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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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RUSSIA AND THE BALKANS.

Russian opinion is still dissatisfied with the issue of the Balkan problem, the solution of which is believed to have been assured by M. Isvolsky's recognition of the Bosnia-Herzegovina annexation under powerful pressure from certain foreign quarters. One St. Petersburg report says there is bitter resentment in the capital at the collapse of Russian diplomacy in relation to Austria. M. Isvolsky, the Foreign Minister, is charged with having humiliated his country before Europe. It is stated that he should have seen at the beginning that there were only two issues, one to obtain the best terms possible for Serbia, and the other to fight.

While Europe, or at least such part of it as sincerely desired peace, sees in the Russian action a striking example of sound political prudence and adherence to the dictates of national interests, it is becoming more and more evident that an influential section in St. Petersburg views the procedure in a very different light. The resignation of M. Isvolsky followed immediately after he had communicated to the Austrian Ambassador that his Government officially recognised the annexation as a *fait accompli*. A St. Petersburg telegram informs us that M. Isvolsky's resignation was not a voluntary action on his part, but that the Tsar ordered him to immediately lay down his portfolio. It is presumed that M. Isvolsky at first concealed from the Tsar the fact of Germany's efforts to solve the crisis by urging the recognition of the annexation, and when it became necessary to disclose these efforts he counselled the Tsar not to accept the German suggestion. His Majesty, however, adopted a contrary decision.

A Ministerial Council held at Belgrade on Tuesday afternoon decided to accept the proposals of the Great Powers in their entirety. The Servian Minister at Vienna was promptly acquainted with this decision.

The final settlement of the whole problem is foreshadowed by a diplomatic conference which took place at Belgrade on Tuesday morning. At 10.30 a.m. the Turkish Minister waited on the Servian Premier and advised him that with regard to the annexation question Turkey adopted the same attitude as the Great Powers. At the same time the representatives of France, Germany, Russia, and Italy met at the British Ministry, whence after a short consultation, they entered carriages and drove to the Foreign Ministry. Here the British Minister, surrounded by his foreign colleagues, communicated to M. Milovanovitch an aide de memoire respecting the declaration which Serbia was to make to Austria-Hungary. Some 20 minutes later the German, French, and Italian Ministers left the Ministry, while the British and Russian representatives remained for another half-hour.

The Balkan Conference is expected to assemble in Rome towards the end of April, while another report says that Paris will be chosen as the place of meeting.

The Paris stock-exchange opened very favourably on Tuesday and yesterday, as a favourable answer from Serbia to the representations of the Powers was confidently anticipated.

THE REPORTED ATTACK ON MR. ROOSEVELT.

Ponta Delgada (Madeira), March 30.
Mr. Roosevelt arrived here today on board the liner "Hamburg," and went ashore. The report of an assault having been made upon him during the voyage is entirely devoid of foundation.

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SIR EDWARD GREY'S SPEECH.

GERMAN CRITICISM.

Cologne, March 31.
The *Kölnische Zeitung* alludes to the speech of Sir Edward Grey and to his having said that Germany had the same reason for maintaining a superior land force that England had for keeping up her naval supremacy, but that he could not see the necessity for Germany having at the same time such a strong navy. It would be the general opinion throughout Germany, says the article, that this comparison is a lame one, since our army would be of little use to us in a war with England, as Mr. Haldane has so convincingly proved. Our coasts and our world-commerce would then be at the mercy of the superior force of the British fleet. If Great Britain, in spite of all proofs of the impossibility of an invasion by German troops should not be able to rid herself of the fear of one, no man in Germany would think of trying to prevent her from so constituting her land forces as to make them capable of repelling an invasion at any time either by sea or through the air. On the contrary, the opinion is expressed here that Great Britain would, within her own borders, greatly strengthen the sense of responsibility as it prevails among the peoples of the Continent, if she decided to introduce conscription as proposed by Mr. Haldane. The article concludes: "It is best that each should do and refrain from doing, as it thinks necessary, and, in communications between country and country, should continue along the road of straight policy which has proved so excellent in the last few weeks."

RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONARY PLOT.

(From Wolff's Special Correspondent.)
St. Petersburg, March 31.
A widespread revolutionary organisation has been discovered here by the secret police. One hundred persons, including several army officers, were arrested today. Ten thousand cartridges and a large number of infantry rifles were also found and confiscated. Further arrests are expected to be made. It has been ascertained that this organisation was in close connection with the Caucasian terrorists.

VIENNA'S POPULAR BURGOMASTER.

Vienna, March 31.
For the seventh time in succession Dr. Lueger has been elected Burgomaster of this city. In his declaration of thanks to the electorate Dr. Lueger hails Emperor Franz Josef as a "Friedenskaiser" in the best sense of the word, and, as Burgomaster of Vienna, he feels himself called upon to thank Germany for her loyalty to the Triple Alliance. The friendship thus displayed, he adds, will be heartily reciprocated.

DISASTROUS EXPLOSION IN OHIO.

New York, March 31.
Eight persons were killed and eleven injured by a violent dynamite explosion at Chillicothe (Ohio) yesterday.

THE ENGLISH POLITICAL SITUATION.

PENDING ELECTIONS.

(FROM THE DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)

London, March 30.
Unionists are naturally very jubilant over the unexpectedly decisive result of the Croydon bye-election. Unexpected is the proper word, for few among the most enthusiastic Unionists dared to hope for such a tremendous majority. When the result was announced today scenes of enthusiasm took place all over London, notably on the Stock Exchange, where the figures evoked a great outburst of cheering. Business was temporarily suspended while hilarious buyers and brokers cheered themselves hoarse and waltzed round the spacious floor. The Radicals profess to regard the result as a jingo triumph, won by dragging national defence into the party arena. But the marvellous figures speak so plainly that all the time-worn excuses are silenced.

Two pending bye-elections are keeping the political leaders busy. Both of them are in constituencies which are considered hopelessly hide-bound Radical, but in each case an attempt will be made to at least lower the former Radical majorities. Polling in East Denbigh takes place on Friday. Here the Radical majority in 1906 was 2,791, but the Unionist candidate, Sir Foster Cunliffe, is making a vigorous fight. A Radical election poster warns the electors that "every vote given to a Tory endangers your Old Age pension," to which Sir Foster Cunliffe replies as follows: "That statement is false."

East Edinburgh will also be contested shortly, owing to the acceptance by the present Radical member of a salaried Government post which makes a new election necessary. The Radical majority in 1906 was 4,174, but the Unionists are still hopeful of decreasing this poll, if not of electing their own man.

THE PEOPLE AND THE NAVY.

The Navy continues to monopolise public attention. Excited meetings are held every night, letters continue to inundate the principal papers, and the papers themselves steadily devote columns daily to the all-absorbing subject. Meanwhile the Government, reinforced by the defeat of the Opposition's censure vote, stands adamant against the popular tide and refuses to commit itself to the eight Dreadnoughts demanded this year. Perhaps the most illuminative suggestion so far put forward is that made by Admiral Sir C. Campbell in a letter to the local press. His proposal is as follows:—

1. Great Britain to vote £50,000,000, Canada £20,000,000, Australia £20,000,000, and South Africa £10,000,000, making £100,000,000 in all, to form an emergency building fund.
2. The fund to be expended in laying down two for one of any other rival Power, whether "Dreadnoughts," cruisers, or destroyers.
3. Were this fund in being and an Imperial determination to expend it made public it may safely be predicted that it would not have to be drawn upon beyond the ordinary annual estimates. The object is to check foreign building, not to build.

A COMMONSENSE VIEW.

Under the title of "A Plea for Peace," the influential *Saturday Review* publishes the following article:—
"Can nothing be done by the leading statesmen in Germany and Great Britain to throw off the
(Continued on page 2.)