

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

The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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BRITISH POLITICS.

AMERICAN VIEWS OF THE SITUATION.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, March 10.

On the principle that the onlooker sees most of the game, it is particularly interesting to read the views expressed by American leader writers on the present British political situation. American newspapers—to their credit be it recorded—manfully withstand the temptation to dictate political regulations to their Transatlantic neighbours, and rarely indeed do we find the more weighty journals adopting an attitude towards European politics other than that of an interested outsider. If European press organs followed the same method when dealing with American politics, much bad blood might be averted.

At the moment, however, English politics are passing through an exceedingly interesting transitory stage; the leading organs of both parties are too much occupied with the game of attack and defence to allocate any superfluous space to an impartial review of the situation. Reports cabled over here from New York yesterday indicate with exceptional lucidity the views held by the London representatives of prominent New York newspapers. The *Herald*, the *Sun*, and the *Tribune* printed lengthy telegrams from London, all prophesying the speedy return to power of Mr. Balfour and the Conservative party, declaring that Great Britain has lost confidence in the Government, and that Mr. Asquith is within an ace of throwing up the sponge. The following excerpts speak for themselves:—

The *Sun* says: "Mr. Asquith's declaration less than a month ago that he would call a general election as soon as the country manifested any lack of confidence in his administration, is reduced to an absurdity."

The *Herald* says: "The policy of Free Trade is dead. The British Government is discovering that the present fiscal system is powerless to meet the assaults on the trade of the United Kingdom. The prediction that after the return of the Liberals to power it would take ten years for Great Britain to grasp the necessity for Tariff Reform is falsified. She has taken the lesson to heart in three years."

The *Tribune* says: "There is the strongest prima facie evidence that Great Britain is ripe for a general revolt against Free Trade."

The *Tribune* accuses the Liberals of trying to meet the deficit in the Exchequer by bleeding foreigners, and asserts that arbitrary income-tax assessments are being made on foreigners temporarily staying in England, who do not know the law.

Many resident Americans with whom I have conversed are convinced that, for better or worse, Great Britain stands at the threshold of Tariff Reform. The galling Patent Acts are cited in this connection, and as these hard-hitting measures were created by the present Administration, it would seem that even the stronghold of Cobdenism is becoming undermined. Mr. Winston Churchill has been making some amazing admissions on the subject; in fact, more than one Tariff Reform paper hails him as a convert. Mr. Birrell, too, speaking at Bristol last Saturday, said "we are all Protectionists at heart." The crushing defeat of Mr. Gibson Bowles at Glasgow last week, coupled with the phenomenal falling-off in the Free Trade vote at Forfar and Edinburgh, go far towards justifying the sweeping conclusions arrived at by the American papers quoted above.

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THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

London, March 11.

The third reading of the Indian Councils Bill was passed today unanimously. During the Committee stage, a supplementary clause was struck out, in spite of the protests of the Government; but it is not thought likely that the Unionist peers will persist in their opposition if the clause is re-inserted by the Lower House. In moving the third reading, the Secretary of State for India, Viscount Morley, emphasised the effect which the Bill and the policy of the Government have had in lessening the strain in India; and quoted authoritative reports from India, energetically denying that India was in a state of general insurrection, and stating that only isolated cases of disorder need be apprehended.

THE AGREEMENT WITH SIAM.

London, March 11.

With reference to the Anglo-Siamese agreement with Siam which was signed today, Reuter learns further that the United Malayan States have declared their willingness to provide £4,000,000 for the construction of a railway southwards from Bangkok to the new Malayan frontier.

JAPAN AND THE U.S.

Washington, March 10.

The White House officials on Wednesday last published the message of congratulation from the Emperor of Japan to Mr. Taft, upon his inauguration as President.

In reply, Mr. Taft recalls the pleasure afforded him by his visit to Japan, and says:—"It will be my earnest endeavour to maintain in every way the present satisfactory bond between Japan and the United States."

THE REVISED TARIFF.

New York, March 11.

The Associated Press learns from an authoritative source at Washington that the new Tariff Bill contains the following provisions. The duties on sugar, lead, and copper remain as they are. Iron ore will be placed on the free-of-duty list. Steel rails and unmanufactured steel will be admitted on materially reduced rates. A graduated scale of duties is provided for woven materials, while the duties on silk and cotton goods of the finest quality will be raised.

AMERICAN STEAMERS IN COLLISION.

New York, March 11.

A serious collision took place during a thick fog today in Nantucket Sound between two American steamers, the "Horatio Hall" and the "Dimock." The former was badly damaged and had to be beached near Martha's Vineyard. The "Dimock" took off the "Horatio Hall's" passengers and headed for Boston, but suddenly began to sink. All the passengers were landed in safety at Cape Cod.

THE HOLY SEA.

Rome, March 11.

The official Gazette of the Holy See, *Acta Pontificis Maximi*, of today contains, in a Special Supplement, the regulations respecting vacancy of the Holy See and the election of a Pope, as they here follow. (1) The Bull *Vacante sede apostolica* of the 25th December 1904. (2) The Bull *Commissum nobis* of the 20th of January 1904, against the Veto. (3) The Bull of Leo XIII. *Prædecessores nostri* of the 24th of May 1882, confirmed by Pius X., concerning certain measures to be adopted during a Papal election. (4) The order to be observed by the College of Cardinals during a vacancy of the Holy See. The Bull *Commissum nobis* against the Veto runs: "We forbid all Cardinals, and all others who take part in the Conclave, under any pretext whatever to take an instruction from any temporal Power to effectuate a Veto, even though such instruction should be in the simple form of a wish. We desire that this prohibition shall extend to all interventions, mediations, and communications of any kind whatsoever by which temporal Powers may seek to interfere in the election of a Pope." The Bull further admonishes the Cardinals to pay no attention to interferences by temporal Princes in a Papal election, nor to any other worldly considerations, but only to have in view the glory of God and the welfare of the Church, and to unite their votes for him who is most capable of leading the Church in a fruitful and useful way.

THE DISTURBANCES IN PRAGUE.

Prague, March 11.

For several months past the Chief of the Prague police has rented a room in a house on the Graben belonging to the Town Council, and used it as a central police station during the disturbances in connection with the student promenades. The Town Council recently brought an action for the immediate annulment of the contract, on the ground that the premises rented had been misused, inasmuch as mounted police had been brought into and held in readiness in the courtyard of the house, and that other police measures, such as the bringing in and detention of prisoners, had been adopted to the disturbance of the quiet of the house and its occupants. Today the action was decided against the plaintiffs, whom the Court ordered to pay the whole costs of the action.

MEXICAN OFFICERS TO STUDY IN EUROPE.

New York, March 11.

The *Sun* publishes a report from Mexico that the Mexican Government has sent two officers, Colonel Angeles and Captain Rubio, to study military affairs in Germany and other countries.

WELL-KNOWN ACTRESS TO MARRY.

A Boston message in the *New York Herald* on Wednesday stated that a wedding will take place on Sunday between Miss Ethel Barrymore, the well-known actress, and Mr. Russell Griswold Colt, son of Mr. Samuel Colt, a banker, and president of the United States Rubber Company.

FRANCE AND ITALY.

Paris, March 11.

The Senate has passed the Bill appropriating one million francs for the benefit of the sufferers by the earthquakes in South Italy.