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# The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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## POLITICS AND PROFESSORS.

When President Roosevelt instituted the "Exchange-Professorship" system between the United States and Germany, everybody hailed the innovation as an important factor for the promotion of international harmony. That motive, we believe, guided Mr. Roosevelt throughout the matter; and there is little doubt that German-American relations have been benefited as a result. There have, of course, been one or two slight clouds on the generally serene horizon, but they were due to individualities rather than to the system itself. Professors are a class apart, or should be. They form an international brotherhood, a cosmopolitan fraternity of learned men, whose business it is to spread knowledge and co-operate in the great work of teaching the young idea how to shoot. The very nature of their profession renders it inadvisable for them to have any connection with politics. Thousands of young minds draw instruction from the academical fount, which should accordingly be free from any suspicion of prejudice or partisanship. On the whole, the high ideals of the academical world have been nobly maintained; and for that reason the isolated exceptions have a significance all their own.

Readers of the *Daily Record* will recollect our recent report of the Thanksgiving celebration in Berlin, on which occasion Professor Benjamin Ide Wheeler, President of the University of California, who is now in Berlin as an "Exchange-Professor," delivered himself of an eloquent oration. Certain passages of his discourse were such as must have been heard with mixed feelings by any English people present. We have no intention of repeating those passages, which we reported in full at the time, but it will be recalled that allusions, the reverse of complimentary, were made to the British administration and the British people. Shortly afterwards there appeared in our columns a letter from an American reader who, quite properly in our opinion, criticised Professor Wheeler's remarks and disapproved certain of them. However, taking into consideration the festive occasion on which it occurred, and allowing for patriotic exuberance, this incident by itself might well have been consigned to kindly oblivion.

Unfortunately, Professor Wheeler has been "at it" again. Whatever his grievance against England and the English may be, it is evidently an obsession with him, and must find vent. But the wisdom of displaying this aversion before a German audience is extremely questionable; in fact, it has already drawn some sharp rebukes from even the American press. The following paragraphs, taken from the *London Daily News*, are perhaps the best possible answer to Professor Wheeler:—

"One can change one's climate, said a Roman poet, but not one's mind. But Dr. Benjamin Ide Wheeler, President of the University of California (whom we surmise to have been born on the Ides of March, and named in commemoration of the fact by his enthusiastically republican parents) sets this maxim at naught. Dr. Wheeler is in Germany, and has had occasion to address the Cologne Association of Political Science. In the course of that lecture he said concerning his countrymen:—

"We don't want to be considered English, nor do we want to be judged by English standards, as though we were Englishmen. I can say truthfully that no form of alteration in the language spoken in America is more odious to American ears than an imitation of the speech of the better English class."

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A San Francisco paper has got hold of this speech of the Doctor's, and has unkindly reprinted it, together with an address delivered to a meeting of the British-American Union in San Francisco nine years ago, in which Dr. Wheeler said:

"In some ways then it may be said the United States forms with Australia and Canada and Egypt and India a true part of the greater Britain. . . . In my mind Anglo-Saxon is not a word that stands for blood, but a word that stands for the ultimate ideals of manhood, and in this you have the true explanation of your British-American union."

So it seems that Dr. Wheeler has changed his mind with Balfourian alacrity. As an example of the risks of the diplomatic method in speech-making, his case is striking. The moral is that, even if you are President of a University, you ought always to mean what you say. Especially when reporters are present."

For the rest, it is difficult to reconcile Dr. Wheeler's position in Germany as an ambassador of international friendship and concord with his carping and repeated criticisms of the British nation. Why not enlighten the world as to his grievance. Smouldering fire is more dangerous than an open blaze, and there is certainly some conflagration going on here!

## NEWS OF THE WORLD.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—In order that the men required for Canada's first cruisers may be trained in readiness by the time these are completed, the British Government is said to be lending two cruisers of the "Apollo" type to the Canadian Government. These training cruisers are expected to arrive in Canadian waters early in the spring; and, as the construction of the Canadian vessels will take nearly a year, they will remain in Canadian waters for a considerable period. The vessels of the "Apollo" type are cruisers of 3,400 tons, with a speed of 20 knots, and an armament of two 6-inch and six 4.7 quick firers, besides smaller guns. The battery is not so heavy as that of the "Bristol" class, which Canada will build, but the vessels and their guns are sufficiently akin to those which are to be handled by the Canadian crews later to afford purposeful training. The ship's complement is 273 men.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 18.—A council of the University of Copenhagen this morning discussed a preliminary report from the Commission which is at present examining the records of Dr. Fredk. Cook. The proceedings lasted four hours, and the result has been kept secret, but the belief prevails that so far the papers are not considered sufficient to prove Dr. Cook's claim that he reached the North Pole.—Central News.

WASHINGTON, Saturday.—In spite of reports to the contrary, the State-department has declared that the negotiations between the United States and Mexico regarding Nicaragua are of the friendliest, and that there is not a sign of tension.

BRUSSELS, Saturday.—The remains of the late King of Belgium were transferred from castle Laeken to the town residence at Brussels this evening. The hearse was accompanied by soldiers carrying torches, and followed by Prince Albert and high dignitaries of State. The cortège arrived at the castle at 9.30 p.m. when the coffin was carried by eight sergeants to the first floor into a room draped in black. Here the body will remain until the funeral at 11 a.m. on Wednesday.

CANNES, Saturday.—Grandduke Michael of Russia died here this afternoon at 5.30. The deceased was a great-uncle to the Czar of Russia, and maternal grandfather to the Crownprincess of Germany.

VIENNA, Saturday.—The House of Deputies passed the Bill concerning the altered Order of Business in the House, after heated debates, this evening. The amendment providing that the German language should be the language employed in debate, was thrown out by a vast majority. The session was closed at 1 o'clock a.m. after having lasted 86 hours.

LISBON, Saturday.—The Cabinet has offered its resignation to the King, which was accepted.

NEW YORK, Saturday.—The *Associated Press* reports from Managua that the American vice-consul there has asked for protection against the adherents of Zelaya, since they had introduced a reign of terror, arresting and maltreating suspects.

NEW YORK, Saturday.—The battleship *Georgia* collided today with a coaling-vessel and sprang a leak so that she had to go into drydock.

PARIS, Monday.—The papers report that Lieutenant Lair, who was recently found guilty of theft by the naval court martial at Toulon, attempted to commit suicide in a terrible fashion in his cell. He broke the water-glass into small bits and put them into his soup. Soon after he had eaten the soup he writhed with pain and had to be taken to hospital, where the doctors declared him to be in a critical condition, in consequence of the glass splinters having pierced the walls of his stomach.

At the funeral ceremonies of the late King of Belgium King Edward will be represented by the Duke of Connaught, the Kaiser by Prince Henry of Prussia, and the King of Saxony by his brother, Prince Johann Georg.

POSEN, Monday.—In the famous Kwilecki case judgment was given today in favour of the petitioner, the wife of a working man, who claimed that the young Count Josef Kwilecki was in reality her son. The pseudo-father was ordered by the Court to surrender the child to its mother.—The judgment means rather a bit of "tough luck" on the young lad who, no doubt, will have a painful sensation of a come-down in his new surroundings.

MANAGUA, Monday.—The former Secretary of State, and likely successor to President Zelaya, Sr. Madriz, has arrived here and was accorded an enthusiastic reception by the people.

BUENOS AYRES, Saturday.—Admiral Aubert and the officers of the French squadron now lying at anchor in the harbour here, were the guests at the mess of the German cruiser *Bremen*.