

The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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A QUESTION OF NERVES.

(FROM AN ENGLISH CORRESPONDENT.)

So, despite its somewhat streaky composition and the good-natured patronage with which it was received, the Australian cricket team of 1909 has done just as well as its predecessors and will return home with the legendary "ashes." In the face of their decided superiority to England in ability to play Test Matches, the philosophic sportsman can do no more than shrug his shoulders in resignation.

Australia had most of the luck; they would probably readily admit it. Maclaren, Fry, Warner & Co., doubtless made extraordinary blunders of commission and omission in the selection of the teams, especially in their persistent refusal to play fast bowlers of the first-class, although the Australians so obviously relied on that section of their bowling department. These things, although they contributed to the disaster, do not wholly explain it. The real cause strikes much deeper. Nothing can disguise the fact that our leading players, some of them the most experienced, were afflicted with "nerves," amounting, in some cases, almost to panic. However extraordinary the phenomenon may appear, we have to admit it, and not for the first time. We were lacking in "grit" and in that whole-hearted determination to win, in which Australia appears to excel. We had the impression that this was an English quality, too, but our confidence is beginning to totter a little. We could put into the field half-a-dozen teams each as good as Australia's, but as soon as they leave the pavilion their pluck seems to mysteriously evaporate.

Maclaren and Fry are conspicuous examples of this, although there was a time when Maclaren, with his back to the wall, was the grimest stayer in England, and was considered particularly able to "rise to the occasion." Fry is notorious. If the slightest shadow of responsibility falls upon him he seems to lose every spark of ability that he possesses. He is consistent in this respect, because he has been known to "give away" a football tie in the same lamentable fashion. Great batsman and fine athlete that he undoubtedly is, he lacks that faculty of supreme self-control in a crisis, so essential in test matches. This determination on the part of our men—for we suppose it can be nothing else; the occurrence is by no means new to us—has shown itself particularly in their inability to "stop a rot." As soon as one man loses his head and throws his wicket away, a sort of spell seems to creep over the rest and they tamely follow his miserable example.

The ability to play a losing game well counts more in real cricket than the ability to play a winning one. Australia are never so magnificent as when the game is going against them. They never know when they are beaten. They are "game" to the last moment. The very attitude of the fielders, the tenseness of their attitudes, the keen, almost savage, attention with which they follow every movement, is sufficient in itself to alarm a vacillating batsman. On paper our side was the better, but on the playing patch Australia were the stronger fighters.

That is all that can be said about it. The only satisfaction we can derive from the melancholy result is that they are our kinsmen.

IMPORTANT TO AMERICANS RESIDENT ABROAD.

New regulations of importance to American visitors to Europe have been issued by the United States Treasury. Americans who have resided abroad continuously for one year with a fixed abode have hitherto been classified as non-residents, and have been allowed to bring home free from duty all household and personal effects "suitable to their station in life." On and after September 1 this privilege will be conceded only to Americans who have resided continuously abroad for two years, irrespective of a fixed abode. The reason for the change is the discovery that many Americans, intending to travel about the Continent for a year, have evaded the Customs regulations by renting a room or apartment in some city for that period, using it as a storehouse for their purchases, and on their return showing a receipted bill for rent as evidence of their having had a fixed abode. The reform is characteristic of the purpose of the Treasury Department rigidly to enforce the new tariff.

HARSH TREATMENT OF IMMIGRANTS AT NEW YORK.

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)

New York, August 7.

The result of the introduction of exceptionally harsh measures against immigrants entering this port since the appointment of Mr. Williams as Commissioner of Immigration is reflected vividly in the reports just issued as to the number of deported immigrants during July. In a recent despatch (published in the Daily Record of August 13) I explained these measures at length. It appears from the report that 50,000 persons were received at the Ellis Island immigration station during the past month. Of these no fewer than 1,933 men and women were summarily refused admittance as undesirable immigrants and sent back to the ports of departure. This is by far the highest number of deportations in a month in the annals of American immigration. The previous greatest number was 1,800, who were sent back during May, 1906, but in that month the stream of immigration was more than twice as great as last month.

A BRITISH MINISTER TO ATTEND THE GERMAN MANOEUVRES.

London, August 17.

The German Emperor has invited Mr. Winston Churchill, the President of the Board of Trade, to attend the Imperial German manoeuvres.

SOUTH AFRICAN UNION.

London, August 16.

The South African Union Bill was read for the second time today in the House of Commons.

EUROPEANS MURDERED IN INDIA.

Calcutta, August 16.

A sub-inspector of police, an English constable, and a native official have been murdered by peasants in the vicinity of Hardoi, Province of Oude, while conducting an investigation. Another constable was severely wounded.

THE CONQUEST OF THE AIR.

BRITISH AEROPLANE SUCCESS.

Mr. Cody made an excellent flight last Friday evening with his aeroplane at Aldershot. During the day (says the Times account) he added a second passenger's seat to his chassis, but he did not use this. Starting again from the western end of Laffan's Plain, he lifted his machine immediately to a height of 8ft. or 10ft. from the turf, and flew steadily down the full length of the Plain. Increasing his altitude he turned and journeyed back to his starting point, whence, without touching ground, he described a figure eight in mid-air, covering the full length of the Plain twice while so doing. Turning again he made his way over the trees which separate Laffan's Plain from Farnborough Common, and after crossing the latter tract of land, he alighted ultimately in front of the military balloon shed at Farnborough. There he was received with cheers and was helped by members of the staff to turn his aeroplane for the home journey. This was accomplished in perfect safety.

When Mr. Cody alighted from his machine he was immediately surrounded by hundreds of Territorial Engineers, whose camp overlooks Laffan's Plain, and cheered again and again. He would not have stopped, he said, but that his bearings were overheated, and he feared to damage his new engine. He calculated that the distance covered without touching ground in the second flight was four miles, at the rate of about 40 miles an hour.

Mr. Willard, a pupil of Mr. Curtiss, on Friday (says the Times correspondent at New York) surpassed Mr. Orville Wright's ten-mile cross-country flight at Fort Myer. He flew 12 miles in 19 minutes in an aeroplane, the Golden Flyer, which belongs to the Aeronautical Society.

The Daily Mail offers a prize of £1,000 to the aviator covering in a heavier-than-air machine the greatest total distance across country, either in England or in France, officially recorded by either the French or English Aero Club, in the twelve months dating from the morning of August 15, 1909, to the evening of August 14, 1910.

MISHAP TO AN AMERICAN AVIATOR.

Rheims, August 16.

Mr. Curtiss, of the American Aero Club, who is taking part in the Rheims aviation week, ascended for the third time today in his aeroplane. The motor failed to work and the apparatus crashed to earth, sustaining severe damage. The aviator himself escaped unhurt.

RECORD BALLOON TRIP.

A message from St. Gallen states that Colonel Schaeck, the winner of the first prize in last year's Gordon Bennett race, has crossed the Saentis for the first time in his balloon "Helvetia."

INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONGRESS.

Stockholm, August 16.

The Swedish Committee of Organisation for the World's Peace Congress at Stockholm has decided to postpone the Congress for a year or two.

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