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The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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A NEW YELLOW SCARE.

JAPAN'S SUPREMACY IN THE EAST.

The Japanese obsession, it appears, is not shared only by a few people on the Californian coast, but by the Russians across the Pacific. General Unterberger, governor of the Amoor territory, has just arrived in St. Petersburg for the purpose of stirring up the authorities to a sense of Muscovite weakness in Eastern Siberia. His revelations are certainly serious enough, but it is doubtful if in the present condition of Russia's finances she will be able to take the steps necessary to remedy this state of affairs. General Unterberger plainly tells the Government that if Japan should take it into her head to suddenly fall upon Siberia and the Russian Pacific port of Vladivostok, there is absolutely nothing to prevent her complete success. The Russian naval forces in the Pacific are represented by one small cruiser and a few torpedo-boats, as against the mighty battle-leet flying the Mikado's ensign. Japan is thus in undisputed and indisputable command of the Near Eastern waters, and this is a condition which the many important commercial interests at Vladivostok and the surrounding country do not justify. The thriving industrial centre and commercial seaport remains a permanent temptation to the Japanese, who could at any time obtain possession of it almost without striking a blow. The forts of Vladivostok show signs of the apathy and gross mismanagement which is rampant in the Russian Marine and War Ministries. The defence works of the harbour, which represent an enormous outlay of money, and which during the late war effectively kept off raiding Japanese cruisers and torpedo-boats, are now crumbling away for lack of repair; their guns are rusty and obsolete, and it is questionable whether, in an emergency, sufficient ammunition could be found to fire half a dozen rounds. The Trans-Siberian railroad proved its inefficacy during the war, and its liability to interruption under stress of heavy traffic. A few Japanese raiding parties could damage the line and render it useless for an indefinite period, and thus the whole of Eastern Siberia would be cut off from the outer world. General Unterberger is petitioning the War Office to undertake the building of strategic railways in the threatened district, and in other ways to render possible the speedy despatch of men to the Pacific coast in case of danger. The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Lokal-anzeiger* says that so far, it is true, Japan has given no indication of hostile intentions towards Russia, but the policy of the Tokio Cabinet is always wrapped in impenetrable secrecy. He alleges that Vladivostok opinion, and indeed Russian opinion in general, believes the Japanese assurances of peaceful policy in regard to the Near East to be worthless, and he characteristically adds that if England merits praise for her work in calming the East, she has won it at the expense of unrest in the West, which he says impartial people believe to be due to "British intrigues." So far we have seen nothing to justify this assertion in the Russian newspapers, and it may be taken with a grain of salt. There is no doubt, however, that the Far East is ripe for future trouble, and the most welcome phase of the situation is the admirable restraint exhibited by Japan at the height of her newly found strength.

Appropos of the Japanese peril, it is amusing to learn that a newspaper published at Pittsburgh, U.S.A., on Thursday last, awakening to the fact that it was April 1, displayed on its bulletin boards several messages announcing that a Japanese Fleet

had appeared off San Francisco, and were bombarding the city with their big guns. A number of airships were also hovering over the city and hurling bombs. San Francisco, concluded the message, was practically destroyed. A great crowd of Pittsburgh citizens thronged round the boards fighting to see the momentous announcements, and it was not until several hours afterwards that they began to realise that the day was the 1st of April.

NEW YORK'S NEW HOLIDAY.

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)

New York, March 28.

The phenomenal number of public holidays which the State of New York enjoys is likely to be augmented by another. This is to be known as "Columbus Day" and will be celebrated every 12th of October in commemoration of the discovery of America by Columbus. It is noteworthy that the proposed addition to the State's public holidays finds no enthusiastic response in the newspapers. Mr. Sullivan, a New York State Senator, is responsible for the proposal, which has been urged upon him by his electors, a large number of whom are Italians. These people are delighted at the prospect of a special day being set apart in honour of their distinguished countryman, but the papers have set their face against its creation, arguing with truth that in view of the many holidays which the State of New York enjoys, and considering the half-holiday which prevails in banks and many other business houses during the summer months, a new public holiday would be superfluous; exclusive of Sundays, the people already lose 26 complete working days in the year. It is also urged that if the Italians are thus going to be specially honoured, the innumerable other nationalities represented in the State would be prompt to invent an excuse for creating even more public holidays to commemorate their respective distinguished compatriots. The renown of Columbus would not be increased by an official "Columbus Day," and there is no danger of his name lapsing into oblivion. Such a holiday would only have the result of introducing another day of idleness and aimless limitation of the business energy of the State, and would still further decrease the profitable industry of the people.

SAD BALLOONING FATALITY.

Paris, April 6.

The balloon "Guy Lussac," belonging to the Paris Aéro Club, was carried out to sea yesterday and landed in the water near Coutainville. On the previous day the balloon had left St. Cloud with MM. Basson and Watteau, two Parisian lawyers, and Mdlle. Massan, the secretary of the Aéro Club. When the balloon sank the two gentlemen managed to rescue themselves by swimming, but Mdlle. Massan was torn from the car by a violent wave and was drowned. Her body was cast up on the beach by the tide some hours later.

THE TARIFF BILL IN CONGRESS.

Washington, April 6.

The House of Representatives has resolved, by 193 votes to 178, to limit the number of amendments to the Tariff Bill to those brought before the House by the Committee of Ways and Means, as well as to the sections for building timber, hides, malt, and barley. The voting on the Bill is fixed for Friday afternoon.

AMERICAN STUDENTS.

REMARKABLE IMPROVEMENT IN NATIONAL PHYSIQUE.

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)

New York, March 27.

Future generations in America are likely to be splendid examples of physique if signs and symptoms at present visible continue. Scientists have remarked for some years the increase in height of average Americans, and statistics just made public confirm in a remarkable manner the growing improvement in the national physique, embracing both men and women. This fact is in no small part attributed to the immense interest taken by both sexes, notably male and female students of the American universities and colleges, in all branches of sport and athletics. Practically every American educational institution has its baseball and football teams, and it is said with truth that the preparation devoted by the students to the annual baseball and football matches is much more arduous and conscientious than their preparation for examinations. The women students cultivate sound minds in sound bodies by indulging in every sort of open-air sport, and there is now no reason for doubting that this national characteristic is exerting a far-reaching influence on the height and avoirdupois weight of American men and women. Dr. Born, medical director of the athletic department of Yale University, has just published a report containing exhaustive figures and measurements, which he has compiled from his observation of 500 students who have come directly beneath his notice in connection with the University athletics. He has made a total of all these measurements and applied them to the 500 students previously mentioned, with the result that he arrives at some highly interesting averages. These show that within five years, dating from 1903, the average increase in the height of the college man has been one and a half inches, and the average increase in weight 27 pounds, added to which a very remarkable increase in the average lung capacity of the students has taken place. Dr. Born gives the following dimensions as a fair average of the Yale student in 1903 and the Yale student in 1908:—

	1908	1903
Height	69.7 inches	68.4 inches
Weight	170lbs.	149lbs.
Lung capacity	314 cubic inches	272 cubic inches
Shoulders	17 inches	16.5 inches
Neck	15 inches	14.1 inches
Chest	38.3 inches	35 inches
Waist	31.6 inches	29.7 inches
Upper arm muscles	13.1 inches	13.1 inches
Forearm muscles	11.2 inches	10.6 inches
Leg	22.9 inches	21 inches
Calf	14.3 inches	14.2 inches

As far back as 1898 similar measurements were taken at the same University, and comparison proves that year by year a slight increase takes place in the average height and weight of men and women. The average dimensions of the American college women today are as follows:—Height: 4 to 5 feet 7 inches; weight: 125lbs.; chest: 28 to 36 inches; waist: 24 inches; neck: 13 inches.

THE HOPE OF HOLLAND.

The Hague, April 6.

The Royal Court is in joyful anticipation of the interesting event which the entire country is eagerly awaiting. It is expected that the Queen's confinement will take place on Good Friday, April 9. Her Majesty is said to be in good health and spirits.