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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 968.

DRESDEN, SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 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.

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THE SACRED MAILS.

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT)

New York, April 6.

Certain revelations which followed upon the recent controversy between Mr. Roosevelt and Senator Tillman, when the latter accused the Government of clandestinely acquainting themselves with the contents of letters passing through the United States mails, have aroused interest and apprehension here. Before that recent controversy an opinion prevailed that the mails were inviolate, and that the law of the land prohibited tampering with all mail matter entrusted to the post-office for transmission. On the contrary the American Government, in common with the Governments of Europe, reserves to itself the right to open and examine all letters and other mail communications, though needless to say this prerogative is not exercised to any general extent. A special section of the United States secret service is charged with the duty of supervising postal matter, and it is the duty of these officials to open and examine any communication which they have reason to believe contains anything detrimental to the public welfare. No official records of the work of this section are published, it is true; but thanks to their efforts numberless frauds, outrages, and other crimes have been frustrated, and no one acquainted with the fruits of their labour can carp at the unconventional methods employed.

The universal rule with regard to postal matter is that all such matter while in transit is the property of the Postmaster-General of the country, though it is what may be described as entailed property. A moment's reflection must convince the most ardent advocate of the people's rights that an essential Government department such as the post-office could not tolerate the abuse of its privileges by unscrupulous persons and criminals, and to do so would be to betray the public's trust. Accordingly, while the average letter or postal packet is strictly inviolate from official tampering, pernicious communications despatched by bucket-shops and other gambling concerns, indecent literature, correspondence known to emanate from criminal sources, and other matter regarded by the authorities as an abuse of the mails is liable to inspection and confiscation. An historic precedent for the exercise of this authority occurred in England some twenty-five years ago. At that time practically all the correspondence passing between the members of the militant Irish party and their sympathisers and supporters in the United States was opened and closely examined at the London general post-office. Many and strenuous were the complaints, but the British Government sturdily held its ground, and its action was justified by the fact that many dynamite outrages were prevented through knowledge gained by the police from the opened letters.

A writer signing himself "Ex-Attaché" contributes to one of the New York papers an interesting paragraph on the manner in which letters are officially opened. According to this authority the envelope is slit with an exceedingly sharp and thin knife. It is slit at one end; that is to say, not quite at the end, but within an eighth of an inch of the fold, and the cut is made with the knife held in a very slanting position, so as to leave the largest surface of lip possible to the two edges of the cut paper. Through this slit the letter is extracted, read, and then replaced. Then paste of a special character, prepared for this purpose, is applied to the two lips, which are closed together, leaving as little trace of any scar as a well-healed cut on the skin. The addressee duly receives his letter, perhaps an hour or two late, but is none the wiser.

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TWO AMERICAN LADIES COMMIT SUICIDE ON A LINER.

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)

London, April 15.

On the arrival of the Cunard liner "Lucania" at Liverpool from New York yesterday it was reported that two women passengers had committed suicide on the voyage by shooting themselves. The women were joint occupants of a second-class cabin, their names being Margaret Clarke, twenty-nine years old, and Annie Miller, twenty-two years old. From a torn label found in the cabin it is believed that Miss Clarke came from Brooklyn, New York. Miss Clarke shot herself on the first night after leaving New York, but it was not until the night before Queenstown was reached that Miss Miller committed suicide. Both women were buried at sea, and there can be no coroner's inquest. Miss Miller was present when Miss Clarke was buried. She appeared to be greatly distressed, and it is believed that her mental balance was upset by her grief.

FRANCE'S IMPOTENT NAVY.

Paris, April 16.

Under the sensational title of: "The Overthrow of our Navy. Neither men, guns, nor ammunition," M. Paul Doumer, Deputy and General Reporter for the Budget, publishes today an article describing the results so far attained by the Commission of Enquiry now engaged in investigating French naval conditions at Toulon. M. Doumer asserts that the large ironclads of the Mediterranean Fleet have crews of only 600 instead of 700 men; that they possess neither effective guns nor ammunition; and that the large ironclads have been stripped of their old heavy and light guns without these being replaced by the promised latest models. France, who ten years ago enjoyed second rank amongst the world's navies, has now sunk to the fourth, and perhaps the fifth, place. The present duty of the Naval Commission of Enquiry is to disclose and communicate the causes which have led to such a reprehensible and perilous state of affairs.

GERMAN-AMERICAN PATENT TREATY.

Washington, April 15.

Following upon the recommendation of the Senate Committee for Foreign Affairs, the Senate today ratified the German-American patent treaty.

BULGARIA'S DESIRE.

Sofia, April 16.

The Bulgarian Government will shortly seek the good offices of Great Britain, France, and Russia for the speedy termination of the points at issue between Bulgaria and Turkey and the universal recognition of the Kingdom's independence.

Large numbers of Young Turkish refugees are entering southern Bulgaria, and several Young Turkish officers have made their way to Sofia.

THE TURKISH OUTBREAK.

THE SITUATION STILL GRAVE.

The optimistic reports to hand yesterday unfortunately appear to be rather premature, and the situation at Constantinople and other points of the Ottoman Empire continues serious. The allegation that the Sultan himself was directly responsible for the mutiny has yet to be confirmed. The Young Turks have sustained a crushing defeat, but there are symptoms that their power has not altogether vanished. Murders and other outrages by the troops are still reported. The following despatches explain the latest developments:—

Constantinople, April 16.

It transpires that when the Young Turks' club was destroyed and looted by the mob yesterday a part of the archives was destroyed, while the remainder was confiscated. The newspapers learn that the confiscated documents included many compromising papers. Yesterday afternoon a new panic broke out in the Galata quarter. The captain of the Turkish cruiser "Assar-i-Tewfik" was said to have given orders that the guns of the warships be trained on the Yildiz Kiosk and the Porte, and he is believed to have been influenced by the Young Turks. Upon landing from his vessel he was once seized by some marines, who conveyed him to the Yildiz, bound him to a tree, and then bayoneted him to death before the eyes of the Sultan, who was seen to weep. Previous to this incident two officers were caught by a number of soldiers in the suburb of Arnautkoi, on the Bosphorus. The unfortunate men were riddled with bullets, but the soldiers calmed the excited crowd by informing them that the officers would be the only victims.

According to trustworthy advices, during yesterday's secret session of the Chamber a number of despatches from the provinces were read, calling attention to the unrest among the populace and the troops, expressing fear of an impending revolution, and declaring that if the constitution stood in any danger the petitioners would at once march to the capital. The Chamber resolved upon the publication of a statement to the effect that the constitution stood in no danger. The Minister for Education announced that the new Cabinet would lay its programme before the deputies and ask for a vote of confidence. The rumour that a move was contemplated against the constitution was untrue. "We have all sworn," exclaimed the Minister, "to uphold the constitution and will defend it with our lives. Fear nothing!" When several deputies enthusiastically cried that the Ottoman nation feared nobody, the Minister did not answer.

Saloniki, April 16.

Twenty battalions of the Third Army Corps have been called to the colours. The railway company has been ordered to hold every available railway car in readiness to transport troops to the capital. Yesterday evening an imposing mass meeting was held here. Every bazaar in the town is closed. Everywhere is heard the desire for the security of the constitution.

The town is quiet, but the Young Turk committee has refused to recognise the new Government and is busily engaged in organising a vigorous resistance. At the mass meeting above mentioned a resolution was passed approving the attitude of the committee.

(Continued on page 2.)