
CURRENT COMMENT.

EDITORIAL.

THE
EUROPEAN
PRESS ON
THE PLAGUE.

The plague in India has drawn attention again to the jealousy towards Great Britain of the rest of the European powers, and the position of isolation which she still holds in Europe.

The outbreak in Bombay has been seized upon as an excuse for attacking Great Britain for her alleged inability to successfully administer the affairs of the vast territories constituting the Empire. The bitterness of the attacks, and the *animus* with which the press reports bristle, lead one to believe that it is not altogether a dread of the plague that impels the present attitude of the foreign press. The German papers are particularly bitter on the subject. The *Hamburger Nachrichten*, Bismark's organ, regards the spread of the plague as an evidence that Great Britain is not competent to administer the affairs of her dependencies properly. It says :

"If those shopkeepers continue to spread the plague for the sake of the trade which might suffer if proper measures were taken, and if they cannot be prevailed upon to spend adequate funds in combating the disease, then the European powers, including Turkey, must compel England to do her duty."

The *National Zeitung*, in an article headed "Made in England," says :

"If, as the London *Times* shows, even the residence of the Viceroy of India is not what it should be, from a hygienic point of view, what must we expect of the chief cities and towns! It is a notorious fact that England, for fear of interfering with trade and shipping, does nothing for health. The French authorities only recently complained of this. English officials are always willing to 'bring the matter to the notice of their government' and to 'institute an inquiry,' and there it ends. Proud, critical Great Britain threatens the world with an evil which will be known as exclusively—'Made in England.'"

The *St. James Gazette*, London, replies to the effect that Berlin has no just reason to be so violent, as the Berlin authorities have sufficient means at hand to insure

the safety of their city. We quote as follows :

"It is perfectly idle to pretend that they [the Germans] are threatened with any danger, whatever. A city which regarded with contemptuous indifference the cholera in virulent activity on both sides of her, cannot pretend to be frightened by this present bogey. German agitation on this subject is altogether—made in Germany."

The impression is conveyed by this, that the German press, which is supposed to reflect public feeling, is inspired by other motives, than a fear of contagion in attacking England in this matter.

The views of the Russian press, always ready for a slap at Great Britain, are voiced in the utterances of the *Glasnost*, which speaks as follows :

"England acts like the dog in the manger, she ill do nothing herself, and will not allow others to relieve suffering."

The *Mirowy Oglosky*, another Russian journal, says :

"Italy, France and Austria have taken precautions. Russia must do the same, for history proves that Russia, on account of her close vicinity to the plague spots of the earth, is in greater danger than any other country. Russian physicians should be sent at once to the plague districts to study the character of the disease and to furnish truthful reports. English accounts are not to be depended upon in this respect. England's trade instincts prevent her from adopting the measures necessary for the welfare of humanity at large. The nations of the world should unite to isolate the plague districts."

Canadians, as well as Englishmen, understand what Russia means by sending "physicians" to the plague spots. The sudden concern and alleged disinterestedness which Russia shows is fully understood in this country. We know how Great Britain has had to contend all along with the machinations of the Russian Governments with regard to India, and the unexpected generosity on the part of that country is calculated to provoke a smile from those who have not been blind to past events. No, let