

Office:
Struve Str. 5, I.
Dresden A.
Telephone:
1755.

The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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THE NEWS FROM CHINA.

There are unmistakable symptoms that Europe will shortly find itself confronted with a revival of the perennial Far Eastern problem, which on so many previous occasions has exercised the minds of statesmen and publicists. At the time of writing there is no authentic news as to the successor of the late Emperor of China, whose death, long anticipated, has taken place at a moment when his terrible, but none the less capable, mother is also on the brink of the grave, if the latest reports from the Chinese capital are worthy of credence. It is true that the late Emperor's nephew is regarded as the heir-apparent, but the situation is liable to drastic changes if the Dowager-Empress actually dies, since it was only through her untiring advocacy that her son was nominated as heir to the Imperial Throne. Even as we write comes the report of this remarkable woman's death, a presumable fact that enables us to discuss the subject under consideration with added certainty. For many years there has been in existence in the Celestial Empire a faction strongly opposed to the arbitrary sway of the late Dowager-Empress, and whose aim it is to overthrow her widespread schemes for the glorification of her own near relations. The members of this party have frequently been the subjects of frightful persecution at the hands of the woman who ruled the Forbidden City with an iron hand. She was, as is well-known, an implacable enemy of Europeans and European innovations, and her name will doubtless go down to Chinese posterity as the most virulent supporter of the "China for the Chinese" doctrine. The carefully engineered campaign against Europeans which culminated in the historic Boxer rebellion and the siege of the Peking Legations originally emanated from the Empress's Palace clique, who sustained a corresponding loss of prestige when the victorious Allies entered the Forbidden City a few years ago and exacted a pledge from the Chinese Government that henceforth European life and property would be accorded adequate protection. That incident was the terrible old Amazon's first experience of Occidental power, and it was one which she never forgot. It might be supposed that her death would effectually put an end to the smouldering hatred of the white residents which occasionally bursts into flame in remote Chinese districts, entailing the massacre of a few devoted missionaries and venturesome traders, who are well aware that they carry their lives in their hands from day to day.

The pressing danger of the moment is to be found in the possibility of the Palace clique organising another extensive anti-European crusade in order to fix their waning prestige, which is almost annihilated by the death of their energetic mistress, more firmly on popular foundations. That the authorities are alive to this by no means improbable eventuality is evidenced by telegrams just to hand from Peking, to the effect that the foreign Legations are guarded by strong detachments of reliable troops. The British Legation guard has been reinforced by fifty men drawn from the Tientsin garrison. So far no symptoms of disturbance are visible among the masses, who are said to be deeply impressed at the news of the Dowager-Empress's decease. A period of mourning extending over three years has been officially proclaimed, and the ancient mourning ceremonies will be strictly observed in the chamber where the Empress lies dead. She died, we learn from our despatches, solitary and unattended, breathing her last without hearing one sympathetic voice. It is currently reported in the capital that her death was hastened by the sight of her son suffering frightful agonies on his death-bed, and this report lends additional colour to the belief that throughout her stormy career the Empress retained a passionate devotion to her ailing son. It is true that at times she demonstrated this deep affection in curious ways, closely incarcerating the unfortunate puppet Emperor within the confined limits of his seraglio, and denying him all intercourse with the world beyond the Palace walls. But Oriental methods cannot justly be judged from an exclusively Occidental standpoint. This strange woman's existence was apparently devoted to a struggle between her innate love of power and her affection for her son, who we can well believe had substantial reason to deplore his mother's fierce devotion. His reputed leanings towards a broader sphere of life were re-



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moreselessly subjugated to his parent's iron will; he died in the prime of his manhood, perhaps the most pathetic spectacle of impotent sovereignty in recent history. The next few days may be expected to be fruitful in developments of intense interest to the outer world, and especially to those Europeans and Americans who from personal reasons are awaiting a demonstration of the popular Chinese attitude towards the whitefaced strangers in the Celestial Empire.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE "OUTLOOK."

New York, November 15.
The financial world is greatly amused at the news, which appears quite authentic, that Mr. James Stillman, one of the leaders of the Standard Oil Trust, controls the Outlook magazine (New York), of which the President will become editor on the expiration of his term of office. Thus Mr. Roosevelt will indirectly become an employé of the Trust, or so his enemies maintain.

MR. TAFT AND THE TARIFF.

Washington, November 16.
Mr. Taft has announced his intention to summon a special session of Congress as soon as practicable after his accession to office, for the purpose of revising the tariff.

TERRIBLE OCCURRENCE IN THE WEST.

New York, November 16.
A telegram from Okmulgee in Oklahoma runs: "When the Sheriff went with his men on Saturday to arrest a negro charged with having attacked a tribe of Indians, the negro barricaded himself in his house and fired on the Sheriff's party, killing the Sheriff and six of his men, among whom were some negroes. The negro in the house then set it on fire and perished in the flames."

STANDARD OIL TRUST EXTENSION.

New York, November 15.
It has just been discovered that the Standard Oil Trust has commenced the construction of immense works at Elizabeth, New Jersey, which will give employment to ten thousand work-people. The total area covered by the plant will be 2,000 acres. The preliminary negotiations and the buying of the land have been kept a strict secret.

THE ELECTIONS IN CUBA.

Havana, November 15.

The Presidential elections terminated today with victory for the Liberals. General José Miguel Gomez was elected President, and Dr. Alfredo Zayas Vice-President of Cuba.

The Cuban elections just concluded with the above results were watched with sympathetic interest by all the American friends of the Island Republic, which owes its liberty and autonomy to the intervention of the United States. The elections, it is interesting to note, took place under a new electoral law, the provisions of which include universal suffrage, and most of the American newspapers express the opinion that the Cubans have just undergone a supreme test as to their capacity for self-government. In some quarters, however, this is regarded as going too far. It is pointed out that the Cubans have long been competent to govern themselves in their own fashion, that is to say in the fashion of the average Spanish Republics. The actual test was whether the Cuban minority, Liberal or Conservative, would accept, without resistance, the will of the majority of the people, as expressed at the polls on Saturday. People who have had experience in Cuba incline to the opinion that they will do so. There is not the least excuse that the elections were not conducted with the most scrupulous fairness, as they were supervised by carefully selected officials, who in turn were looked after by United States officers. The candidates were General Menocal, the Conservative nominee, who claimed to represent law and order and generally all who have material interest in settled and sound government, and General Gomez, the champion of the Liberal party, which includes in its ranks all the dissatisfied sections of the people, the ultra-patriots, and the illiterate masses. It was generally believed that while Havana itself might go Liberal, the success of the Conservatives was practically assured. The result has proved otherwise, and official circles at Washington are now asking whether this unlooked-for development will exercise influence on the Government's plan for withdrawing the American troops from the island early in the New Year. If with the inauguration of General Gomez in January the expected disturbances break out, the American military occupation may have to be indefinitely prolonged.

THE ATLANTIC FLEET'S CRUISE.

It is reported from Washington that the Battleship Fleet will not reach home waters after its voyage round the world until the middle of March, instead of early in February, as originally arranged. It is believed that the change in the itinerary has been made in order that the great review of the fleet shall be made in Hampton Roads by President Taft instead of by the out-going President. It is thought that so memorable a performance as that made by this splendid fleet should be recognised and emphasised by the new chief of the Republic at the commencement of his official career, and Mr. Roosevelt cordially agrees. It is an open secret that the American Navy Department is more than satisfied with the results of the great voyage from the technical and strictly professional point of view, while the State Department is gratified at the political effect produced.

Among other things it is understood that extremely valuable data respecting wireless telegraphy have been collected by the officers in command of the battleships, and that some marvellous achievements in regard to signalling have been made. It is probably in this connection that the Navy Department has decided upon a great wireless installation at Washington, with a radius of 3,000 miles. The Washington correspondent of the Herald states that the Department will soon advertise for tenders for this work, also for wireless equipments for warships, each with a radius of 1,000 miles. It is claimed that the United States Navy already has in operation the simplest and most practical system of wireless telegraphy.

THE OPEN DOOR IN MANCHURIA.

An official denial is given at Washington to the report cabled from Tokio that negotiations were proceeding for the conclusion of a Treaty or Convention between the United States and Japan. According to the version of the papers, the Convention was to settle the Asiatic immigration difficulty in a manner calculated to satisfy the amour propre of both

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