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The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

THE FIRST DAILY PAPER IN ENGLISH PUBLISHED IN GERMANY.

No 929.

DRESDEN, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1909.

10 PFENNIGS.

The Daily Record is delivered by hand in Dresden, and may be ordered at any Post Office throughout the German Empire. It is published daily, excepting Mondays and days following legal holidays in Dresden.

Monthly Subscription Rates: For Dresden, mark 1.—; for the rest of Germany and Austria, mark 1.20. For other countries, marks 2.50.

PARLIAMENT.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

London, February 25.

In the course of the debate on the Address, Sir Edward Grey, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, speaking on the question of the Congo, said Great Britain would very gladly recognise the annexation, but that would not imply the recognition of the old régime on the Congo. The Government would take no step before Parliament had had an opportunity of expressing its opinion on the Belgian reply, which might be expected in about a fortnight. The Address was adopted, after some further debate.

THE MARITIME WARFARE CONGRESS.

London, February 25.

The last sitting of the international Maritime Warfare Congress for the signing of the protocol will take place tomorrow. The result has given universal satisfaction. The Governments represented at the Congress have agreed to maintain complete silence in the matter until the 20th of March; on which date a Blue-book and the necessary Bills will be laid before Parliament.

RADICALISM IN GREAT BRITAIN.

THE BYE-ELECTIONS.

THE FLOWING TIDE.

The result of the polling at Taunton on Tuesday has already been published in these columns; we repeat it as follows:

The Hon. W. Peel (U.)	1,976
Mr. Frank Smith (Lab.)	1,085
Unionist majority	891
Increase in the Unionist vote	134
Increase in the Unionist majority	552
Decrease in Radical and Lab. vote	418
Decrease in the total poll	284

A great crowd had gathered in front of the municipal buildings eagerly awaiting the declaration of the poll.

Previous elections have resulted as follows:

1892.		1901.	
Hon. A. P. Allsopp (U.)	1,402	Col. A. C. E. Welby (U.)	1,387
H. H. Bridgman (R.)	921	W. King (R.)	1,024
Unionist majority	481	Unionist majority	363
1906.		1908.	
Sir E. Boyle, K. C. (U.)	1,842		
Arthur Pensonby (R.)	1,503		
Unionist majority	339		

In 1895 Colonel Welby (U.) was returned unopposed.

Since the return of the Radical Government there have been 38 bye-elections, beginning with the City of London and ending with the Taunton contest. Four are pending in Scotland, one of which will be fought today, viz. Forfarshire where Mr. R. L. Blackburn, K.C. (U.) stands against Mr. J. Falconer (R.). The Radical majority here in 1900 was 248; in 1906, 3519.

Among the most striking of the results of the contests hitherto decided may be mentioned the Unionist majorities at the following places:—

Constituency.	Majority.
Mid-Devon	559
South Hereford	1,019
Worcester	1,292
Hastings	1,018
Peckham	2,494
N.W. Manchester	429
Pudsey	113
Haggerston	1,143
Newcastle	2,143
Chelmsford	2,565
Taunton	891

Altogether the Unionists have won nine seats from the Radical party since the last General Election. They are:

Cockermouth.	South Hereford.
Brigg (Lincs.)	Peckham.
Mid-Devon.	N.W. Manchester.
Pudsey.	Haggerston.
	Newcastle-on-Tyne.

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The following table speaks for itself:—

	Increase in Unionist vote.	Decrease in Radical vote.
Mid-Devon	1,395	447
South Hereford	762	569
Worcester	480	683
South Leeds	2,789	926
Hastings	147	458
Peckham	3,406	1,427
Dewsbury	1,124	1,170
North-West Manchester	1,019	651
Kincardineshire	439	216
East Wolverhampton	1,761	1,096
Dundee	505	2,197
Shropshire (North)	480	305
Pudsey	1,903	1,712
Pembrokeshire	687	421
Haggerston	496	1,048
Newcastle	1,921	6,703
Chelmsford	1,237	874
Taunton	134	418
	20,685	21,321

The difference between the two sets of figures is accounted for partly by the increase in the electorate, and partly by the intervention of Labour or Socialist candidates.

THE NEW KNIGHT OF THE GARTER.

The King of England has been pleased to approve of the Earl of Durham being a Knight of the Garter in the place of the late Earl of Leicester, K.G.

Lord Durham is possibly the only twin who has ever risen to that particular dignity. He is one of the largest colliery owners in the North of England, an extraordinary popular landlord in his own county, and a prominent sportsman; and in politics he is a Liberal Unionist, following in his Liberalism the unbroken tradition of his family.

It is a strict rule that a Knight of the Garter must at all times wear upon his person some one of the distinctive ornaments. It may be the Cloak, or the Hat, or the George, or the Garter itself, and the two last may be worn under ordinary clothes, but always, either secretly or openly, the Knight of the Garter must have some portion of the insignia upon him.

ABE HUMMEL NOT DEAD.

The New York Herald denies the report of Mr. Hummel's death which was published in the Daily Record yesterday.

THE NEAR EAST.

OPENING OF THE SKUPSHITINA.

Belgrade, February 25.

Long before the opening of the sitting of the Skupshtina this morning all the galleries of the Chamber were crowded with a keenly expectant audience. In consequence of the unusual pressure on the space available for the public, the President gave special permission for a portion of the hall itself being occupied as standing room. The sitting was opened by President Ivanovitch shortly after 11 o'clock. When the order of the day's business had been settled, the President called upon the Secretary to read the Royal decree appointing the new Ministry. Hereupon, the Ministers entered the Chamber headed by the Premier, M. Novakovitch, and were greeted with loud cries of "Zivio!" The Royal decree was then read, and at its conclusion enthusiastic cheers for the King broke out. M. Novakovitch proceeded to read a statement, as follows: "I have the honour to appear before the Skupshtina and to work with a Cabinet composed, in a manner that is unusual, of representatives of all parties. Nevertheless our appearance is quite a normal occurrence; signifying that the present moment imperatively requires unity at home and the protection of Servian interests abroad (Loud cries of "Zivio" and clapping of hands). Attempts are being made in certain directions to assail the right of Servia to continue to exist, a right which is established by international treaties. The national Skupshtina has taken the foreign political programme of Servia from the hearts of the Servian people. The demands which that programme contains as well for Servia as for Montenegro, and the grounds of right and the interests on which it is based, Europe will shortly have to appreciate. The Government formed by the Royal decree of the 24th of February appears before the national representative assembly as a witness of the unanimity with which the Servian people lays its national question before Europe. The roots of that national question in the hearts of the Servian people cannot be destroyed so long as a single Serb remains on this globe (Enthusiastic shouts of "Long live the Nation!" Cheers for the Serb Piedmont!). The King's Government, in devoting all their attention to foreign affairs and to the representation of the Serb question before the great Powers of Europe, relies on the general unanimity and prudence for support. Firmly resolved to defend the Constitution and the laws, the King's Government appeals to all Serbs to uphold it, in the fulfilment of its tasks, by doing their duty as fellow-citizens, so that in this way the only sure foundation of a better future for Servia may be laid. Resting as we do on the unbounded confidence of the Throne, we are convinced that you also, the people's representatives, will sincerely and heartily support us. Let us be filled with the feeling and the consciousness of a higher duty with respect to the sacred traditions of our people, to the inheritance of our heroic ancestors, and to the continuance and vital interests of our nation!" (A storm of applause. Enthusiastic cheering for the King, the Government, the Serb peoples, and for Bosnia and Herzegovina.)

President Ivanovitch said he believed he was speaking as the interpreter of the whole Skupshtina in proposing that the statement of the Ministry be placarded in all parts of the country, in order that the electors may convince themselves of the patriotic feelings that animate every member of the Skupshtina, and of its care for the interests of the country. The proposal of the President was adopted unanimously amid enthusiastic cheering.

INSURRECTION AT A COLONIAL SCHOOL.

SCHOLARS STRIKE.

Witzenhausen, February 25.

One of the young men at the Colonial School here having been reprimanded by the headmaster, submitted his conduct to his fellow-scholars who found that the reprimand had been unjust. Fifty of them forthwith packed their things and declared they would leave if the headmaster didn't apologise. After having consulted with the teachers the headmaster revoked his reprimand.