

institution of insurance against accidents. In the midst of this activity for the welfare of his people, two attempts were made on his life. The indignation of the German people at these dastardly crimes and their sympathy with the sufferings of their beloved sovereign in these days of trial, comforted the old emperor beyond measure. On June 11, 1879, he celebrated his golden wedding. On the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of his military service, the crown-prince congratulated him in the name of the army. The emperor's ninetieth birthday was celebrated throughout Germany with the greatest enthusiasm, and to his very great joy he learnt on that day that the bill which provided for an increase of the army by 41,000 men had been passed by the Imperial Parliament. He then concluded an alliance with Austria, which was soon joined by Italy, to secure the peace of the Fatherland. However, the last year of his life was yet to be laden with sorrow; for the crown-prince, his only son, became seriously ill with an affection of the larynx which proved to be cancer of the throat. This blow, and the necessary absence of the crown-prince from Germany, impaired the emperor's own health, and on March 9, 1888, he passed away. The last audible word he whispered was "Fritz," the crown-prince's name.

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