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Office:
Struve Str. 5, I.
DresdenA.
Telephone
1755.

The Daily Record

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THE BERLIN VISIT TO LONDON.

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)

London, May 26.

Of all the visits exchanged between England and Germany within the last year or so, it can safely be said that none has been of a more sincerely cordial nature than that now being paid by the Ober Burgomaster and councillors of Berlin. Everywhere they are received in an exceptionally friendly manner. During the busiest hours a report spreads that the German guests are approaching, and as soon as the carriages or motor-cars conveying them come in view, everybody raises his hat and gives them a hearty cheer. Immense gratification at this popular demonstration of friendship is writ large over the faces of our visitors, who will return to Berlin in the full knowledge that despite the frenzied efforts of a few cheap newspapers to disseminate false ideas of Anglo-German relations, the man in the street entertains nothing but the best sentiments towards Germany. At noon today the guests were entertained at the German Athenaeum, where Herr Kirschner held another of his happy speeches. The German nation, he said, was great enough to recognise and applaud without envy the achievements of other countries. In the opinion of his country, the greatest civilised nation was that which contributed most to international progress. In the afternoon the party were escorted to the Strangers' Gallery in the House of Commons, where they listened with great interest to the proceedings. This evening they were the guests of the Fishmongers' Guild at a banquet which was distinguished by the spontaneous cordiality of the speeches delivered on both sides.

A PLEASANT SURPRISE.

Unfortunately, the glorious weather which we recently enjoyed has now broken up completely, and the Berlin party paid a round of visits yesterday under leaden skies and a steady downfall of rain. During the morning they arrived at the City of London school, and were agreeably surprised when one of the youngsters, not more than 13 years of age, was deputed to welcome them, which he did in an admirable little speech in German. He spoke with a degree of fluency and a regard for the complicated German syntax which opened the eyes of some among the visitors who probably laboured under the prevailing legend that instruction in languages is conspicuous by its absence in British schools. Herr Kirschner told the headmaster that if all his scholars enjoyed such an excellent acquaintance with the German tongue the continuance of Anglo-German friendship would be assured. He then turned to the cheering boys and said that the only rivalry which existed between his nation and theirs was in the sphere of youthful education, and that the seed planted in the youthful mind in due time grew and exercised its influence on the mature man. From the school to the Guildhall School of Music is only a few steps, and here the visitors were welcomed by Dr. Cummings surrounded by his pupils. The musical programme which followed was entirely composed of German melodies in honour of the party, who were again surprised at the admirable German pronunciation and artistic rendering of the songs. Then followed an exhibition of dancing that so charmed the visitors that Dr. Reicke was moved to deliver a glowing eulogy of English gracefulness.

A TRIBUTE TO BERLIN.

At the conclusion of the visit to St. Paul's and the New Bailey came the banquet in Drapers' Hall, which was attended by the Lord Mayor, the City Sheriffs, and Aldermen all in their robes of State.

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The Chairman of the Guild did the honours, and behind his seat hung the famous picture of the Duke of Wellington which was decorated with intertwined German and British colours. In a witty speech he deplored his ignorance of the German tongue and still more the fact that he had never visited Berlin, which city, he had heard, Herr Kirschner and his able assistants had transformed into the model capital of Europe. Herr Kirschner retorted that since the Chairman had never been to Berlin, he should at once make good the discrepancy, and assured his host that a hearty welcome would be waiting for him in the German capital. The eventful programme of the day was terminated by a visit to Olympia, where the German guests were lost in admiration of the fine military display given by picked officers and soldiers. They could not refrain, however, from commenting on the ignorance displayed by English civilians in regard to all things military, a candid criticism which those of us who deplore our compatriots' indifference to the rudiments of military knowledge could not but acknowledge as accurate and well-deserved.

SIR JOHN FISHER TO RETIRE?

London, May 27.

Reports are circulating here this morning that the First Sea Lord of the Admiralty, Sir John Fisher, is about to retire, and that his successor will be Admiral Sir William Moore, who until last year was commander-in-chief of the British squadron in the Far East. It is not stated whether the retirement of Sir John Fisher is to be regarded as a result of the violent campaign conducted against him by many influential newspapers and speakers during the past three years.

REVOLUTION IN SANTO DOMINGO REPUBLIC.

New York, May 26.

According to a telegram from Cape Haitien, the Santo Domingo Government is taking energetic measures to crush the revolution. The Government troops attacked Santana on May 23, and drove the revolutionaries from their positions. Both sides lost heavily.

VIOLENT EARTHQUAKE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Chicago, May 27.

A somewhat violent earthquake shock was experienced yesterday throughout northern Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Reports are arriving today of extensive damage caused thereby. Several of the skyscrapers in this city swayed in an alarming manner, and pictures fell from the walls. So far no one is reported to have been hurt.

TRIAL OF THE AIRSHIP "ZEPPELIN II."

Friedrichshafen, May 27.

After half an hour's trial in the air, "Zeppelin II." descended to the Lake about 500 yards from its shed, and was towed to the shed by a motor boat. All the new fittings proved quite satisfactory.

THE TWO-POWER STANDARD.

MR. ASQUITH'S INTERPRETATION OF IT.

London, May 27.

During last night's sitting of the House of Commons, Captain Craig (Unionist) called the attention of the House to the divergent and adverse utterances of different Cabinet Ministers on the question of naval defence, and moved a resolution affirming that the House would regard with disquietude any alteration of the two-Power standard as explained by the Prime Minister on the 12th and 13th of November last year. Captain Craig further asked for a specific statement as to the position of the United States in fixing the two-Power standard.

The Prime Minister said the Government had made no change of front. Whichever two Powers were taken together, their combined strength would be far below the defensive strength of Great Britain. It would be a very venturesome proceeding to lay down a formula for the future. There was no difference of opinion as to the necessity of Great Britain's maintaining her naval supremacy under any conceivable circumstances. The most important point was the defence of her coasts. "If," said Mr. Asquith, "we had to deal with a Power whose base was 3,000 or 10,000 miles distant without any intermediate coaling station, we should not regard that Power as we should a fleet of the same strength whose harbours were only 300 miles off. Therefore the United States would not be reckoned as one of the two Powers, as they would not have to be considered in the same degree, for an attack on England, as would French, German, or Austrian fleets. We must adapt our measures to the constantly changing policy, shipbuilding, and efforts of other countries. We must bear in mind that two fleets are not so effective, either for attack or defence, as one homogeneous fleet under a single commander. Under the circumstances, the two-Power standard, reasonably interpreted, is certainly a practical formula for our naval policy, but it must not be treated as unalterable."

Captain Craig's resolution was then rejected by 270 votes to 114.

Mr. Lee, Conservative member for South Hants, then rose and said he was entirely in the dark as to the Prime Minister's position with regard to the two-Power standard, and he asked for a precise and definite statement.

Sir William Collins, Liberal member for St. Pancras, thereupon moved a resolution that the House accepted the Prime Minister's explanations with confidence.

Mr. Balfour, on behalf of the Opposition, described the Prime Minister's explanation referred to in the resolution as obscure and confused in comparison with his former clear and unmistakable statements. The Prime Minister had all at once taken the geographical positions of the different countries with regard to England into account, and had said that the two-Power standard applied to defence in home waters. That was an extremely dangerous limitation (Hear, Hear! from the Opposition), a complete change of political attitude that left the whole naval policy of the country in a state of uncertainty.

Sir William Collins' resolution was ultimately passed by 272 votes to 106.

Yesterday's discussion is causing much comment in Unionist circles, where Mr. Asquith's definite statement last November that the two-Power standard would be based on the fleets of Germany and the United States is recalled. The Premier is accused of having eaten his words.