

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

# The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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**NOTICE:—This being Ascension Day, our next Number will appear on Saturday, the 22nd inst.**

## FRENCH LABOUR AT BAY.

The French postal strike has now dwindled down to insignificant proportions, barely four hundred "postiers" and telegraph operators being absent from duty. There are, however, signs that although rebuffed in one direction, the forces of Labour are girding their loins for another and a more united onslaught on the Government. The Central Committee of the National Confederation of Labour issued a proclamation last night calling upon all its members to join forces with the post-office employes, and to use every means whereby the strikers may be given the support necessary to enable them to win the fight. A general strike is boldly advocated. It is pointed out that the prestige of the entire proletariat is involved in the present dispute, and that if victory is assured it will mean a triumph for the associated forces of labour. Other meetings held yesterday included those of the building and metal trade unions, the committees of which also voted for an extension of the strike. A significant resolution affirming the solidarity of these bodies with their colleagues in the post-office was adopted with acclamation. Meanwhile the few post-office malcontents who have not resumed their duty are engaged in inflicting petty inconveniences on the public. On Tuesday evening no fewer than seventeen telegraph wires were cut in the vicinity of Arras, and letters containing sulphur are being posted in the hope that destructive conflagrations will occur among the mail bags. The French public is becoming greatly irritated by the wanton disregard for the welfare of the State which is being displayed by the strike leaders. They candidly proclaim their intention of bringing the nation to its knees, and for this object they are prepared to go to any lengths. It is becoming more and more evident that the French Chamber—"La Chambre Sans-Gêne" as our Paris correspondent put it yesterday—has neither the power nor the will to end this intolerable state of affairs. Incidentally that institution is a glaring example of what government by paid legislators really means. French Democracy is standing its trial, and the evidence already adduced proves it to be badly wanting. M. Clémenceau himself, who is perhaps the one strong man of his administration, was until quite recently a red-hot agitator. His Government's procedure at this critical juncture lends colour to the belief that he has not altogether lost his former sympathies. Instead of grappling decisively with the blustering nightmare of professional agitation, the Chamber spends precious days in squabbling over puerile personalities and converting State business into a grotesque pantomime. Vacillation and inaction of this sort is a veritable godsend to M. Pataud and his numberless myrmidons, who are free to undermine the very foundations of national unity with their pernicious doctrines. "What are the masses? The masses are asses in the mass!" said a witty Frenchman discussing the situation a few days ago. The condition of affairs prevailing in France today is the most scathing indictment of

democratic government that the world has yet known. The writer of this article was discussing the French labour situation with a Paris friend quite recently. The Frenchman was vehement in his condemnation of the anti-militarist virus which has permeated many classes of his countrymen. "I am convinced," he said, "that if war were declared against us tomorrow, half our army would refuse to budge an inch. They have been argued into the belief that all men are brothers, and they could not logically take up arms against their own kindred. The navy is even worse. Even were our ships in a fit condition for action—which emphatically is not the case—the crews could not be relied upon to obey orders. We are saturated with this accursed brand of Socialism which blinds men to their patent duty, and sooner or later we shall go down with a crash sufficiently alarming to warn the world as to what Socialism, as taught in France, actually means."

## THE ATTACK ON BRITISH CAPITAL.

London, May 18.  
 The whole of today's sitting was occupied by the debate on the Budget resolutions doubling the stamp duty on land purchases and owners' bonds, and increasing the duty on deeds of contract. The Opposition speakers argued that the new imposts would injure the London Stock Exchange, and transfer business to Amsterdam, Brussels, and New York. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Lloyd George, disputed those conclusions, but promised to consider them, with a view to determining whether it would not be possible to raise the same amount of revenue by substituting other new duties for those to which objections had been urged. Ultimately the resolutions were passed.

## BRITISH IMPERIAL UNITY.

London, May 19.  
 A Reuter telegram from Toronto reports that, at a banquet held there in connection with the Press Congress and at which Imperialist speeches were made by the Australian delegates, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Colonel Gibson, K.C., said Germany must know that she has to reckon, not only with Great Britain, but with the British colonies, in any conflict in which British naval supremacy was challenged.

The New York Sun last Monday published a remarkable letter from one of its readers in Ohio, containing weighty words of advice addressed to England. That country is exhorted not to wait until Germany's fleet is as powerful as her own, but to present a sort of "Monroe-Doctrine note" to Germany declaring that the growth of the latter's fleet is a menace against England. England, says the writer, can only regard the increase of the German fleet as an unfriendly act, and she must impose limitations on the further expansion of that fleet. Should Germany fail to comply with that demand, Great Britain can only regard it as a *casus belli*. The Berlin Lokal-Anzeiger prints a long despatch from London on this subject, and characterises the letter as emanating from some criminal lunatic. It further says that there can be no surprise at the New York Sun publishing such a letter, as that paper is notorious owing to its bitter outbursts against every prominent German-American.

## "GIVE US DREADNOUGHTS!"

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)  
 London, May 18.  
 The Budget has not altogether succeeded in engaging public interest or in distracting public attention from the ever-present problem of how to maintain naval supremacy without spending additional cash. Almost daily more or less influential meetings are held in London and the provinces, at which resolutions demanding the instant laying down of eight "Dreadnoughts" are unanimously passed. The chief hope of the Liberals and Peace Party generally is that the wave of agitation may safely be dammed until summer is well on us, since it is proverbial that no popular movement in England ever maintains headway during what is commonly known as the "silly season." The irritating reserve maintained by the Government on its shipbuilding plans is largely responsible for several deplorable features of this naval movement. No attempt whatever is made in Parliament to calm popular anxiety; on the contrary, consciously or unconsciously, his Majesty's Ministers make cryptic utterances which are interpreted by the press into highly significant official admissions of Britain's threatened supremacy on the seas. It cannot be denied that Mr. Asquith himself, Sir Edward Grey, and the First Lord of the Admiralty first set the ball rolling by their important speeches delivered in the course of the debate on the Naval Estimates. Their candid remarks aroused widespread alarm which they have persistently refused to allay by giving assurances demanded by the country. Their reserve in this regard is undoubtedly detrimental to the establishment of more sincerely cordial relations with Germany, which latter cannot but take umbrage at many statements which are now appearing in the British press. Yet it should not be overlooked on your side that there is some reason for the flow of irresponsible and sensational matter which is daily poured out for English readers. The country is actually disquieted in consequence of the apathy on all questions of national defence displayed by the present Government. When a nation does not feel secure against attack, it may be pardoned for exhibiting some lack of restraint; and if the London correspondents of the German newspapers would cast their minds back to certain facts in the history of their own country they would not so freely indulge their laboured sarcasm at the expense of the British public. A heading such as "England's fear of the German Fleet" is not only incorrect, it is grossly misleading. England stands in no fear of the German fleet, but she does stand in fear of the direction in which the idealists who are now guiding her destinies are leading her. Let us be fair and honest. Suppose Germany's military forces were becoming weakened by parsimony and indecision, and suppose also that France (for example) was steadily increasing her army and bringing it up to an unparalleled standard of power. Is it conceivable that the German press would remain silent? Assuredly not. It is also doubtful whether it would display more self-control than the British press is doing at this moment. This is not the only country that has been plagued with bogeys, as certain German scribes resident among us forget.