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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 1,097.

DRESDEN, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1909.

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THE NEW YORK CUSTOMS.

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT)
New York, September 6.

The greatly increased revenue resulting from the activity of customs officials is causing a rapid diminution of the United States Treasury deficit. The increasing profits of the Custom House, however, are in no way attributable to the new Tariff Law, but wholly and solely to the sudden access of zeal visible on the part of customs officials. Mr. William Loeb, junior, formerly Mr. Roosevelt's private secretary, upon his appointment as Harbour Collector lost no time in announcing that under his régime smuggling would become impossible, and that the regulations relating to the searching of suspected people would be guided by no respect of persons. He reckoned that every year immense sums were lost to the Treasury owing to the free entry of dutiable articles brought back from Europe by returning American tourists. Formerly many returning tourists, people of social or political influence, escaped a searching examination by a word in the right quarter, and were permitted to leave the pier after a perfunctory investigation; and unless there was definite cause for suspicion, the bare word of returning travellers that they had nothing dutiable was accepted by the officials. But Mr. Loeb and his myrmidons have changed all that. With the eyes of an Argus every passenger landing at New York is closely scrutinised; their trunks and most cherished belongings are subjected to a minute search, and every dutiable article which had not been declared is confiscated without mercy. Nothing escapes the collector. Every official has received detailed instructions from headquarters to do his duty without fear or favour, and the work of the subordinates is in turn supervised by higher officers. This sharp procedure has already inflicted much suffering on leading members of American society, who, unaware of the new stringency, neglected to fill out their declarations in a manner satisfactory to the Customs. The watchfulness of the officials does not cease even when baggage has been thoroughly examined and passed with the release stamp. Frequently passengers are handed over for personal search when their traps have already left the pier, and anything discovered in the pockets of a dutiable nature is confiscated.

This tyrannical behaviour of the officials is ascribed to the following announcement made by Mr. Loeb: "We shall not hesitate to strip a passenger to the skin if we consider it necessary for the maintenance of the Customs regulations. The Government has the right to search every person arriving here if they arouse our suspicion." A well-known leader of New York society had to undergo the humiliation of a personal search last week, because several articles of jewellery had been found in his hand-bag. Many wealthy ladies now arrive clothed in costly furs, despite the intense heat. They were told in France, where the goods were purchased, that the furs would be allowed into America duty-free providing they were worn at disembarkation. But, alas! for shattered hopes. The Customs pounce upon the furs and charge double duty for every piece not declared. Quite recently a judge of the Supreme Court landed here on his return from Europe, but even his position did not deter a Customs officer from opening and examining his private suitcase. Mr. Loeb states that within three weeks there have been no fewer than 250 cases where passengers endeavoured to smuggle in dutiable articles. One man was found to have the lining of his coat stuffed with fourteen small boxes, which contained jewellery and meerschaum pipes. Mr. Loeb's energy has no limits. He has just made an order that members of the bands on German liners arriving at Hoboken must no longer go ashore to delight the people with their music. That is to say, the men themselves may go ashore, but they must leave their instruments behind. This order, which deprives the Jerseyites of many a musical treat, is based on the fact that more than once the capacious wind instruments have been found to contain dutiable articles. All the above happenings are occupying the close attention of the local press, which unanimously condemns in strongest language the arbitrary exercise of his powers by Mr. Loeb. The New York Custom House regulations, it is declared, would be considered tyrannical even in Russia. And this is the land of the free!

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NEWS OF THE WORLD.

According to a correspondent of the *Gil Blas*, who is stated to be in a position to be well informed, the British Minister at Athens offered King George of Greece, on the occasion of the recent mutiny of Greek officers, refuge for himself and the Royal Family with the British squadron, which lay at anchor, seven battleships in number, in Phaleron Bay. The British Minister states, the correspondent added, that he would have men landed from the squadron to restore order. The King refused the double proposal, saying he would rather abdicate than keep the throne by force of foreign arms.

Over 200 pilgrims left London on Tuesday for Lourdes. They travelled by the 10 a.m. train from Charing-cross, special carriages being reserved for them, and were to reach Lourdes the following evening. Nearly every part of the United Kingdom was represented in the pilgrimage; while one or two colonials were also in the party. The leader of the pilgrimage was Dr. Brindle, Roman Catholic Bishop of Nottingham.

The *Paris Journal's* correspondent at Tangier says: "The capture of the Pretender is said to be a pure myth, and merely a farce got up by Muley Hafid with the help of El Bagdadi, for the benefit of his subjects. The man who was put into a cage for the rest of his natural life is stated not to have been identified as the Pretender. Persons who have arrived at Tangier from Fez even assert that Muley Hafid is conniving with the Pretender, who has advanced him considerable sums of money."

An official statement issued this week shows that during the year ended June 30, 1909, the gross earning of the railways of the United States amounted to 2,437,385,841 dollars. The net income shows an increase of 90,718,317 dollars, as compared with the previous twelve months.

The havoc in Spain wrought by the great storms of last week is only just commencing to be appreciated. In Valencia more than ten million kilogrammes of rice have been destroyed. The fruit crops are practically ruined, and many villages are plunged into the most acute distress. At Seo de Urgel the crops have been wholly destroyed, and the Government is being asked for assistance. At Somorostro the rising waters suddenly invaded the Town Hall, where a sitting of the Municipal Council was in progress, the result being that the alarmed Councillors had to beat a hasty retreat in a boat.

According to advices received at Odessa, via Tiflis, the plight of the Russian soldiers remaining in Tabriz is a deplorable one. Their uniforms are reduced to rags. Some are walking about clad in make-shift Persian garments. The home administration, as during the war with Japan, is again at fault, and is bitterly condemned by the officers, who have made urgent representations by telegraph.

A New York cablegram to the *Globe* says it has been definitely decided that Judge Gaynor shall be the Tammany candidate for Mayor of New York at the local elections which take place in November. The Fusionists, or Republican and Democratic Reformers, have not yet found a man of the right calibre willing to accept their nominations. All the indications point to the success of Tammany, whose organisation is even more perfect than ever. Judge Gaynor is admittedly a strong candidate for various reasons, chief among which is that he will unite the sometimes rival democracies of New York and Brooklyn. Months ago it was stated that the Judge had started on a campaign of denunciation of Police Commissioner Bingham, and it was stated that that action was the opening move in the game. This is now beyond doubt. Judge Gaynor's attack upon the Commissioner was unexpectedly successful, as it resulted in the dismissal of that able and fearless administrator. It is not improbable that Gen. Bingham may be nominated by the Reformers for Mayor, but he has little hope of success, for he has antagonised every so-called "interest" in New York in his efforts to secure honest administration and a non-political police force. Had he remained in office he might have succeeded to some extent, and certainly he would have made Tammany's task in this year's elections infinitely harder.

A serious state of affairs prevails at Calcutta, according to a cable received yesterday, where an old feud between drivers of the street-cars and students became acute on Wednesday evening. Several students attacked one of the drivers, dragged him from the car, and stabbed him to death. The city is in a state of excitement and police patrol the streets.

Another cablegram, to hand yesterday afternoon, reported a serious outrage on an Indian mail train. Fifty-seven miles from Calcutta a bomb was thrown at the train, which was crowded with passengers, and the roof of the mail van was torn off by the explosion. No one was killed or injured.

Lord Tweedmouth, whose grave condition we mentioned in our last issue, died on Wednesday night at Dublin, Ireland.

An automobile accident at Sheffield on Wednesday resulted in the death of two children and serious injuries to five others.

From Marseilles comes news of an extraordinary affair which is just now filling columns in the French press. On Tuesday a splendid tigress, while being embarked at the port, managed to escape from its cage, and apparently is still enjoying its liberty. The beast escaped at four o'clock in the morning, and made its way to the pilot-house situated at the foot of the light-house, where one of the four occupants was on watch. The man, misled by the half light of early morning, took the beast for a large dog, and approached with the intention of driving it away. Instantly his face was laid open by a blow from the tigress's claws. The other men rushed to their comrade's assistance, and the animal prepared to spring; but presumably it was somewhat awed by the strangeness of its surroundings, for it eventually turned tail and fled away in long leaps. Plunging without hesitation into the sea, the beast swam across the roads and clambered up on to the mole, where it still remains. All thoroughfares leading to the town have been closed, and are watched by men with rifles. Soldiers and gendarmes with weapons ready are on guard in boats, waiting till the animal leaves its refuge. Up to now the watch has been in vain, and the owner of the tigress thinks it can subsist for two or three days more before coming out into the open for food. An old animal trainer has volunteered to recover the beast, and armed only with a knife he is searching the mole to discover its hiding place.

From a Prague source we learn that 13 grammes of from five to ten per cent. radium chloride will shortly be sent by the Government mining department at Joachimsthal to Vienna. This, the largest quantity of that substance hitherto obtained, is valued by hundreds of thousands of kronen, and will be devoted exclusively to scientific purposes.

(Continued on page 2)