

Office:  
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1755.

# The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

THE FIRST DAILY PAPER IN ENGLISH PUBLISHED IN GERMANY.

No 1,011.

DRESDEN, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 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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## CUI BONO?

One of our Dresden contemporaries, whose share in the laudable task of creating better relations between England and Germany has thus far chiefly been confined to the publication of inflammatory London despatches and pugnacious leading articles, printed on Sunday and which, if it does not directly tend to further the good work, at least gives expression to what many people must have been thinking of late. It is pointed out that however beneficial in a general way this round of Anglo-German visits may be, their practical utility is open to question. Parties of distinguished German representatives journey to London, are there entertained with regal magnificence, conducted round the various sights of interest, make an excursion to Windsor, partake of a farewell banquet at which unimpeachable speeches are delivered on both sides, and then return to Germany, bringing back with them the pleasantest of impressions, no doubt, but still ignorant of the general trend of popular opinion and the habits and customs of the English people. The same performance is repeated in detail on the occasion of English visits to this country. Each time the visitors meet the same people, are entertained at the same kind of banquets at which the same kind of speeches are delivered, and go away again without having got into touch with the masses whom their hosts represent. Now in endorsing to a certain extent the conclusions drawn by our contemporary, we are in no way disparaging the efforts of those right-minded gentlemen on either side the North Sea who arrange such visits. Their motives are unquestionable, and if their work is practically fruitless the fault does not lie with them. As we write a party of English Labour representatives are the guests of Bremen, and we printed yesterday an account of their doings. These delegates came to Germany full of the best intentions, but it would be idle to deny that they are not typical of the country whence they come. Neither in Germany nor England is the labour element predominant, in politics at least. In the latter country the present tendency is to veer away from questions of labour and social legislation to the larger issues of Imperial policy.

## WHERE RESPONSIBILITY LIES.

Whatever cordiality may be lacking in the mutual social and political intercourse of England and Germany is due almost entirely to the press. The newspapers of both nations have been more successful than they could have dared to hope in creating an artificial atmosphere of mistrust and animosity, and the newspapers alone can dissipate that impure atmosphere. There are perhaps still some short-sighted people who regard the press as the voice of public opinion. That may have been true at some distant period, but today the press is primarily concerned with the moulding of public opinion. The average workaday person has no time to wade through serious literature written by serious people; he is content to glean his knowledge of the world's affairs from hastily printed sheets, and to model his attitude towards things and nations on that adopted by his favourite journal. An enormous responsibility is thus reposed in even the obscurest newspaper writer, and the penalty for abusing that responsibility should be framed proportionately. Unhappily that is not the case. As an apothecary is held to answer for the dispensation of harmful drugs in his stock, in like manner should the journalist be held to answer for the poison which he disseminates through the press columns. An unthinking apothecary may bring sickness or death to one or two people, but the unthinking journalist may cause grievous detriment to

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untold millions. German and English journalists should foregather on every possible occasion. An Anglo-German press conference should be established on an annual basis, and the policy of the responsible press of both countries be framed on lines beneficial to the best interests of humanity and civilised progress. There have already been press visits exchanged between England and Germany, but they should become regular events. Given a great co-operative press campaign having as its object the cohesion of Anglo-German interests and the establishment of frank, friendly mutual feelings, the present ruinous competition in armaments would automatically flag and cease.

**It is up to the Press!**

## THE ENGLISH BUDGET.

*London, June 8.*  
The Budget came up for the second reading in the House of Commons yesterday, four days being allotted for the discussion. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, in the course of a lengthy and trenchant speech, demanded the rejection of the Budget and particularly criticised the proposals relating to land taxation.

## BRITISH WIRELESS DEVELOPMENT.

*London, June 8.*  
It is announced this morning that the Admiralty contemplates the taking over of wireless telegraphic stations, particularly those on the east coast of England, and the erection of new stations at strategically important points. The service will be open to use by the public, and will be superintended by men of the Royal Fleet Reserve.

## BRITISH THEOLOGIANS' VISIT TO GERMANY.

*London, June 8.*  
One hundred and twenty prominent representatives of the British clerical world left London yesterday en route for Germany to return the visit of the German clericals to England last year. (The full programme of this visit was published in these columns yesterday.)

## KAISER AND TSAR.

*Paris, June 8.*  
The Temps devotes its leading article this evening to the forthcoming meeting between the German Emperor and Tsar Nicholas, and says in substance:—  
"In spite of Germany's attitude in the Near Eastern crisis, it would be highly impolitic of Russia to show visible resentment against that country. The belief that this meeting may in any way alter the existing grouping of the powers is quite unjustified. Both European groups are so arranged that they ensure the maintenance of the balance of power. The balance would become absolutely stable, however, if only the three Powers constituting the Triple Entente rearranged their military forces on sensible lines. We may hope that meetings of Sovereigns and other occurrences in international life will no longer give rise to disturbing possibilities."

## IMPERIAL PRESS CONFERENCE.

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)  
*London, June 7.*  
The keen attention with which the German and other newspapers are following the present Imperial Press Conference at London is natural and justified. From the preliminary speeches we gather that the primary motive which actuated the promoters of this historic assembly was the desire to inculcate in the minds of the men responsible for the direction of public opinion in the Colonies and Dominions of the Empire the urgent necessity of rendering the Empire one homogeneous and solid organisation, impregnable to attack and ensuring the peace of His Britannic Majesty's realms. That the time is eminently ripe for such a movement was made evident by the very remarkable demonstrations of loyalty to the Empire which were elicited by the now famous debate on the Navy Estimates last March. The attitude of the Colonies during that period must have come as a gigantic surprise to those outside the Empire who thought they saw fissures in the Imperial fabric which foretold the débacle of the whole in the near future. It is not too much to say that thousands of thoughtful people on the Continent believed the Empire to have become moribund and little else than a discredited word. The healthy symptoms of national individuality displayed by the Australian Commonwealth and the Canadian Dominion were plausibly construed into a desire to "cut the painter." In many quarters it was represented that Britain's oversea possessions were weary of the restrictions imposed upon them by allegiance to the Mother Country and would welcome the opportunity of casting off the yoke. Already one heard prophecies, gloomy or jubilant as the case might be, that the disintegration of the Empire was a matter of a few years. The spontaneity with which the Colonies came to the aid of Britain during the Boer War was said to be the last flicker of the loyal flame before it finally expired. Those beliefs had been gaining ground for the past eight years, and it is perhaps just as well for the world at large that the crushing repudiation should have come at this moment. For the plain fact is that never has the Empire been more solid, more indivisible, more alive to the unity of its interests and its brilliant future possibilities than today. Happily for England she is now at peace with all the world, and there are no war clouds hovering on the horizon. But the events of the last few months may not be without eventual effect on the tranquillity of the world. "Defence, not defiance!" has ever been the watchword of the British Empire, and a demonstration to the world that this watchword is a living, breathing reality cannot be aught but beneficial.

## GIGANTIC NAVY FOR FRANCE.

*Paris, June 8.*  
At the final sitting of the Superior Council of Marine the new French naval programme was approved, according to which the French Navy by 1919 will be increased by 45 armoured ships, 12 scouting cruisers, 60 torpedo-boat destroyers, 84 torpedo-boats, and 64 submarines.

## MADAME STOESEL IMPEACHED.

*St. Petersburg, June 8.*  
Madame Stoessel, wife of the commander-in-chief at Port Arthur during the Far Eastern campaign, will be impeached on a charge of having collected 15,000 roubles (30,000 marks) in aid of the besieged inhabitants and neglecting to furnish documentary evidence as to what became of the surplus.