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THE SPREAD OF SOCIALISM.

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)

London, August 2.

For good or for evil, Socialism has taken a grip on England that all the King's horses and all the King's men cannot relax. Our finances are controlled by a Chancellor who, if not an avowed "comrade," gives daily testimony to his strong Socialist tendencies. Mr. Lloyd George's Budget speech on Friday evening resolved itself into an unrestrained attack on the landlords. The violence of his language amply proved how much the strain of pushing through his unpopular Finance Bill is telling upon him. He used expressions that we are accustomed to hear from the ignorant tub-thumper of Hyde Park but which sound very strange as coming from a member of the Cabinet. With eyes blazing and face twitching convulsively, he declaimed in approved demagogic style against the landowner and all his works. At times his remarks verged dangerously upon scurrility, and the whole tenor of his speech was prejudiced, unstatesmanlike, and impolitic in the extreme. Listening to this impassioned Welsh orator, I found myself wondering to what a pass an "Imperialist" nation like Britain had come when men of this calibre were placed at the helm of the Ship of State. With all due respect to our present Chancellor, whose personal ability has raised him from the obscurity of a country attorneyship to the publicity of a Cabinet Minister, it must be admitted that his chief asset is eloquence of the most primitive type.

Words, I take it, are Socialism's principal weapons. Mr. Lloyd George has an inexhaustible arsenal-full of these windy projectiles. As a matter of fact, the whole country is now involved in a maelstrom of verbiage. Glance at the newspapers and you will find how the tide of oratory has increased within the last decade to its present terrific proportions. Everybody talks, but very few listen. In this respect we are gradually losing the last remnants of Anglo-Saxondom and clothing ourselves in Gallic temperament. Formerly a really fluent orator could hold the House of Commons enthralled. Today the man of silvery speech is drowned in a surging whirlpool of blatherskite. Moreover, the character of our speech is changing. Less than fifty years ago the violent speaker, the man who covered his lack of genuine eloquence under a superfluity of noise, was chilled into silence. Today it is the man who shouts, who scoffs at verbal restraint and screams down all opposition, who has the ear of the crowd. Visitors to Parliament comment upon this phenomenon: they are beginning to compare it to the French Chamber of Deputies. Within and without the shouting goes on, and the nation is becoming apathetic. At the present rate we shall all of us—or, at least, those of us who take the least interest in politics—degenerate into doctrinaire Socialists in another generation. Thoughtful men are alive to the fact that not from German "Dreadnoughts," but from our own unstemmed tide of verbiage comes the future menace to the integrity of the Empire and the very existence of our nation as such.

THE TSAR OF RUSSIA AT COWES.

Cowes, August 3.

The Tsar of Russia was today an interested spectator of the yacht racing now in progress here. The Tsar, together with King Edward, watched the racing from the deck of the King's yacht "Britannia," and displayed great enthusiasm. The chief event of the day was the race for the King's Cup, in which the German Emperor's yacht "Meteor" and the Prince of Wales' "Corisande" took part. The Russian Ambassador in London, Count Benckendorff, the British Ambassador in St. Petersburg, Sir A. Nicolson, and the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Isvolsky, were the guests of Sir Edward Grey at breakfast on board the Admiralty yacht "Enchantress."

The Tsar has been pleased to appoint the Prince of Wales an admiral in the Imperial Russian Navy.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN GUARANTEES OF PEACE.

Cowes, August 4.

Yesterday evening a State banquet was held on board the Russian Imperial yacht "Standart," forty-

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five covers being laid. No speeches were made, and King Edward and the Tsar confined themselves to drinking each other's health.

A representative of the *Daily Telegraph* has been informed by M. Isvolsky, Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, that the Anglo-Russian understanding contains the strongest guarantees of peace. M. Isvolsky pointed out the Persian situation as an example of the advantages accruing from this entente. Russia, he declared, intends to withdraw her troops from Persia at the earliest possible moment,—namely, as soon as the administrations established in Tabriz, Teheran, and Kasvin are able to restore order and keep the unruly elements in check. In regard to the problem of Crete, he confidently hoped for a settlement of all difficulties in a manner satisfactory to those concerned.

COWES REGATTA: KAISER'S YACHT WINS.

The great yachting event of the year commenced at Cowes on Monday in ideal weather. There was a fresh west-north-west wind of full jackyard top-sail strength, and everything augured well for the racing, which took place, as usual, under the auspices of the Royal London Yacht Club.

The first race was for the amalgamated classes under the new international rules, and the starters were: Shamrock and White Heather, both cutters; the two German schooners, Germania and Meteor IV.; and the English schooner, Cicely; Susanne being the only absentee. Germania and Meteor had to allow White Heather and Shamrock 8min. 18sec., and Cicely 13min. 36sec.

The start was a magnificent one, all five yachts being close on the line at gunfire. Shamrock got away with a slight lead on White Heather. The latter was followed by Germania and Cicely in the order named, with Meteor slightly astern, but well to the windward. Owing to the presence of the Fleet the course had had to be altered at the last minute and the vessels, therefore, raced between the Markboat, at Cowes, and Lynton Spit buoy, three times round.

On the return from Lynton on the first round Germania had a long lead of the cutters, her nearest opponent being the Meteor, which vessel had a slight lead of Cicely, the cutters being farther astern. Germania was then sailing magnificently. In the second round the vessels were in the same order, the Germania increasing her lead on Meteor by 6sec., Cicely being about 14min. astern, and Shamrock and White Heather 20min. Shamrock retired after rounding the mark boat, and the race was left to the schooner.

Germania was the first to finish, beating the Kaiser's Meteor by 4min., but as she crossed the line on the wrong side the prize fell to the Meteor. Cicely was third.

ANGLO-GERMAN FRIENDSHIP.

AN APPEAL AND A REPLY.

We have received the following telegram from Berlin and have much pleasure in publishing the same:—

An appeal from the Anglo-German Friendship Committee in Great Britain to the German-English Friendship Committee in Germany.

We are authorised to express to you, in the name of the Anglo-German Friendship Committee of Great Britain, our great regret that strenuous and persistent efforts continue to be made to excite jealousy and disunion between our two countries. In view of the many distrustful utterances, imputations, and counterimputations that are unfortunately still to be seen and heard in the Press and elsewhere, it behoves every one who loves peace to be active in upholding it. We beg you, therefore, to join us in this work and to hold to the conviction that we wish nothing but good for your country, and find satisfaction only in its prosperity as in that of all members of the community of civilised peoples.

We are convinced that our Government truly and faithfully expresses the desire of the great mass of our fellow-countrymen, when it conveys the assurance that Great Britain wishes to maintain with Germany, not only peace, but the most friendly relations.

A war between the two countries, whose essential interests are in reality identical, would be a grave misfortune for both. It would be a relapse into barbarism, and portend disaster such as has hardly ever occurred in the history of either nation.

Our Committee regrets most deeply the enormous and constantly increasing expenditure on naval armaments of the two countries; an expenditure that necessitates such a serious and apparently endless aggravation of the taxes. An understanding as to the limitation of naval armaments is therefore regarded by us as extremely desirable.

We are far from wishing to enquire here who is to blame for these harmful armaments. The fact suffices, that they exist; and that they are growing, in England as in Germany. That is a reproach to our common civilisation; it is a squandering of so much wealth, of so many talents and so much mental energy, and can serve no other purpose than to increase the risk of occasioning hostilities. Never has so much energy been expended on the accumulation of war material and weapons, yet there never has been less cause for dissension. Why should our two countries be alienated from each other? Is not your heritage of civilisation ours also? Are not your great men and teachers also ours? Are not your highest objects and ideals shared by us? In noble and peaceful efforts there may be full and unrestricted competition; but never had two peoples less cause of quarrel nor more reason for unanimity.

The result of the immoderate expenditure on warlike preparations can only be that the burden of taxation will increase, and that other great Powers will be tempted to set us at loggerheads, though by nature we are the best friends in Europe.

We have repeatedly shown our countrymen that it is their highest and most urgent duty to resist the fatal conception that two highly intelligent nations endowed with full power to dispose of their own destinies must sooner or later become enemies; and we have emphatically demonstrated that it is their duty to combat the present war propaganda with a no less earnest propaganda of peace. This we will zealously do in our country, and we are confident that you will act in the same spirit in yours.

Any suggestion from you concerning joint action will be welcomed by us, and we beg you to feel assured, as a matter of course, of our full sympathy and constant co-operation with you in all that you may undertake for this noble purpose, so dear to both our Committees.

(signed): Avebury (President). Argyll, Lonsdale, Edw. Southwark, Brassey, Kinnaird, Stanihoor, John H. Kennaway, Herbert E. Maxwell (Vice Presidents). T. P. Newman (Chairman). Francis M. Fox (Hon. Secretary).

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