

Office:  
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1755.

# The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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## IMPERIALISM.

### IS IT A GAME?

The following extracts from the letter of a London private correspondent have been placed at our disposal for publication. They are particularly striking in view of the Imperialistic agitations now going on in England and Germany:—

Imperialism, Patriotism, Socialism . . . I do not think there is so very much difference between us. My attitude as a Socialist towards our national interests is the attitude of Blatchford, Hyndman, Shaw, and others, with whom, again, I differ on what is understood by Socialism. On the internationalist aspect of Socialism I have little to say. It does not interest me very much. I regard England and the English as a great land and a great people. What the blatant orators of the movement say about their opponents—Curzon, Milner, Cromer, and such—has no more value than what the said opponents say about the said orators. The impetus towards Socialism is coming from this country and no other. Germany and France may give intellectual assent to the idea, but we are the people who DO things and we are miles ahead of them in political prescience. If you cannot see that we are on the way which leads inexorably to collectivism, you ought to be sorry for yourself. If one had not arrived at the conviction one's self, a glance down the list of names on the membership roll of the Fabian Society would be quite sufficient. I cannot afford to be out of a movement which includes the names of all the living men for whom I have any respect as thinkers and writers. The *Times*, the other day, gave a review of modern drama in England, and mentioned the five most hopeful names. I noticed, which the *Times* didn't, that they were all members of the Fabian Society. I have not turned to Socialism in desperation, or cussedness, or disgust. I am a Socialist because I try to think scientifically and because I have a wholesome respect for the theory of evolution. If you apply the evolutionary law to the region of morals, you must forecast the era of Socialism. At one time we were ruled by the strong man, then by the cunning man, and now we are coming to the altruistic or social man.

It is not we who are producing Socialists. It is Nature. We have arrived at that point in the evolution of morals where we are developing a communal conscience. Parliament is full of it, public life is full of it; everywhere the community, consciously or unconsciously, willingly or unwillingly, is recognising that it is responsible for the individual. The individual has duties towards society. The question is: where do these duties end? Shaw puts the case in a nutshell when he says: "Who ever does not by the work of his prime repay the debt of his nurture and education, inflicts on society precisely the same injury as a thief." If we assist Nature in shaping the conditions, Nature will soon produce the type of Man we require. Alter the environment and you alter the individual. The self-willed individualists at one end of the scale, and the invertebrates at the other, will be eliminated quite naturally. It is the environment to which we respond, and not the environment to us.

The Struggle for Life is intellectually dead and is now kept alive artificially. We have wrested so many secrets from the Cosmos that we always produce more than enough for each and all of us. It is a question of distribution. You cannot doubt, if you look around you, that democracy is really on the move; and what democracy can do when it gets a chance may be seen, for instance, in the tremendous growth in the curriculum of our schools during the

**Eat**  
**Pfund's**  
**Yoghurt!**

last thirty years. The same thing will occur now that the broad idea of altruism is on the move. Socialism, to me, is the true Individualism, because it aspires to give a full chance to the individual. What I object to is the awful waste of the present system; the aggregation of wealth at one end of the scale, and the frightful poverty at the other; but, most of all, the ugliness of life, the stiling of art, the throttling of genius, and the general blight cast by the demon of Industrialism. The price of liberty under Collectivism, I suppose, would be the same as under any other system: Eternal Vigilance.

In regard to Imperialism, the Union Jack, Patriotism, etc., although I am as proud of England as any man is, I would ask you quietly, and in philosophical mood, if you do not think that there is something rather childlike about it all, something naive and ingenuous, with a schoolboy's code of honour and a schoolboy's sense of loyalty. Although present necessities may justify us in keeping up the old régime, can we not reasonably look forward to a time when we can shake off this "I'm king of the castle" business. I have noticed that most of the Imperialists with whom I have come into contact are afflicted with just this air of simple-minded ingenuousness—I don't know how to describe it—to which I refer. They amuse me greatly, but at the same time I find something pathetic in the simple glee with which they wave the flag and beat the drum on every possible occasion.

The parallel of children playing at a big game, and in some respects a terrible game, is irresistible.

### A COMIC OPERA SQUABBLE.

There is something irresistibly reminiscent of comic opera in the quarrels of the South American Republics, and still more so in their revolutions. Just now we have a war threatened between Ecuador and Peru, which it is impossible to take seriously in spite of the telegrams. Peru is a quarrelsome little State which has frequently been at loggerheads with its neighbours, and at the present time it has quarrels with Chile and Bolivia, as well as with Ecuador, so that it is hardly likely to be so rash as to go to war with one and so give an opportunity for aggression to the other two. Apparently, the people of Ecuador have mortally insulted the Peruvians, and were they two European States war would be inevitable. But excitable as are these South American populations, and ready as they are with threats and menaces, they have a good deal of prudence at the bottom, and their wars, when they do break out, are seldom very serious affairs. The best thing that could happen to them would be for the Union of the Latin Republics of America to become a reality. Then there might be some chance of the boundary questions being settled, and of the bellicose little armies being turned into police. In the interior of South America not a single frontier is really clearly defined, and until the boundaries are scientifically drawn there will always be a standing cause for quarrelling.

### WEATHER FORECAST FOR TODAY

of the Royal Saxon Meteorological Institute.

South-West winds, changing skies, warm, local atmospheric storms, thunder possible.

## NEWS OF THE WORLD.

LONDON, Wednesday.—At a banquet given by the Archbishop of Canterbury, attended by many prominent Churchmen and laymen, an informal discussion was held on the betterment of Anglo-German relations. All present expressed themselves as being in hearty sympathy with the movement. Among the guests was the Rev. Mr. Spiecker, president of the German Clerical Committee, which is concerning itself with the same task.

LONDON, Wednesday.—In the House of Commons, Lord Charles Beresford asked the First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. R. McKenna, whether the Admiralty had received from an official or non-official source any communication to the effect that Austria had actually commenced with the building of Dreadnought warships; secondly, if this was the case, how many ships of the Dreadnought type that country had already laid down; and, finally, whether the Admiralty had received any official or non-official intimation which supported an assumption that further Dreadnought battleships would be laid down by Austria in the near future.

Mr. McKenna replied: "I have already stated that we possess no official information as to the building of Austro-Hungarian battleships. It would not be opportune on the basis of unofficial information to give an official reply to a question in the House of Commons."

Lord Charles Beresford then enquired whether Mr. McKenna knew that these ships had been laid down, to which the First Lord answered: "If I knew it, my knowledge would only be from unofficial information, and it would be in the highest degree inopportune to repeat such information as an official answer." (Ministerial Applause.)

In answer to a query, the Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey, said: "We have been informed that a concession for the financing and building of a railway from Kintschau to Aigun has been granted to English and American firms."

LONDON, Tuesday.—The Southampton Harbour Board have had under consideration for some time past proposals for deepening Southampton Water from 32 feet to 35 feet, for the accommodation of the White Star steamers Olympic and Titanic, which, when completed, will make Southampton their home for their proposed Cherbourg and Transatlantic service. The cost of such deepening, rendered necessary entirely by the coming of these vessels, has been estimated at close on £100,000. The board have not shown a readiness to defray the cost of the work themselves, and have decided to ask assistance in the matter from the White Star Line and the owners of the docks, the London and South-Western Railway Company. So far as the White Star Line are concerned, they have informed the Harbour Board that they cannot see their way to contribute £2,000 per annum for ten years, as asked, towards the necessary expenditure, nor can they make any grant towards the cost of the deepening. They also decline to enter into further negotiations on the question.

Sir Charles Owens, general manager of the L. and S.W.R. Co., speaking last week at the annual dinner of the Southampton Chamber of Commerce, said it surely could not be expected that a company which had poured millions into the docks should be asked to provide what facilities were required in regard to deepening the channel. The Harbour Board will meet shortly, and the special committee dealing with the subject will then probably make recommendations in connection with the difficulty.