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# The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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## THE FAR EAST.

### JAPAN'S "INTOLERABLE PUGNACITY."

Mr. Werner P. Lawson, an American business man formerly of Yokohama and now residing in San Francisco, is now touring Europe with his family, and intends returning home via the Trans-Siberian Railway. Mr. Lawson was good enough while in Dresden to give a *Daily Record* representative his views on the latest war cloud which arose in the Far East in connection with the Antung-Mukden Railway dispute.

"I first came into social and commercial relations with the Japanese towards the late 'seventies," he said, "and at that time they were certainly the most charming, ingenuous, and inherently courteous people it had been my good fortune to meet. I made numerous friends in Yokohama, Tokio, and other Japanese centres, and I still retain a lively remembrance of the late Mr. Lafcadio Hearn and his delightful wife. In regard to the Japanese themselves, I very soon discovered that the native merchant was something of a dual personality, — a regular Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. When transacting business with him you had to keep every faculty wide awake, and I never had dealings with a people who were so keen after profits. To my cost I at first relied on verbal promises in connection with contracts and agreements, but it was not many months before I found out that rudimentary honesty was subordinated to business instinct by the commercial sons of Nippon. Out of business hours, however, my Japanese friends were unexceptionable. Their hospitality was dispensed on a most generous scale, and they are thoroughly imbued with the ancient Oriental traditions of lavish entertainment. Between 1880 and the close of the century I made frequent trips to Japan, and was thus in a good position to judge of the many astonishing changes produced in the national character of a people who were sailing along on the crest of a wave of prosperity.

"Long before the Chino-Japanese war broke out it had been predicted by European residents in that part of the world. In the early 'nineties the Japanese army was in the throes of a sweeping reorganisation, and within two years it had been transformed from an indifferent force into a magnificently disciplined, well equipped, and efficient fighting machine. The great Yellow Colossus across the narrow straits had been despised for centuries by the sturdy and warlike Japanese—still clinging to their ancient Samurai traditions—and the events that led up to the campaign in 1894 served as a flimsy excuse for Japan to hurl her new army at China's throat. The Koreans disliked the Chinese, but they feared and hated the Japanese, and that war was the beginning of the end of Corea as an independent Empire. Since then she has been more or less completely under the heel of Japan, whose soldiers today have killed untold thousands of the peaceful Korean inhabitants and ravaged their farms. When Port Arthur and Wei-hai-wei had fallen, and conditions of peace had been imposed from Tokio, the work of strengthening the naval and military forces of the Japanese Empire proceeded apace. Once again there was a distinct object in view,—viz. the overthrow of Muscovite power in Manchuria and the substitution of Japanese for Russian influence in the Far East. Europe was naturally amazed at the marvellous military achievements of the Japanese leaders during the great struggle, but this surprise was not shared by the many European residents who had seen the heroic efforts made by the Government to bring its naval and military forces up to a high standard of capability. I have

no hesitation in saying that the result of that conflict has been disastrous to European interests in the Far East.

"The fact of the matter is that since the peace treaty of Portsmouth Japan has consistently shaped a policy whose ultimate aim is the commercial exclusion of the European trader from the Chinese and Far Eastern market generally. The 'open door' is scoffed at in Tokio as an empty phrase fabricated by the astute European, who has neither the will nor the power to back up his protests. 'If any interfering European or American Power meddles with our rights beyond a certain point, we shall serve it as we served Russia,' say the confident Japanese in effect. They consider that the enormous sacrifices of blood and treasure poured out on the Manchurian battlefields and in the Straits of Tsushima more than justify their claim to undisputed supremacy, commercial and political. I am convinced that the general situation, critical as it is at the moment, will become more acute year by year, and that finally some nation must represent the white races generally in a passage of arms with the Japs, unless we are ready to witness the establishment of a Tokio hegemony from Port Arthur to Mukden. The position is fully recognised in the United States, where more thought and care are being expended on Far Eastern affairs than any other contemporary problem. I should be among the first to deplore a sanguinary outbreak in that part of the world, be the combatants who they may, but it is impossible to ignore the probability that the intolerable pugnacity of modern Japan will sooner or later bring her into violent contact with one or other of the great nations of the Occident."

### AN OFFICIAL CHINESE STATEMENT.

London, August 14.

An official communication by the Chinese Government regarding the Antung-Mukden railway dispute has been issued to Reuter's Agency. It lays stress on the fact that considerations for her own security impelled China to raise the question of sentries along the railway line. If the railway is capable of serving as a useful commercial thoroughfare, it is evident that in its reconstructed state it will answer military requirements no less than formerly. By its aid troops could be transported and distributed over the whole of Southern Manchuria. In consequence of this circumstance it must not be accepted that China, by her sanction as to the extension of the gauge, has expressed her willingness that foreign railway cars be stationed along the line or has abandoned her right to guard the track with her own police troops.

### NEW YORK YACHTS MISSING.

New York, August 12.

Much anxiety is felt as to the safety of four of the yachts which started in the New York Yacht Club's cruise from Newport to Bar Harbour. The Fleet was caught in a gale, and widely scattered, the arrival of units being reported from six different ports. A number of the vessels are badly damaged as a result of the rough weather they experienced. News of the four yachts, which are still missing, is anxiously awaited here.

## BRITISH IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

### LORD BERESFORD'S ALLEGATIONS REFUTED.

London, August 13.

The report of the Sub-Committee of the Imperial Defence Committee which was appointed in the Spring to enquire into certain questions of naval policy mooted by Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, has been published. The report states that Lord Charles Beresford complained of the ships in home waters being so dispersed that in case of an unforeseen attack they might be overpowered; and that the Channel Fleet was never of sufficient strength to cope with any opponent. The Admiralty replied that the fleets of neighbouring countries were similarly dispersed, and that the strength of the Channel Fleet was always superior to that of the strongest fleet of any other nation. The Sub-Committee considers the contention of Lord Charles Beresford, that the Home Fleet could not be regarded as a fighting fleet ready for immediate service, to have been disproved; and believes that the proposals of Lord Charles Beresford as to the homogeneity of the fleets had been appropriately met by the dislocation in March last. The First Lord of the Admiralty had informed the Sub-Committee of the steps that had been recently taken to create a Naval General Staff. The conclusion of the Sub-Committee is that, owing to the measures adopted by the Admiralty, the country is in no danger and may look for the best results from the Naval General Staff.

Reuter learns that the Imperial Defence Conference has agreed to the suggestions of the Imperial Government. These are: the utmost possible uniformity in the organisation and training of the troops at home and in the Colonies; the possibility of interchanging the troops of different parts of the Empire; the interchanging of officers trained at the head-quarters of the various British possessions under the control of an Imperial General Staff. The result would be, that the local troops in the different parts of the Empire would form one great Imperial army, and that the possibility of untrained troops from any distant district having to act with those trained on European principles would be obviated.

The Secretary of State for War, Mr. Haldane, said yesterday, in a speech delivered at Bradford, that the plans for the unification of the forces of the Empire agreed to by the Imperial Defence Conference would soon be realised. He hoped that the establishment of such a uniform organisation would divert attention from such questions as the invasion of the British islands, and that, when the talk about such questions ceased, the limitation of armaments would become a practical possibility.

### KING EDWARD AT MARIENBAD.

A Marienbad telegram states that King Edward made his first appearance in the Kreuzbrunnen promenade at 8.25 on Thursday morning in bright sunshine, and appeared in excellent spirits. His Majesty was attended by Capt. Fortescue, the Hon. Sidney Greville, and Col. Ponsonby. The party left the Hotel Weimar, and went in order to avoid the crowds, which had already gathered, by a circuitous route to the promenade, where they stayed a few minutes only, in view of the excitement of the visitors, who crowded round to see the King. Taking refuge in a reserved walk in the gardens, His Majesty sat down and took the second glass of Kreuzbrunnen waters. His Majesty always takes the first glass at the hotel. The King then strolled to the Kaiser Strasse, the carriage in which His Majesty returns to the hotel following.