

The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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THE HUDSON CELEBRATION.

Of international importance are the great Hudson-Fulton celebrations which will take place at New York towards the end of this month, and continue for a week. All the Great Powers, and many of the lesser States will be represented by warships and diplomatists. Arrangements for the fêtes, as will be seen from the appended letter from our New York correspondent, are being carried out on a scale distinctly American as regards comprehensiveness. If Methuselah were still alive; if he had visited New York at its inception, when it was known as New Amsterdam, and revisited it today, even his ripe experience of the transience of human development would not suffice to restrain his astonishment. Three centuries, without doubt, are a long period, but the growth of New York within that time has been wholly disproportionate. The tiny settlement of the Dutch pioneers has expanded into one of the great capitals of the world, the hub (with all due deference to Boston) of American social, commercial, and artistic life; ships of all nations enter its harbour in enormous numbers, and from it lines of communication branch out into every quarter of the world. Its population certainly includes more wealthy inhabitants than any other known community. Modern progress is nowhere so marked in every phase of life. With extraordinary swiftness its tentacles reach out across the North River, across the East River, and far into the interior of New York and New Jersey States, so that today greater New York ranks in size and importance second only to London. Truly the citizen of Gotham can exclaim in the fulness of his heart: "Of no mean city am I!"

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)

New York, September 11.

New York is now fully prepared for the Hudson-Fulton Tercentenary Fêtes and it may well be questioned whether any city has ever before made such preparations as are here in evidence. New York has to provide for the requirements, not only of its own great population, but of thousands upon thousands of strangers. The city, the harbour, and the majestic Hudson river will be the scene and framework of the displays. Every evening of the festival week there will be illuminations such as the utmost effort of the imagination fails to realise. The city and its immediate surroundings will be bathed in a sea of the most brilliant light. The fairylike effects familiar to that enchanted and enchanting spot, Coney Island, will be, temporarily at least, eclipsed. All the suspension bridges over the broad waters of the East River and the highest buildings of the city between them and the North River will be pillars and chains and festoons of dazzling splendour. Aeronautic displays are looked forward to with keen interest. Ascents will be made where they can be seen from the bridges, the river banks, and many parts of the city, viz. from Governor's Island. There are to be aeroplane flights over the "sky-scrapers," and aeroplane and balloon races to Albany. It will be odd if some of the fliers are not tempted by the artificial light to give exhibitions of their powers by night as well as by day.

But what of the parades and processions? The parade of the United States army and contingents of foreign troops, the naval review on the Hudson, numerically and internationally the greatest ever seen in American waters; the Carneval procession with triumphal cars, organised by the foreign colonies; the parade of 400,000 children of the city schools; all these will be indescribably imposing—weather permitting. Then the feasting! To speak of one entertainment alone: there is to be a grand Citizens' Banquet at the Waldorf Astoria, the greatest festivity of the kind that has ever taken place under an American roof. The guests will number several thousands, and the already huge banqueting

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hall of the hotel has been enlarged by the erection of an annex. The hall will be adorned with Dutch scenes and pictures showing, actually and symbolically, the grand development of New York city from its earliest days.

NEWS OF THE WORLD.

In the House of Commons on Monday, the 30th day of the Finance Bill debate, the clause providing for an increase of the income tax to one shilling and twopence in the pound was passed unanimously, Mr. Balfour expressing his regret that the increase had proved necessary, but admitting that it was so, seeing that the Government could not be induced to broaden the basis of taxation and to find other less oppressive sources of revenue. The Chancellor of the Exchequer consented to an abatement of the tax on income derived from landed property, in consideration of the greatly enhanced cost of improvements and repairs; and said he estimated for a loss of £500,000 by that abatement. The Liberals think that the concession of the abatement will make the passing of the Bill by the House of Lords more probable.

President Taft, speaking on Monday at Des Moines, Iowa, said the Legislature should empower the Inter-State Traffic Commission, not only to fix railway rates, but to revise unfair classifications of freight. The Commission should be authorised to revise regulations subjecting consignors to unjust charges, and to compel lines working in connection to arrange through routes and fix rates for through freight. The President further recommended the repeal of the paragraph of the Anti-Trust law prohibiting tariff agreements between railroad companies; such agreements should, however, be subject to approval by the Commission. Mr. Taft then announced that he would advocate the establishment of an inter-State Traffic Court for the hearing of appeals against rates fixed by the Commission; and concluded by proposing that the Legislature should make it illegal for one inter-State railway company to own the shares of a competing line, and should compel companies now holding such shares to sell them within a given period of time. In future shares and debentures should only be issued with the permission of the Inter-State Traffic Commission.

Latest advices from the United States show that, in some parts of the country at least, determined efforts are in progress to remodel the law in ac-

cordance with modern requirements. Under the régime of Governor Hughes, the State of New York, which until quite recently was regarded as the stronghold of the grafter, the law-dodger, and similar "undesirable citizens," bids fair to become one of the most law-abiding States of the Union.

Writing under date of September 10, our New York correspondent says: "The New York State Legislature in the last session approved and accepted a whole series of amendments and new paragraphs to the Criminal Laws, many of which are characterised by extreme rigour. Special attention has been paid to criminal practices which of late have been more than usually conspicuous. Among these malpractices is included the abduction of children and other persons from wealthy circles, for the purpose of abstracting blackmail in huge sums. Cinematograph and microscope shows are also badly hit by the new laws. For some years past these places of entertainment have been exercising a most detrimental influence on the morality of the young, and consequently new laws to meet the danger have become urgent. These shows have sprung up all over the State like mushrooms. Another very common practice nowadays is that of 'joy-riding,' to which many chauffeurs are addicted. Without knowledge or sanction of their employers they take the cars from the garage and invite male and female friends to accompany them and witness their efficiency in automobiling. As the time is limited, it follows that these 'joy-rides' are made at high speed, with corresponding danger to the public. Very frequently huge, high-powered cars are to be seen dashing along crowded thoroughfares at a rate which renders accidents almost inevitable. The drivers seem to be afflicted with speed mania, and it has been found necessary to invest the arm of the law with additional power to cope with these disturbers of the peace.

"The most drastic amendments have now come into force. One of them increases the penalty for abduction from 25 to 50 years' imprisonment. The maximum penalty for blackmail is increased to 15 years' imprisonment, and the minimum to five years. The use of automobiles without the sanction of the owners is placed in the same category as larceny. Three of the new amendments concern the stage. The first prohibits children under 16 years of age from visiting living-picture shows unless accompanied by elders. The second strictly forbids performances of any kind which verge on the immoral; while the third declares the publication of improper pictures or periodicals to be a criminal offence. Quite naturally, interested parties severely criticise the new measures, but they meet with whole-hearted approval from the majority of the people in this State."

A despatch from San Francisco throws new light on the comparatively insignificant knowledge of the planet Mars which modern science has been able to gain. The observations which a party of astronomers recently took on the summit of Mount Whitney show that there is no water vapour in any appreciable quantity in the atmosphere of Mars. This is contrary to the findings of Professor Percival Lowell, at Flagstaff, Arizona, who announced two years ago the discovery of large quantities of water vapour on Mars. Professor Campbell, director of the Lick Observatory, says the spectra of both Mars and the moon were photographed at the same altitude above the horizon and under similar conditions of the earth's atmosphere. The vapour bands in the Martian spectra were found no stronger than those in the lunar, and hence Professor Campbell concludes that the quantity of water vapour is as small in Mars as in the moon. Whether life can exist on the planet under these conditions he leaves biologists to decide. Professor Campbell declares that Professor Lowell and the European astronomers who have reported the existence of water vapour have been misled by that in the earth's atmosphere, since they took observations from the sea level or points near it.

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