its affairs by this Committee, rather than the elected representatives of the people.

## GOVERNMENT MEASURES AT PRAGUE.

Vienna, February 18.

The *Neue Freie Presse* reports from Prague that a domiciliary search was made on the premises of the National Czech Organisation, and that several Czech newspapers were seized.

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## THE PANAMA CANAL.

### DIVERGING OPINIONS.

Apropos of the Special Message which President Roosevelt sent to Congress regarding the Panama Canal, it is interesting to note the great divergence of the engineers' opinions especially with reference to the Gatun Dam. Mr. Roosevelt has already made up his mind as to who is right in the matter, and has unequivocally accepted the opinion of the engineers who accompanied the President-elect on his tour of inspection in the Canal Zone. Nevertheless the controversy, which has been revived by a series of statements made and published by M. Bunau-Varilla, the great French engineer, is interesting enough, especially since in Congress there will be some lively talking. It has been claimed for M. Bunau that he knows more about the Isthmus of Panama than any other living man. Caustic criticisms by this gentleman have been cabled from Paris from time to time to the *Herald*, and he has now arrived in America, as strong an opponent as ever of the plans of the American engineers.

His chief point is that the great Gatun Dam, designed to hold up the dreaded Chagres river, is radically defective and unsafe. He said the same thing as far back as a couple of years ago of the Boca Dam, and the construction of this has since been abandoned. It is admitted that the foundations of the Gatun Dam must rest upon nothing more substantial than blue clay, and that in the preliminary work there has been somewhat alarming shifting of the clay strata.

Col. Goethals and the other engineers of the Isthmus claim to have a plan which will overcome the clay trouble, and make the Gatun Dam capable of doing everything that is required of it, and they have to all appearance satisfied Mr. Taft and the advisers whom he took with him on his recent visit of inspection to the Isthmus. The President-elect, who is at his home in Ohio, has just made an appeal to the American people to trust the men who are actually building the Canal, and not be fooled by "bunkum speeches" in Congress.

Meantime the advocates of a sea level canal have decided to continue their campaign vigorously, and in this connection they are making effective use of M. Bunau-Varilla, who has been booked to make a series of speeches, and to have an interview on the canal question with President Roosevelt.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### ADMISSION OF STRANGERS.

On Wednesday Mr. W. Redmond asked the Speaker whether he had any suggestion to make to the House with reference to the finding of the Select Committee last Session on the question of the admission of strangers to the House?

The Speaker replied that the Select Committee having come to a unanimous decision that the galleries should not be opened until a Bill imposing penalties upon those who created disorder had been passed, he did not think it would be competent for him to give the go by to the decision of the Committee, and therefore things must remain as they were until the House sees fit to pass the Bill of which notice had been given (hear, hear).

Mr. Redmond: Does the Prime Minister intend to act on the findings of the Committee he appointed last Session?

Mr. Asquith: Yes, the Attorney-General is about to introduce a Bill on the subject.

The Bill was introduced by the Attorney-General in the course of Wednesday's sitting.

London, February 18.

At today's sitting of the House, Mr. Byles, Radical member for Salford, asked the Prime Minister if his attention had been directed to suggestions of a non-official kind that had been thrown out by influential people in Germany as to the possibility of an Anglo-German agreement respecting naval armaments, on condition that England should build her ships less rapidly than heretofore; and if the King's visit to Germany had given rise to hope that some such arrangement might be made.

Mr. Asquith replied: The non-official suggestions mentioned by the honourable member have not reached my ears. So far as I am informed, the German Government abides by the views which it has notified to us; namely, that the naval programme of Germany is fixed in accordance with her own requirements, and cannot be influenced in the slightest degree by anything we do. The German Government is also of opinion that it is natural that we should take the steps which we consider necessary for the defence of our own interests. Therefore no agreement was concluded at Berlin. I trust, however, that the King's visit has made it clear, that our naval expenditure cannot be regarded as embodying any cause of friction between the two countries (Cheers).

Mr. Byles: Are we to understand that there is no competition between the two Powers in respect of their ship-building programmes, and that the strength of the fleet of each does not depend on what the other does?

Mr. Asquith: I do not wish that that should be understood, or anything else that I have not said (Laughter).

The First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. McKenna, in reply to a further enquiry, said that the question of the employment of dirigible balloons in conjunction with the fleet was under consideration.

### LORD CHARLES BERESFORD.

Mr. Bellairs is going to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty:—

Whether, on the appointment of Lord Charles Beresford to the command of the Channel Fleet, and as the officer designated in the First Lord's memorandum of February 26, 1907, to command the combined Fleets in home waters, the Admiralty intimated to him that he would only occupy the post for two years instead of the usual three years' term, and, if not, what is the reason for suspending him at the end of two years.

### TITLES OF NEW PEERS.

The *London Gazette* of Tuesday night announced that Mr. John Sinclair, Secretary for Scotland, has been created a Baron of the United Kingdom by the title of Baron Pentland of Lyth, in the county of Caithness, and Sir John Gorell Barnes, late President of the Probate and Admiralty Division, by the title of Baron Gorell of Brampton, in the county of Derby.