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The Daily Record

and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

THE FIRST DAILY PAPER IN ENGLISH PUBLISHED IN GERMANY.

№ 806.

DRESDEN, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1908.

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MR. ROCKEFELLER EULOGISED.

Although it is true that of late years the name of John D. Rockefeller has not been mentioned with such frequency as formerly, that he has to a great extent retired from the vivid limelight of the world's stage, his influence is nevertheless still felt in many questions touching the political and business life of America. At the present moment the ramifications of Standard Oil are plainly discernible in connection with the Presidential campaign. Some half a dozen prominent personalities in the Republican and Democratic camps have been proved to be more or less directly in touch with what is often described as the most iniquitous corporation in the world, and, as a natural consequence, the prestige of both parties has sustained a rude shock. Mr. Rockefeller has long been the target for the vitriolic abuse of reformers the world over, who profess to see in him the incarnation of business impurity, the evil influence of an entire nation, and a shameless exponent of the cardinal sin,—hypocrisy. It says much for the great financier's powers of restraint that he apparently remains unshaken after many years of public and private censure, pursuing his vocation as a maker of millions with a cold-blooded consistency that is positively uncanny. His enemies have, it would appear, exhausted their shot and shell in a vain endeavour to shatter the great edifice of Standard Oil, and now there are signs of a reaction. In view of the past record of Mr. Rockefeller it is impossible not to admire the courage of a writer in an American publication, who boldly takes up the cudgels on behalf of the Oil King and maintains that he is a cruelly misunderstood and wrongfully abused man. The most popular judgment of "Jawn D.," he declares, is mob judgment; and in reality he is one of the best and highest-minded and most public-spirited citizens of the United States. While whole books have been written to show how Mr. Rockefeller oppressed his rivals, and ruined their business by securing unfair rates for transportation, pursuing them to the bitter end, his own description of his dealings with these men is an exact antithesis to the story his enemies have told. The steady growth of public opinion has now declared that Mr. Rockefeller built up for himself by pulling down others, piling his edifice on their ruins. When a man showed his head in the oil business, he was at once pursued, spied upon, and his trade ruined; then his business was taken over for a fraction of its value. This is, in effect, Mr. Rockefeller's own statement on the subject:—

"It would have been impossible to make a success by oppressing people. Big men who do things in a large and effective way cannot be oppressed; they may suffer a temporary disadvantage, and one might make a temporary profit by pushing them at such a time, but it would be only for a time. I never was so foolish as to follow these tactics; I wanted able men to work with me and not against me. I tried to make friends of these men. I admitted their ability and the value of their enterprises. I worked to convince them that it would be better for both to cooperate for economy, for extending the world's markets, for the development of by-products; and if I had not succeeded in getting their friendship, the whole plan of the Standard Oil Company would have fallen to the ground. I admit I tried to attract only the able men. I have always had as little as possible to do with dull business men. Let us go a step further and suppose that not only by getting rebates from the railroads on our own products but on the products of others as well, I had ruined these able men and forced them to combine with me. Could any man alive develop from such material the esprit de corps which even our enemies admit we have always possessed? Perhaps you say, after being so near ruin, a man will go in with anybody who will show him a way out. This can only be answered by the personnel of our company. Strong men who had been ruthlessly shorn of their self-respect would not for thirty years work in harmony and build up a great business. The thing is inconceivable."

Mr. Rockefeller is nothing if not plausible, and in this instance it must be admitted that his argument is sound; but his enemies say that having hounded his minor competitors into one huge corral, the process of inoculating them with the "graft"

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virus was a simple matter. The most eloquent apologist for Standard Oil cannot plead away the mass of visual evidence that goes to show the corruptness of that corporation's business-dealings. From small beginnings it has swollen to such enormous bulk as to be quite impervious to attacks from whatever quarter they come. Over and over again the impotency of the courts when dealing with Standard Oil transgressions has been demonstrated; convictions that have been based upon unimpeachable evidence are quashed when referred to higher courts; with its tools enthroned in the highest places the Trust snaps its fingers at all opposition. Mr. Rockefeller may be a grossly misunderstood public benefactor, he may be everything that is good and virtuous, but from the very nature of his position as head of the great oil combine he cannot hope to escape opprobrium. The iniquities of the Standard must inevitably involve its creator, and for our own part we had rather see Mr. Rockefeller in the rôle of self-confessed unscrupulous Croesus than posing as a great-hearted, maligned saint. But it is quite in accordance with the popular conception of "Jawn D." A hypocrite despises those whom he deceives, even though he has no respect for himself. The inauguration of the famous Rockefeller Sunday School class indicates that he would make a dupe of himself too, if he could.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH'S RETIREMENT.

London, September 29.

Lord Tweedmouth, Lord President of the Council, and formerly First Lord of the Admiralty, has resigned his office on account of ill-health.

DISASTROUS FLOODS IN INDIA.

Bombay, September 29.

Very heavy rain has caused devastating floods in the last 36 hours in Hyderabad and the Deccan. The river Musi has risen more than 60 feet and swept away several bridges. Reports speak of thousands of houses demolished, and of great loss of life. Crops have been destroyed for miles along the river's banks. The rainfall amounted to 15 inches.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT ANSWERS CHARGES.

Washington, September 28.

The President has published an answer to Mr. Bryan's letter, confining himself chiefly to that part of it which asserts that his, the President's, administration has been neither sincere nor effective in the prosecution of the Trusts. Mr. Roosevelt compares his own administration with that of the

last Democrat President, Mr. Cleveland; and justifies the permission given in 1907 to the Steel Trust to secure the control over the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company, a control which was necessary in order to confine the then existing panic to the narrowest possible limits. The President declares he has no grudge against the Trusts, and that he wishes to judge every individual and every corporation by their actions.

MAXIM'S NOISELESS RIFLE.

(From our New York correspondent.)

American army officers have just been making a searching trial of Hiram P. Maxim's latest invention, a noiseless rifle, and according to announcements in the papers have expressed themselves very appreciatively thereon. Naturally enough the strictest silence is observed as to the construction of the weapon, but the papers claim to know that a valve is constructed just behind the muzzle of the rifle, whereby the gases which by their sudden expansion cause the report, are allowed to expand gradually. The actual invention, therefore, lies in the construction of the valve. It is obvious enough that the employment by soldiers of this weapon, which betrays the firer neither by smoke of powder nor by report, would have consequences quite incalculable. The sharpshooter will gain an uncanny power by this weapon. The enemy, when attacked, will only hear the whistle of the bullets and see their men fall, without knowing the exact position of the foe. One can hardly picture the advantages which an army armed with this weapon will have over an enemy which still uses the existing rifle. It is said that America will be rendered completely immune from attack if the Federal army secures the secret of this invention of Maxim's, and that, too, not only on the field, but also at sea, since it is also possible to apply the invention to naval guns. The experiments are still going on.

THE INTERNATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS CONGRESS.

Washington, September 28.

The International Tuberculosis Congress was opened here today, Professor Koch being elected one of the three Honorary Presidents. Upon rising to thank the assembly for his election, the Professor received a remarkable ovation which prevented him from making his speech for a few minutes. He then thanked Mr. Cortelyou, Secretary of the Treasury, in the name of the German delegates for his speech of welcome.

MR. ROCKEFELLER'S BIRTHDAY.

(From our New York correspondent.)

The Oil-King, John D. Rockefeller, towers over all other American Croesuses, not only in respect of his millions, but also in virtue of his high birth. Rockefeller has, in fact, discovered that blue blood flows in his veins, and that he is worthy of his ancestors in so far as money making goes. Apart from representing his business interests and increasing his millions, Rockefeller has in the last few years busied himself with enquiries into the genealogy of the Rockefellers. The genealogist, Dr. Aron Lewis, has been repeatedly sent to Europe by the Oil-King for the sole purpose of tracing the pedigree of the Rockefellers. After each journey Dr. Lewis brought back interesting information. A few days ago the American Rockefellers, 200 in number, held a "family day," and on this occasion Dr. Lewis gave the numerous cousins, nieces, and other relations of the Oil-King a resumé of the results hitherto obtained by his enquiries into the Rockefeller family history. The most interesting discovery was that Rockefeller is descended from a noble house, and that the family is of Franco-German extraction! As far back as 950 A.D. the race was flourishing in Southern France. The then Rockefellers were Counts and possessed the privilege of coining money. Thus they were already making money in the literal sense. During the reign of Louis XIII., various Rockefellers who were Huguenots emigrated to Germany, and German Rockefellers, according to Dr. Lewis, are still to be met with in the town of Fahr, honest industrious people who sent a message to John D. by the genealogist, that he need not be ashamed of his German cousins, and that they were quite in a position to take care of themselves.

(Continued on page 2.)