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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 1,022.

DRESDEN, TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 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.

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THE ORIGIN OF MAN.

(CONTRIBUTED.)

(Fragment of a cuneiform tablet recently discovered among the ruins of Biss Nimroud Babylon. Translated by a well-known Oriental scholar, being an Essay on the Origin of Man.)

Once upon a time the Immortals assembled together in council and decided to create the world and fill it with all manner of living things, and when the world seemed ready, finished, and fairly presentable for use, and was full of flying lizards and sabre-toothed tigers, mastodons, plesiosaurs, ichthyosaurs, gigantic dinosaurs, and switch-backed Carnegii, wriggling trilobites, snakes erect on their tails, tree palms, oozing slimy mud, swamps swarming with crocodiles and hideous reptiles, endless glaciers, dense perspiring mists and the rest, it suddenly occurred to the youngest of the Immortals, who had been watching the process of world-making with amusement and derision, that he would like to have a hand in the pie. So he said to the Immortals, "Let me have a go at this game." Whereupon all the rest looked at one another and roared with laughter which brought down rain in torrents from the sky. Then Jupiter said, "O dry up, young man, and go to bed." But the other Immortals chimed in, "Nay, father Jove, let the youngster have his fling; it will amuse us as we are getting tired of creating this beastly mess." So they bid him chip in and do his little bit. But he could not find any stuff handy to make anything of, as the Immortals had made the world out of Nothing and all the Nothing was used up.

Thereupon the youngster began to cry, and refused to be comforted until at length one of the gods shied a lump of mud at him which struck him and knocked him over. But the youngster picked up the mud and said, "I am going to make a man out of it"—at which all the Immortals shrieked with laughter and held their sides until they shook again and the sky thundered with reverberation.

So he took the lump of dirt and pushed it in this way and that way and rolled it in his hands and squeezed it and squeezed it and jabbed in his thumb and scraped it with his nails and pulled out one piece and made a leg and another piece and worked it into an arm and rolled the top into a head, pulling it this way and that until at last he got it into shape. Then he breathed on it and hustled it some, until he got it alive and it became a Picanthropus Erectus, who lived in Java and was a fool; and he begat Eoanthropus; who begat Meianthropus; who begat Pleioanthropus; who begat Pleistoanthropus, who is often mixed up with his father and a great warning against keeping the same name in one family; who begat Paleoanthropus; who begat Neoanthropus, great mumbler and murmurers with their mouths, making many and horrid cries weird and mournful. And the eldest of them begat him whose son called himself Homo sapiens (with a capital "H," writ large) from whom we all and sundry, together with the tremendous muddle and confusion, have descended and remain so unto this day, and we are the living witnesses thereof, in very truth their direct descendants, being as full of conceit thereat as an egg is full of meat or a peacock with two tails, hanging up emblazoned armorial bearings with many quarterings to bear witness of our noble ancestry. And we cry, "Lo! Is not this universe, the stars and all the hosts of heaven and all living things on this earth, are they not all created for our amusement and benefit?" And we tailless, naked, and nearly hairless animals clothe ourselves with cotton pods and flax and the

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hair of sheep, put high heels to our shoes and tall hats on our heads, and call on all the world to worship us.

Epilogue.
Then the youngster turned to his colleagues and said, "What think ye now, O Immortals, of my handiwork?" Then replied Jupiter wearily, "I think it is about time that we burst up the whole show and drown the lot."

U.S. ADMONISHES CUBA.

Washington, June 21.

The State Department has made strong representations to the Cuban Government in regard to the placing of large orders for weapons with a German firm. The State Department holds the opinion that Cuba should place no such orders except on a competitive basis, and that American manufacturers should be granted the most advantageous opportunities of securing Cuban business.

AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN CHINA.

Washington, June 21.

It is reported here that State Secretary Knox is busily investigating the Hankau-Szechuan railway loan, and will reply to the British representations today. Mr. Knox is known to have in view the inauguration of a strenuous policy in the Far East, as he is convinced that the psychological moment has arrived for the United States to take a prominent lead in the Orietal markets. It became known here yesterday that the French Government has endorsed Great Britain's protest against the United States interfering in the Hankau loan affair.

Later.

Mr. Knox has answered the British representations in a most friendly spirit, but lays stress on his preference for direct negotiations with China. He believes it will be possible to so arrange matters as to allow of American financiers having a finger in the loan without disturbing existing rights.

U.S. TARIFF REVISION IN THE SENATE.

New York, June 21.

Senator Aldrich has moved an amendment to Clause 5 of the Tariff Bill proposed by the Finance Committee. The amendment provides for the imposition of an *ad valorem* duty of 15 per cent. on imported hides—raw, unmanufactured, died, salted, etc.—with a corresponding reimbursement when they are exported in the form of leather. Senator Aldrich stated that the Attorney General had been requested to draft an amendment to the corporation tax.

FATAL RAILWAY SMASH IN INDIA.

Calcutta, June 21.

The Madras mail train was derailed last night between Minjur and Enmore. Fifteen Hindoes were killed, and many others injured.

BRITISH CRUISER SUNK IN COLLISION.

London, June 21.

The dense fog which hung over the Channel on Saturday night was responsible for a disastrous collision between the British cruiser "Sappho" and a cargo steamer off Dungeness. The warship lowered her boats with wonderful promptitude, thus enabling the crew to leave the vessel. The captain and his officers remained on board to examine the extent of damage, and the result of their investigations determined them to try and navigate the sinking vessel to Dover. The crew returned and courageously stuck to their posts, with the result that the damaged cruiser arrived safely at Dover, where she was beached in a sinking condition. Only the most strenuous exertions and splendid seamanship kept the "Sappho" afloat. The pumps were kept working at full pressure, and collision mats were utilised to plug the huge gaps sprung in the hull. Later on it transpired that the cargo steamer was also named "Sappho," and this remarkable coincidence of name is the subject of remark. The "Sappho" belongs to the Wilson Line of Hull. Her master reports that she sustained but slight damage in the collision with the warship, and is continuing her journey to the Mediterranean. The cruiser "Sappho" is of 3,450 tons; she was launched in 1891, and is therefore of an obsolete type. Salvage operations are already in progress, and there is hope of raising the cruiser without difficulty.

THE SUEZ CANAL TO BE DUPLICATED.

London, June 21.

The Suez Canal Company is reported to be negotiating with Egypt with a view to an extension of the canal concession. The company intend to increase their capital for the purpose of building a parallel waterway with the Suez Canal.

THE SULTAN TO VISIT EUROPE.

London, June 21.

News arrives here this morning that Sultan Mohammed of Turkey will during the coming autumn make a series of visits to the Courts of Europe. He will probably arrive in England at the beginning of September.

RELIGIOUS RIOTS AT LIVERPOOL.

Liverpool, June 21.

Religious differences brought about a very serious riot yesterday afternoon between mobs of Irish Catholics and Protestants (Orangemen). In the course of the disturbances a number of houses were half-wrecked and later set on fire. Large bodies of mounted police were called out, and charged the crowd, being received with volleys of stones and bricks. Some fifty arrests were made. A number of policemen were more or less badly hurt.

STREET-CAR DISASTER IN INDIANA.

Chesterton (Indiana), June 20.

Two street-cars travelling at high speed met in a head-on collision here last night, and frightful scenes ensued. Ten dead bodies were extricated from the wreckage, and twenty passengers are suffering from injuries, some fatal. The wreck is attributed to a misunderstanding on the part of the motormen as to which car should have waited at a switch.