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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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KING LEOPOLD.

King Leopold II. of Belgium died yesterday morning at 2.35 o'clock in his palace of Laeken, after a short and painful illness. According to our messages from Brussels, the death came as a complete surprise to the watchers in the sick-room. Thursday night the royal physicians were so optimistic that only one of them remained at the palace, in company with Baron Goffinet, who personally communicated the news to the family at 3 p.m.

BRUSSELS, Friday.—The King was perfectly tranquil yesterday evening. Without warning, about 2.20 a.m., he called the attendant physician to his side and said: "Doctor, I am choking." The end followed immediately. One of the watching sisters a moment beforehand had heard the patient gasping for breath, and was herself summoning the doctor when the King cried out. The physician at once made a morphia injection, but death ensued at once. Dr. Thiriar and Dr. Depage, Prince Albert and Princess Clementine had all arrived at the palm pavilion 25 minutes after the death. At the time of wiring (4 a.m.) automobiles and carriages are continually passing between Laeken and Brussels. The Ministers have been notified by special telegrams. As Prince Albert was leaving the death chamber he embraced his dead uncle and wept. One of the first people to arrive after his Majesty had expired was the parish priest of Laeken, who had administered extreme unction on Wednesday.

BRUSSELS, Friday.—King Leopold rests with a calm countenance upon his bier. The royal family assembled in the death-chamber this morning. After the religious rites had been performed, the body was at once embalmed. Only a few of this morning's papers deal with the dead monarch's personality. He is called a great King, who gave Belgium a brilliant example of human energy. To him is attributed a share of the country's great commercial activity and of the fact that the Belgian flag waves in Africa.

King Leopold yesterday evening had a conversation with his confidant, Baron Goffinet, in which he mentioned his intention of visiting the Riviera for some weeks if sufficiently recovered to travel. He was in excellent spirits, although his legs were much swollen and the heart action was weak. The doctors up to a late hour were most hopeful, while confessing that the action of the heart caused them some anxiety. Baron Goffinet has just telegraphed the news to Princess Louise at St. Petersburg. The mayors of Laeken and Brussels appeared early this morning at the palace.

Biographical Sketch.

The late King Leopold II., son of King Leopold I. and Princess Louise of France, was born at Brussels on April 9th 1835. In 1846 he was created Duke of Brabant and appointed a sub-lieutenant in the army, in which he served until his accession, by which time he had reached the rank of lieutenant-general. On attaining full age he was made a member of the Senate, and distinguished himself by the keen interest he took in its proceedings, especially in those which concerned the development of Belgium and its trade. On August 22nd 1853 he married Marie Henrietta, daughter of the late Archduke Joseph of Austria, and after making a tour round the chief towns of Belgium, the young Duke and Duchess travelled through Italy and Austria to Egypt, Palestine, and Greece. In 1860 the Duke visited Constantinople which, owing to the Crimean war, had necessarily been omitted from the programme in 1855; and two years later he went to Spain and Morocco, after spending a few days on the south coast of England. In the autumn of the same year he paid a second visit to Egypt, this time via Algiers and Tunis, and, proceeding to Mount Sinai, did not return to Brussels until June 1863. In the following year he made the longest and most notable of his numerous journeys, visiting China and India. He returned in 1865 through London, in order to tender special thanks to Queen Victoria and the British Government for the courtesies received throughout the British dominions in Asia. On the death of his father, December 10th 1865, he succeeded to the crown as Leopold II., and on January 28th 1869 their Majesties lost their only son, the Crown Prince Leopold, whereupon the King's brother, Philip Count of Flanders, became heir to the throne. During the Franco-Prussian war King Leopold preserved a strict and honourable neutrality in a period of unusual difficulty and danger.

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But the most notable and far-reaching event in his career was the foundation of the Congo Free State. While still Duke of Brabant, Leopold II. was the first to call the attention of the Belgians to the need of enlarging their horizon beyond sea, and as king he gave the first impulse toward development of this idea by founding in 1876 the Association Internationale Africaine. This was followed in 1878 by the formation of the Comité d'Etudes du Haut-Congo, which in its turn developed into the Congo Free State. It was in connection with the Congo scheme that King Leopold sought an interview with General Gordon in 1880, and obtained his promise, subject to the approval of the British War Office, to enter the Belgian service on the Congo. Three years later his Majesty claimed fulfilment of the promise, and Gordon was about to proceed to the Congo when the British Government claimed his services for the Sudan. An excellent linguist, King Leopold was also an ardent traveller, and a patron of art, literature, and science; he founded in 1874 a yearly prize of 25,000 francs for the best work on a given subject announced five years in advance. As Duke of Brabant he held aloof from politics, and after his accession he followed the strict constitutional line to which his father always adhered.

The late monarch's career was the reverse of uneventful. Domestic troubles crowded upon him as soon as his children grew to maturity. Up to the last his daughters and he were at open variance; while his relations with his nephew, Prince Albert, were almost constantly strained. As the guiding genius of Belgian policy in the Congo he was excoriated far and wide as a wicked oppressor of the helpless natives for sordid ends. How far Leopold was personally responsible for the undeniable abuses existing on the Congo will probably never be known. It is at least certain that he sanctioned the expenditure of enormous sums devoted to the corruption of Belgian and foreign newspapers and the maintenance of lobby-men in the world's parliaments. Incidentally, long before his death, his name had become a synonym for monarchical licentiousness unexampled since the debaucheries of the English Stuarts.

WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY
of the Royal Saxon Meteorological Institute.
South-east wind, fine, cloudy towards evening, slight rise in temperature, generally dry.

NEWS OF THE WORLD.

LONDON, Friday.—The *Morning Post* reports that as a result of experiments made by the British Admiralty, an absolutely new type of warship will be commenced before the close of the financial year. This vessel will carry a crew of more than 1000 men and have a displacement of 27,500, or 9,000 tons more than the Dreadnought. Fewer guns will be carried than the Dreadnought, but the weapons will have a quicker fire and enhanced power.

NEW YORK, Friday.—Cable messages from San Juan del Sur (Nicaragua) say that, according to news from Managua, the Nicaraguan Congress has deposed President Zelaya. The Associated Press reports from Managua that President Zelaya has tendered his resignation to Congress in a letter. The United States battleship Nebraska has been ordered to Nicaraguan waters.

NEW YORK, Friday.—It is announced from Managua that President Zelaya regards his resignation as a shining example of that self-denial "which the conditions today demand from every good citizen." In view of the unjustified interference of a foreign Power in the revolution, he has resigned to prevent further bloodshed. The choice of his successor will, it is to be hoped, result happily for Nicaragua and lead to a re-establishment of peace and the cessation of that hostility which is now displayed towards Nicaragua by the United States.

WASHINGTON, Friday.—On Thursday evening the National Geographical Society gave a banquet in honour of Commander Peary. Messages of congratulation were received from England, France, Germany, and Italy. The congratulations of England and Germany were conveyed by geographical societies in those countries, while France and Italy deputed their Ambassadors at Washington to personally convey the messages.

OTTAWA, Friday.—Captain Bernier, of the Canadian Navy, who is a member of the American Arctic Club, has received from the Secretary of the Club, Captain Osborne, a written communication to the effect that Captain Loose has admitted that the statement made by him and Mr. Dunkle, the insurance broker, of having helped Dr. Cook to prepare his report of the Polar expedition for a consideration of 4,000 dollars, is an invention from beginning to end.

A telegram from Washington on Tuesday conveyed certain passages from a report of the United States Immigration Commission, alleging that the "steerage conditions on Transatlantic liners" are "appalling." These charges, as we anticipated at the time, are indignantly denied by all British lines carrying emigrants. On the authority of one United States woman agent it was asserted that not only was everything "dirty, sticky, and sickening," but that general immorality prevailed, and that "not one young woman among the steerage passengers escaped attack."

In reply to inquiries made by the London press, the Cunard Company telegraph from Liverpool:—

We do not believe statements referred to are intended to apply to Cunard Line. They are in any case absolutely untrue so far as we are concerned.

The Leyland Line telegraph:—

Wire received. Leyland Line does not carry steerage passengers, and Press statement referred to cannot be intended to refer to Dominion Line.

The Allan Line say there is not a word of truth in the report as regards their steamers, and they do not believe it can refer to any British vessels. The emigration trade is conducted under official supervision, and on the Liverpool liners the regulations are so strict that nothing of the kind described could take place unchecked.

The White Star Line officials say the report is a surprising one, and so far as their line is concerned is ridiculous.

The Anchor Line condemn the report as a piece of nonsense, and the Canadian Pacific Company also declare the allegations to be void of all foundation.

ISSY LES MOULINEUX, Friday.—Yesterday afternoon M. Jacques de Lesseps made a flight of 1 hour 30min. 26sec. on a Blériot monoplane, thereby creating an endurance record for the Blériot system. The aviator only landed when compelled to by the failing light.