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The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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1755.

THE FIRST DAILY PAPER IN ENGLISH PUBLISHED IN GERMANY.

No 1,137.

DRESDEN, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1909.

10 PFENNIGS.

The Daily Record is delivered by hand in Dresden, and may be ordered at any Post Office throughout the German Empire. It is published daily, excepting Mondays and days following legal holidays in Dresden.

Monthly Subscription Rates: For Dresden, mark 1.—; for the rest of Germany and Austria, mark 1.20. For other countries, marks 2.50.

THE TERRIBLE DUKES. THEIR VIRTUES AND FAULTS.

A favourite toast in Scottish Labour circles has long been "Damnation to Dukes, coupled with the name of the Duke of Argyll." Jealousy and dislike of leaders may arise from many causes—on, because they do not lead. The title of Duke is taken from Dux—a leader. Examination of the list of twenty-two Imperial, eight Scottish, and two Irish Dukes shows that they may be divided, like Caesar's Gaul, into three parts—good, indifferent, and bad. Among them, if no black sheep are to be found, some of the flock are speckled or grey. Five among them are, perhaps, qualified to lead the inhabitants of the United Kingdom. In the kingdom of the blind the one-eyed reigns. Sixteen of them are average business men, honourable and straightforward. The remaining eleven are remarkable—for nothing. A few of their Graces are enormously rich, but, curiously enough, their sectional unpopularity arises not from the possession of wealth but from the possession of land. For thirty years and more the ownership of great agricultural estates, provided owners acted well towards farmers and labourers, has been unprofitable. Regarded as a business proposition, the ownership of a large tract of rural land has carried with it obligations so severe, and has involved outlay so great, as to reduce the proprietor to the position of an unsalaried manager whose every act is watched in an unfriendly spirit, not merely by Socialists and extreme Radicals, but by a considerable section of the general community. Dukes are naturally expected to behave like industrious archangels with large private means.

There are people in the United States who could buy up half a dozen British Dukes "body, boots, and soul." Mrs. Harriman, for instance, procures three meals a day and the frocks she requires out of the interest—probably not less than four and a half per cent.—on the equivalent in dollars of fifty-two millions sterling. In the British Parliament, as Mr. Lloyd George has reminded us, the richest men sit on the Socialist side of the House, a fact showing that the unpopularity of Dukes is really due to some cause other than the possession of wealth. Nobody now makes a target of men of the type of Mr. W. H. Lever. Poor Dukes, says the Referee, are commoner than rich Dukes, but the poor Dukes have been more successful in rousing public opinion against their order than the rich. There are reasons. The child and the grandchild, and even the collateral relations of the weakest and silliest wearer of strawberry leaves, enjoy precedence, prestige, and advantage over the public outside. The Dukes themselves are taught from earliest youth the obligation of extreme courtesy. The anxious consideration for others displayed by an average Duke is not without pathos. The dear man is consumed with anxiety so to behave that people shall not think him incapable of forgetting that he is a Duke. As a matter of fact, he never does forget that he is a Duke, but he does not think of his title. Distant relations invariably put on more "side" than the head of the House. The chieftain of an ancient ducal house fears his ancestors more than he fears the public. He lives with the dead. In some cases the company of the dead makes duty a habit. It may happen, of course, that what a Duke believes to be his duty may be crime or even a blunder, but the general effect of worthy ancestry is to exert a wholesome influence on character by presenting a standard of conduct below which it were disgraceful to fall. Ancestral rolls, including, perhaps, the illustrious names of martyrs for civil and religious liberty, are a weighty factor in the determination of public conduct.

When on his way to breakfast a man passes daily the portraits of historic people from whom he is directly descended the effect on his mind, if he has a mind, remains all day and every day, whether at work or at play. He may not talk about it, but the influence of pedigree is so strong that it is apt to become pre-

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dominant. For many generations the head of the House of Stanley has stood higher in the estimation of connoisseurs in genealogy than the holder of a modern British dukedom. The present Lord Derby boasts not only ancient lineage but a quick temper and a useful vocabulary. A Radical who questioned his taste in readjusting his subscription list was recently told to mind his own business. The episode was a piece of Socialist Party tactics, but Lord Derby let himself go on the subject of his duty and of his unwillingness to suffer dictation in a way that is rare among Earls and unheard of among Dukes. A Duke suffers silently—if he is wise. Whatever their faults, nobody who knows them doubts that the Duke of Norfolk and the Earl of Derby are men whose daily lives are devoted to duty, and that they are fairly representative of their peers. Men who do their duty are rare, because the highest expression of human effort and sacrifice is to satisfy the claims of duty at all times and under all temptations—especially when people are not looking on. Nelson knew of no stronger word than "Duty" to evoke the devotion of his fleet. Henry Lawrence imagined no more lasting fame than to be remembered as a man who had "tried to do his duty." To do one's duty by dying fighting in hot blood is probably easier than its steady performance under the pin-pricks of prying eyes, unfriendly critics, and a general sense of jealousy. When to these disadvantages are added the absence of all compulsion to work, either from ambition or necessity, a man must be a pretty good sort if he works steadily at the ideal of duty. The public will soon discover that the Dukes are not the fools they are painted, and that the "vacuous hotheads" understand the requirements of their own country and know its history as well as their critics. Perhaps better.

A MARTIAN MYSTERY.

Astronomers in Germany are greatly interested in the claim of Professor Jonkheer to have discovered a new continent on Mars, situated in the Sea of Æonius. The savant has named the continent Taumas, but Professor Archenbold, Director of the Treptow Observatory, expresses grave doubts as to the accuracy of Professor Jonkheer's observations. He inclines to the belief that the dark patch in question is a "sea" hitherto unnoticed.

NEWS OF THE WORLD.

TOKIO, Tuesday.—The body of Prince Ito arrived yesterday evening at Yokosuka, and was met by all the members of the murdered nobleman's family. At the station in Tokio a large number of prominent personages had gathered, including five Princes of the Blood, who accompanied the coffin to Prince Ito's house. Thousands of people lined the streets through which the cortege passed. The funeral takes place on Thursday.

LONDON, Tuesday.—The Municipal Elections took place yesterday, the results, up to midnight, being that the Conservatives and Unionists hold 32 seats, the Liberals 33, the Labour Party 15, the Independents 4, and the Socialists 1. Although the full results are not yet known, it appears certain that there has been rather a diminution in the Liberal vote, which fared badly at the last election. The Socialists, too, have been defeated everywhere, and, as seen from the above figures, only succeeded in retaining one seat.

(LATER.) Other results now to hand make it clear that in the 28 districts of greater London the balance of power has been well maintained, so that the Conservatives still have the large majority they won three years ago.

ST. PETERSBURG, Monday.—It is authoritatively reported that the plan to incorporate the Finnish government of Viborg in the Russian Empire has been temporarily abandoned.

CARDIFF, Tuesday.—Another grave mine disaster took place yesterday at the Tareni pit near Ystalysera, which was suddenly flooded owing to a landslide. 150 of the miners managed to save themselves, but it is feared that many others have lost their lives. Up to the present three bodies have been recovered. There are 74 men still missing. (Later.)—Another body has been taken from the Tareni shaft. One other miner is missing, but all the others have turned up.

ATHENS, Tuesday.—In the Chamber yesterday the Premier announced that, thanks to the admirable attitude of the army and navy, the mutiny had been suppressed within a few hours. An ex-Minister of Marine proposed that a price be set on the heads of the chief fugitives; that pensions be allocated to the relatives of those loyal sailors who were killed in the émeute, and that a medal be awarded to all the officers and men who had a part in suppressing the movement. All the mutineers will be outlawed. Answering an enquiry as to whether the Military League would now be dissolved, Colonel Zorbas stated definitely that the League would continue its patriotic work.—According to latest reports, Lieut. Typaldos, the mutinous officer, with several adherents has secretly returned to the vicinity of Athens, where he is being concealed by friends. The police maintain their search for the fugitives with unremitting zeal.

LISBON, Tuesday.—As the health of King Manuel still leaves something to be desired, his visit to King Alfonso of Spain has been postponed, and will not take place before November 7.

NEW YORK, Tuesday.—Carroll Shilling, the well-known American jockey, is wanted by the police for a murderous attack on Mr. Thomas, a millionaire racehorse owner, who is now lying at the point of death. The assault was the outcome of a dispute between the jockey and his employer in regard to a racing contract. Shilling has fled, and so far there is no trace of him.

SALONIKI, Tuesday.—At the Young Turkish Club yesterday morning a burglary was committed, a large iron safe being forced open and a number of presumably important and secret documents abstracted. The affair has caused a sensation.

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