

# The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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## ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

In another column we print some American press comments on the speech recently delivered by Lord Charles Beresford at New York before the Lawyers' Club. The gallant Admiral, it appears, more or less openly advocated an alliance between Great Britain and the United States as a guarantee of peace. The introduction of such a proposal is evidence enough of Lord Beresford's total misapprehension of American public opinion. Like many of his countrymen, he appears to labour under a delusion that, simply because English is the language of America, and because more than a century and a quarter ago England held Colonies in what is now the American Union, the people of the United States retain nothing but the warmest feelings for England who is regarded as the "Mother Country." A delusion such as this is worse than absurd—it is mischievous. Every one knows that for the past fifty years the best political and social relations have prevailed between the two great English-speaking nations. But this fact does not signify a desire on America's part to enter into a defined agreement with England regarding future military operations. Anything of the sort is anathema to the majority of the American people who, in spite of the spirit of progress which animates their commercial and industrial life, are strangely Conservative on all questions relating to foreign politics.

It is doubtful whether there is any country of the globe where foreign affairs receive such superficial attention. It is more than the average American can do to digest his daily meal of highly concentrated mental pabulum culled from the four corners of his gigantic Continent. With one or two exceptions, most American papers publish seventy or eighty columns of sporting, parochial-political, national-political, and social news to one dealing with foreign affairs. It is simply because the controlling minds of the press have come to realise that there is little popular demand for details of political activity abroad. The reader of an average New York paper will peruse with interest a highly embellished account of Mrs. Pluto Dollarbag's Venetian cottillon at Newport, while he will pass without reading an authoritative survey of latest developments in the Balkan question.

It is, on second thoughts, perhaps hardly fair to call this ignorance and apathy in regard to happenings in the outside world a present American characteristic. It was true generally a few years ago, and it still applies in many cases today. But the increased travelling habit is gradually creating a broader outlook among the American people, who are coming to realise that in spite of the Monroe Doctrine—that climax of provincial statesmanship—and in spite of their determined efforts to live in a purely American atmosphere, they cannot indefinitely avoid a due share of world responsibility, the white man's burden, which taxes a nation proportionately to its commercial and Imperial development. Conditions have changed radically in the last twelve years. The Hispano-American war served the hawser which moored the American ship of state to the parish pump, and since then it has floated out into troubled waters which require skilful navigation. Undoubtedly there are plenty of men capable of undertaking the difficult task. John Hay was not the only American statesman worthy of the name, but he was one of the first to gaze over the sky-line of Manhattan Island towards the distant horizon. But there is abundant evidence that the change is taking place very slowly. Even today a favourite American catch-word is Washington's condemnation of "entangling alliances."

At the same time we see no reason to disagree with the verdict uttered by the New York press à-propos of Lord Beresford's suggestion. Let us remember that, although English is the language of the United States, its citizens descend from half the races of the world, and that no great proportion of them owes allegiance to Great Britain. Numerically the inhabitants of British extraction are hopelessly outnumbered by those of German descent, who in turn run a close race with the Irish element. Official support of British policy might well precipitate a great upheaval, and Washington is far too level-headed to risk such a catastrophe, even if there were solid benefits to be realised. "Work for your own hand" is a sound national,

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as well as an individual motto. Sentiment has ceased to largely influence national policy, and we may be thankful that it is so. While the disastrous effects of an Anglo-German clash would certainly affect the United States, in the long run that country would stand to lose heavily if she backed one or other of the belligerents without urgent cause. Admiral Beresford's tour in the States has thus far only proved what must be accepted as a truism, that the cobbler should stick to his last, or—to put it in plain English—the soldier should not don the statesman's cloak if he does not wish to appear ridiculous. In Lord Beresford's case the misfit is strikingly apparent.

## NEWS OF THE WORLD.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday a resolution empowering the Government to take 5% of mining royalties was passed by 127 votes to 52. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said he estimated that the tax would yield £250,000 in the current financial year.

The question asked in the House of Commons by Mr. Summerbell on Tuesday (reported in our Wednesday's number) as to whether the Government was aware that a Transvaal Government Committee had been appointed to visit Westphalia and to find out whether any of the coal miners there were suitable for mining work in South Africa, where there were hundreds of good miners unemployed, seems to have led to a searching of hearts in Johannesburg; whence a telegram dated Wednesday reaches us stating that, with reference to the above question, "it has been ascertained that the Transvaal Government has requested one of its members who is at present in Europe studying the iron and steel industries to extend his studies to the labour conditions prevailing in the Westphalian mines." In Africa, the telegram adds, there is a strong opposition to cheap European labour.

Mr. Balfour met with an enthusiastic reception when he rose to speak to a crowded meeting at Birmingham on Wednesday. Mr. Arthur Chamberlain, who was in the chair, read a letter from his father describing the budget as the last effort of Free Trade to find a substitute for Tariff Reform.

Mr. Balfour said the growth of expenditure and the necessity of increasing the revenue must convince every thinking man that the fiscal system had to be altered. The poor should bear in mind that they cannot rid the world of poverty by ridding it of wealth. Any fool could destroy wealth. The old fiscal machinery must be consigned to the scrap heap. The country had to choose between two programmes, both new, both containing principles different to those that had been practised in the last forty years. They must choose between a forward and upward movement of tariff reform, and the first but not small step on the path that leads to the bottomless depths of socialist legislation. The situation was not and would never again be what it was in the halcyon days of the supremacy of British trade, when the old financial system came into being. Great Britain would no longer be the first, nor even the second among her rivals; indeed in some respects she might be glad to hold the third place. "We

must," concluded the speaker, "pursue a commercial policy, a policy that animates and invigorates business employing British capital and British labour on British ground. That is a policy in the interest of the poor man. It is intolerable that America and Germany should be allowed to forge the weapons wherewith to drive us out of the trade of our own colonies, while we sit with folded arms and entrench ourselves behind an old formula. The verdict of the country will not be long withheld. The only way is that of an appeal to the people to choose between socialism and tariff reform." The speech was enthusiastically cheered.

Messages from New York state that Lord Charles Beresford's plea for the co-operation of the English-speaking nations in the interests of peace attracts much attention without evoking much sympathy. The following comments from leading New York papers on the Admiral's speech at the Lawyers' Club are cabled over to this side:—

The Sun.—"Admitting that only a shallow sophistry attributes to the German policy of naval expansion any other purpose than the humiliation of England, Lord Charles Beresford will pardon us if we intimate that such a quasi-alliance as he proposes is unattainable through the channels of diplomacy or by engaging rhetoric, and that nothing could be less conducive thereto than international discourse. Such a condition, if it were ever to supervene, could come only as the spontaneous expression of national sentiment. National sentiment is antipathetic to rehearsals and thrives best when it is not exposed to overtures. Self-interest on our part will strongly disapprove and oppose any aggression at arms directed against England by Germany."

The New York Times.—"We consider it doubtful whether Americans are in the mood just now to sympathise with Lord Charles Beresford's warlike mood. Great Britain's chief troubles are at home and not abroad, and we are not sure whether so great a navy as England is building up is absolutely necessary to secure her trade."

The Post remarks that an alliance or understanding between England and the United States to maintain the peace of the world would only lead to a counter-alliance of all the other nations, and it regrets to see how today "field-marshal and admirals seize upon our unprecedented facilities for publicity to do their best to bring about a fight."

The Agence Havas reports from Constantinople that the report of England's having agreed to a four per cent. increase in the Ottoman Customs is incorrect. The English Embassy has been instructed to negotiate with the Porte concerning this suggestion, and to communicate the result of its enquiries to the British Cabinet.

MM. Farman, Blériot, Latham, Sanchez, Besa, Emilio Edwards, Dufour, Rougier, and Leblanc and Baron de Caters have entered for the competitions in the first international flying week, to be held in Germany. The contest will begin at Johannistal, outside Berlin, next Sunday. Prizes to the value of 200,000 marks are being offered.

The Vienna newspapers publish a statement from Athens to the effect that King George has now abandoned the idea of abdication which he entertained for some time. This change it is said is due to the conviction acquired by King George that the movement among the officers is not anti-dynastic, and also to the advice of foreign Courts that he should not think of leaving the Throne.

In conversation with Reuter's correspondent at Belgrade on Tuesday, the ex-Crown Prince declared that all rumours of an intention on his part to withdraw his renunciation of his rights to the throne were false. His Royal Highness acknowledged the existence of certain parties who desired him to withdraw his renunciation, but he had no connection with them, nor did he consider this question to be subject to his decision at all. Prince George added that there was no truth in the reports of his having quarrelled with the Crown Prince Alexander. On the contrary, he and his brother were on the most intimate terms. With reference to his plans for the future, Prince George was unable to make any statement, but he would like to undertake a journey round the world. (Continued on page 2.)