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The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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THE AMERICAN NIMROD.

At the conclusion of seven years of as strenuous labour as a sound mind in a sound body could possibly achieve, Mr. Roosevelt has started off on his well-earned vacation amidst the wilds of the Dark Continent. The only creatures who can possibly object to this cessation of the ex-President's public exertions are the "wyld beesties" who are about to become the objects of his attention. The death rate amongst lions, elephants, rhinoceri, giraffes, and other big game is expected to be greatly accelerated during the next few months if Mr. Roosevelt's hand and eye have not lost their cunning by reason of constant exercise in the hunt after "grafters," "boodlers," and other obnoxious bipeds whose existence on the earth is a good deal more harmful than that of the ravening African carnivora. It is a pity that the dictates of civilisation and constitutional government do not permit of the same weapons being employed against human malefactors. Imagination is stirred by the vision of strenuous "Teddy" armed with a Winchester repeater on the war path after the slippery Trust gentry and others of that ilk. There would certainly have been no "close season" during the past seven years.

Everybody will wish Mr. Roosevelt, now in mid-Atlantic, a healthy, happy holiday and plenty of good sport such as he loves. Nobody in the United States, his political opponents least of all, expect his exit from public life to be final. He has left a good man in charge of the reins which he so recently gave up, and his "relief" bids fair to push on with unrelaxed vigour the work initiated seven years ago. Exactly what that work is, and just what it means to the nation, is only just receiving due appreciation. Some of his most violent enemies while he was at White House are now publicly admitting the benefit accruing from Mr. Roosevelt's truculent onslaughts against the immoral and corrupt influences which were throttling the national honour. He laboured consistently and successfully to vindicate the doctrine of the "square deal" in its relation to politics, business, and the little affairs of everyday life. Disregarding the ineffectual methods of honeyed speech, he hit out straight from the shoulder, with a sublime disregard for convention, when circumstances demanded downright tooth and nail fighting; and after hanging back in horrified astonishment at this new order of things, the people are now coming to realise that not only was Theodore Roosevelt a doughty warrior, but that his strategy was of the highest order. There never was a more striking example of the right man in the right place, and if in the due course of events he is not recalled to the highest office in the gift of the American nation, the electorate will exhibit less horse-sense than we give them credit for.

MR. ROOSEVELT'S EXPEDITION.

New York, March 25.

A number of newspaper correspondents accompany ex-President Roosevelt on board the S.S. "Hamburg," and will go with him at least as far as Mombasa. They will attempt to follow him, with caravans of their own, into Africa, but Mr. Roosevelt asserts he will do everything he can to prevent them trailing him. The "Hamburg" will call at the Azores and at Gibraltar, arriving at Naples about April 5. The members of the expedition will board a steamer of the German East African Line at Naples, and will arrive at Kilindini Harbour, Mombasa, about April 21.

THE ROYAL DIPLOMATIST.

KING EDWARD'S POLITICAL TRIPS.

London, March 25.

The frequent foreign trips undertaken by King Edward were again the subject of discussion in the House of Commons yesterday. Several questions have been put during the present week by Members respecting the King's diplomatic efforts, and the Foreign Minister yesterday took occasion to make a statement on the subject.

"In view of the constitutional questions which have arisen in connection with the foreign travels of his Majesty," said Sir Edward Grey, "I can confidently assert that no monarch has a greater regard for constitutional usage than the King. His Majesty's visits to foreign Courts have in the highest degree proved favourable to our foreign policy. It is a matter for national congratulation that King Edward through his presence in foreign capitals has contributed so ably to the good relations existing between England and other nations. The value of these visits would not have been enhanced if they had been made the occasion of official diplomatic exertions. On the occasion of the Reval meeting between the King and the Tsar, political discussions with Sir Charles Hardinge, the Permanent Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, certainly did take place, but they turned upon two definite points: one concerned certain questions of detail arising out of Macedonian reform, while the other touched details relative to the Persian commercial concessions."

Sir Edward Grey also delivered the following statement on Persian affairs: "Our wish is to see the restoration of order and responsible government in Persia. Although we gave advice when asked, we could not assume responsibility for any particular form of administration. We could not dictate the terms of a constitution, and our advice was necessarily given on the assumption that the Shah would accept full responsibility for any method taken by his Ministers to secure the tranquillity of his dominions."

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, March 24.

Lord Charles Beresford's departure from Portland yesterday was the signal for a great outburst of enthusiasm by the crews of the Channel Fleet towards a popular admiral. The flagship "King Edward VII." left her berth and shaped a course for Portsmouth between a line of stately battleships and powerful cruisers, and the cheers, as Lord Charles passed each ship, were plainly heard on the shore, together with "Auld Lang Syne" from the bands on board.

Lord Charles Beresford, from the deck of his ship, acknowledged the salutations, and as he was quitting the harbour hoisted the following signal:—

Commander-in-Chief wishes admiral, rear-admiral, captains, officers, petty officers, and ships' companies farewell, and wishes them all good, and is confident that every officer and man will do his best to maintain the great traditions of the Navy. The reply was:—

Channel Fleet thanks Commander-in-Chief for kind message, and wishes him God-speed.

It is worthy of note that the last salute which Admiral Lord Charles Beresford received as Commander-in-Chief of the Channel Fleet should have been from a German cruiser. This happened last Friday morning, as the battleships were on their way to Portland. The salute was acknowledged by the "King Edward VII."

SHOTS ON THE FRONTIER.

Sofia, March 24.

Shots continue to be exchanged between Turkish and Bulgarian patrols on the frontier, and as a consequence the Turkish forces have been reinforced by two companies. The Commandant of the Seventh Division has been empowered to take all necessary measures to put an instant end to this irregular warfare. It is believed that the fracas first arose out of the arrest by Turkish sentries of two Bulgarians accused of smuggling.

St. Petersburg, March 25.

In Russian diplomatic circles the Balkan situation is no longer regarded as hopeless. It is now believed that the chief discrepancies in the last Servian Note were due to the bad French in which it was written, and the unskilful translation made of it. Said one prominent diplomatist: "Lingual and editorial mistakes must not be allowed to precipitate a war!"

London, March 25.

Reuter learns that the present stage of the dispute between Austria-Hungary and Serbia is regarded with diminished confidence by diplomatic opinion. It is incorrect that the negotiations between England and the Dual Monarchy have been broken off, but it is true that the Vienna Cabinet took exception to the English proposals regarding Austrian policy at Belgrade. The negotiations are, however, still continuing. Every effort will be made to render the English proposals acceptable to Austria-Hungary, and it is known that so far as they concern Serbia no exception has been taken to them in Belgrade. At the moment it appears that Serbia has decided to conform to the advice of the Powers.

Vienna, March 24.

According to the semi-official *Fremdenblatt*, the reason why the mediation of the Powers has thus far proved abortive is that they seek only to temporarily avert the threatening conflict, while Austria, on the other hand, is endeavouring to permanently avert it. The Servian question is not one which lends itself to a purely evanescent settlement; it must once and for all be eliminated from the world. Only on that condition will peace be assured for Austria-Hungary and for Europe as a whole. In any other case the trouble would only be postponed, not removed. It is unfair to ask the Dual Monarchy to entertain feelings of security today, when such a condition of false repose might be upset at an unexpected moment in the future.

THE SERVIAN CROWN PRINCE.

Belgrade, March 25.

The Servian Crown Prince, in a letter addressed to the Prime Minister, renounces his succession to the Throne in consequence of the attacks made upon him by the Servian newspapers with regard to the death of his servant. His Royal Highness' object in taking this step is to free the Servian Government from all consideration for him as the Heir Apparent. A Cabinet Council has been summoned for this afternoon to discuss the whole matter.

INFLUENZA RAMPANT IN LONDON.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, March 24.

A startling increase in the number of deaths from influenza is recorded in the weekly return of births and deaths issued yesterday. There were 125 deaths from influenza in London last week, compared with 101 the week before, and sixty-six and thirty-six in the two preceding weeks. The deaths from bronchitis and pneumonia also showed a marked excess.