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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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A CHINESE PUZZLE.

The sudden recall to Washington of Mr. Crane, the newly-appointed American Minister to China, on the eve of his departure for Pekin naturally created a great sensation in every quarter where Far Eastern interests are not lacking. The actual reason of this recall has not yet been made clear, but a cablegram received by us from Washington yesterday stated that it was due to certain statements made by the Minister to the reporter of a Chicago newspaper. Mr. Crane, on arrival at Washington, was closeted with Mr. Knox, the Secretary of State, and while there is no information as to what transpired during this conversation, it is certain that the Minister succeeded in acquitting himself of any glaring indiscretion, since he reached San Francisco yesterday on his way to China. The truth is that this incident is only one of a long series of indiscretions, more or less serious, committed by eminent men in many countries through the medium of the press. Journalists of late have exhibited a fatal facility in extracting from responsible personages statements which, when published, are a source of grievous embarrassment to their Governments. No personage, however highly placed, is secure from the pressman's importunity, and rarely indeed is the journalist refused a mass of excellent "copy" which creates an uproar when it appears in print. We have lately had a striking case in point, that of General d'Amade, and there are others still more striking which it is charitable to leave undisturbed in the oblivion to which policy and good taste consigned them.

Mr. Crane's indiscretion might have been fruitful in detrimental results for American policy in the Far East, from which so much is anticipated. If half of the stories told of his loquacity are true, then we fear that his official sojourn at Pekin will be of the shortest duration. Diplomacy's greatest art is that of talking much and saying little. Few, indeed, have proved themselves brilliant exponents of this complex art, and for the most part they choose the middle course, talking little and saying correspondingly little. The more exalted the position of any individual, the more breathlessly does the world hang upon every syllable which passes his lips. The golden rule of silence should be the fundamental guiding principle of every statesman worthy of the name. It is true that the press itself is in no small measure responsible for the indiscretions perpetrated by its help. Of late years there has been a growing tendency on the part of public spokesmen to make the newspaper a medium through which the public may become acquainted with their official opinions. We do not consider the press has arrived at that condition of lofty rectitude essential for the proper performances of its new duties. The first business of an editor is to increase the circulation of his paper, and to gain this end he is too often ready to abandon the dictates of wisdom and good taste. If he is of the average moral calibre, it is little to him what the opinions contained in an exclusive interview may be, or what their effect on the public mind may prove, as long as he is able to adorn his columns with startling headlines and to secure a "scoop" over his rivals.

From various accounts it would appear that Mr. Crane has exhibited a remarkable misconception of his new duties. Letters have appeared in the press stating definitely that the new Minister intended to arrive in China with a bodyguard of journalistic benchmen, whom he would instruct as to the matter to be cabled over to the United States. This revelation, if true, has come with remarkable opportunity at a moment when the American press is accusing the Japanese Cabinet of endeavouring to influence American journalists in their dominions. It is not impossible that such is the case, but that is no reason why American diplomatists should descend to the same level. Government by newspaper has become intolerably widespread in the United States, and ac-

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According to the conduct of Mr. Crane, it is likely to be tried in connection with the foreign policy of that country. Any policy based on that principle is bound to fail in the long run. Repeated sensationalism defeats its own object, just as newspapers which are notoriously "inspired" rapidly lose every vestige of real influence over their readers. After the Crane incident American readers are certain to keep a sharp watch on news from the Far East, and if there is the least indication of "cooking," public opinion will inevitably veer round in an exactly opposite direction to that intended. Diplomacy and journalism are never graceful partners, and when one usurps the prerogative of the other ridiculous results are bound to follow.

BRITISH CONSULAR SERVICE.

The decision of the British Foreign Office to appoint a British subject as his Britannic Majesty's Consul in Berlin cannot but meet with the heartiest approval. This decision represents a belated return to what perhaps is the first principle of national policy, and we have reason to believe it only the first step in a thorough reorganisation of the British Consular Service. It is with regret that we have observed in some quarters a tendency to disparage the pending change, and to urge a continuance of the present system. This plea is put forward on purely personal grounds. It is argued that the gentlemen who at present act in the capacity of British Consular representatives in certain German cities have so far carried out their duties with admirable conscientiousness and an impartiality which does credit to their sense of duty. We should be the last to deny these claims, and we are personally aware of the extensive popularity enjoyed by many of these gentlemen among the British communities. But looking at the matter in a broader light, we are unable to find any substantial justification for the anomalous position they occupy. On its own confession, the Foreign Office has hitherto refrained from appointing a salaried Consul to Berlin solely from motives of economy. In other words, the British Government has been willing to run great risks as long as it could effect some paltry savings in the Foreign Budget. Whereas America and Germany—to cite only two instances—give immense sums of money and profound thought to perfecting their Consular Services, Great Britain which has equal, if not greater interests at stake,

has deliberately pursued the most short-sighted and narrow-minded policy conceivable. And then British manufacturers have been loudly complaining of the decline in their German trade!

Dr. von Schwabach, who for a considerable period has represented British interests in Berlin, and who enjoys extraordinary respect from British and Germans alike, recently stated that during his tenure of office no clash has ever taken place between German and British interests in Berlin. Granted this is so, the question must naturally rise: Supposing such a clash had taken place? Human nature at its best is only human nature, and we are casting no imputation when we assert the improbability of a German subject sacrificing the interests of his own country—perhaps the vital interests—to serve an alien Government. Here we are on absolutely solid ground and it is incredible that this simple proposition has been recognised by a Government, usually distinguished for common sense, only at the eleventh hour. But reforms are better late than never, and, as we mention above, there is excellent reason for believing that the British Foreign Office is now considering the initial steps of a sweeping reform in its Consular Service. Such a reform, while harming no one, must prove of immense service to British interests abroad.

NEWS OF THE WORLD.

According to a London telegram, the British Admiralty announces the formation of a new mobilisation department. The officers at the head of the new department and those of the Naval Intelligence department, in co-operation with the Assistant Secretary to the Admiralty, will constitute a permanent Naval Court of Enquiry under the chairmanship of the First Sea Lord.

The American National Geographical Society has decided to request Dr. I. R. Renssen, President of the National Academy of Science, to appoint a commission to investigate the data and observations submitted by Dr. Cook and Commander Peary, with a view to settling the dispute in regard to the discovery of the North Pole.

A revolution has broken out in the Republic of San Domingo, says a cablegram from Cape Haitien. On Monday the insurgents attacked the town of Dajabon, but were reported to have been repulsed by the Government's troops.

The Greek Chamber commenced its session at Athens on Monday, when the Premier, M. Mavromichalis, said that never had a Government assumed power under greater difficulties. The tempest of anarchy had not succeeded in overthrowing everything. "We are fortunate," said the Minister, "in being able to maintain order and to restore the mental tranquillity of the people. The wish expressed from all sides is that we may continue to maintain order with firmness. We are impelled by a burning wish to conciliate our country. I appeal to everybody, parties and individuals alike; I call upon your patriotism for support in needed reforms (applause)." The War Minister subsequently declared that Greece would maintain her army in good condition without threatening anybody.

During the aeroplane contests at Juvisy on Monday, Count Lambert won the prize for distance by flying six rounds in 6min. 14 4-5sec. M. Gobron was awarded the speed prize for covering 2,000 metres in 2min. 12 3-5sec.

At Frankfort o. M. yesterday the prizes in connection with the aviation week were awarded. Baron de Caters and M. Blériot received the first prizes. Baron de Caters won the trophy offered by the city of Frankfort with 40,000 marks, and M. Blériot the second.

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