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The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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THE LAST MESSAGE.

The lengthy document issued last week from the White House represented not only President Roosevelt's message to Congress, but his last official manifesto to the electorate of the United States, to the people who on two occasions have demonstrated their complete agreement with the retiring Chief Magistrate by an overwhelming vote of confidence. The message contained no items to which the term of sensational can justly be applied. Neither does it commit the successive administration of Mr. Taft to any definite course. The last message of a retiring President is always framed with a view to avoiding embarrassment to the President-Elect, and the one under consideration constitutes no departure from this wise rule. National finances, the currency question, the Trusts, relations between Capital and Labour, judicial administration, the conservation of national resources, foreign policy, the naval and military forces,—these are the principal heads under which the President has penned illuminative comments and suggestions. With regard to the finances of the nation, he is inclined to be optimistic, and gives many reasons for this gratifying attitude. The principal point of interest to the citizen under this head is the statement that, in spite of the enormous outlays involved by enterprises such as the Panama Canal, and in spite, too, of the wave of financial depression which is still fresh in the memory, there have been no new taxes and no increases of taxes; on the contrary, some taxes have been taken off. This fact is in itself a magnificent testimonial to the deep-rooted prosperity of the United States, and should be taken to heart by all those clever people who, affrighted at the spectacular slump in American securities which was a feature of last year's panic, prophesied an early break up of the Golden Age which the country has been enjoying for many decades past. The President's attitude towards his *bêtes-noires*, the Trusts, has undergone some slight modification judged by his remarks on this subject. The railroads are handled with velvet gloves, and Wall Street can find little fault with the Message as a whole. That Mr. Roosevelt drew his own lessons from the panic is evidenced in every line of the paragraphs dealing with the interests of corporations. A policy of sledge-hammer opposition to every shape and form of business combination could not fail to eventually exercise a detrimental effect on the economics of the country at large, and this truism has not been overlooked by the President.

The labour question in all its many aspects comes in for a good deal of notice. Very rightly the President condemns in unequivocal terms the continued employment of little children in hard manual labour, and he is also strongly opposed to the system under which women—in many cases mothers of families—are compelled to leave the care of their homes to strangers while they go out to earn a living for themselves and their little ones. Female and child labour in America is on nothing like so extensive a scale as in Europe, but it nevertheless looms altogether too largely in the industrial life of the United States, a land flowing with milk and honey. The revelations made from time to time with respect to the extent of child labour, particularly in the Southern States, do not receive sufficient at-

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has offices at Französische Strasse 43, Berlin.
International, Private, and Commercial matters.

attention from the electorate. The system is a canker in the American body corporate, and should be eliminated without further delay. The law courts are the subject of voluminous remarks in the Presidential message. Mr. Roosevelt is known to be greatly dissatisfied with the judicial system in its relation to the prosecution of enormously wealthy criminals, including the Trusts. The President is by nature too straightforward to countenance the glaring immoralities of American justice which his predecessors have contented themselves with practically ignoring. On more than one occasion he has crossed swords with the judges, but it is plainly beyond the power of one man, however strong that man may be, to cleanse the Augean stables of the American judicial system. One law for the rich and another for the poor is the time-honoured rule of which we have lately had so many examples. This is not as it should be in a country whose fundamental principle is the equality of man, and one fine day the monied interests will lay the final straw on the long-suffering back of the American elector. As might have been expected, President Roosevelt reiterates his belief in the necessity of a great Navy. This is one of the cardinal points of his creed, and there are symptoms that the new Congress will prove more pliant in the matter of Naval votes than the late one. The agreement with Japan, however much it has tranquillised the Pacific situation, should not serve as an excuse for neglecting to provide adequately for national defence, which in the case of the United States is believed to call for the creation of large squadrons both in the Pacific and the Atlantic.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

THE HEALTH OF KING EDWARD.

London, December 13.

Brilliantly fine weather prevailed at Brighton yesterday morning, with powerful sunshine, and His Majesty went for a motor ride in a westerly direction. Large crowds on the promenades saluted the King, who graciously acknowledged the greetings.

His Majesty proceeded along the coast road, and on reaching Worthing he alighted from the car and walked on to the pier, where he took a seat on the sheltered side of the pavilion at the pierhead. The fact that His Majesty was on the pier, enjoying the bright sunshine, soon became known, but the promenaders on the structure respected the desire for privacy, and merely acknowledged his presence among them by the raising of hats. A large crowd also gathered outside the entrance to the pier. After leaving the pier the King motored out to the western extremity of the Parade, and returned to Brighton by the upper road, through North Lancing, and across the picturesque old Shoreham Bridge. His Majesty was looking remarkably well.

It is authoritatively stated that the date of His Majesty's return to town from Brighton has not

been definitely fixed. The King contemplates returning tomorrow, in order to preside at the Investiture at Buckingham Palace, but this step entirely depends upon the decision of his medical adviser. There is a marked improvement in His Majesty's health since he has been at Brighton, and the effects of the influenza cold are gradually disappearing. Such progress has been made that His Majesty is able to resume some of the habits, which, in consequence of the illness, had to be suspended. The visit to Lord Burton at Rangemore, which has been arranged for Tuesday, and the few following days, has not been cancelled, and, as a matter of fact, His Majesty will, if his health permits, carry out the original arrangements. The Queen and Princess Victoria will go to Sandringham towards the end of this week.

MISS MARIE CORELLI.

(From our own correspondent.)

London, December 12.

An Exchange Company's telegram states that a strange man obtained access to the garden of Miss Marie Corelli's residence at Stratford-on-Avon late last night and fired five revolver shots. He was arrested, and said he had come from Birmingham and wished to see Miss Corelli. Live cartridges were found upon him. He was discovered by the police standing close to a summer-house.

STRANGE OCCURRENCE ON A STEAMER.

Grimsby, December 14.

The steamer "Ashton" which has just arrived here from Antwerp reports that during the passage five Russian Jews died from some mysterious cause. All five deaths took place within the space of ten minutes. The contents of the victims' stomachs have been sent to London for bacteriological examination. The steamer remains in quarantine, pending the result of the investigation.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE QUESTION OF MILITARY DEFENCE.

Washington, December 12.

In order to make a way for the carrying out of the idea lately mooted by President Roosevelt, Mr. Hull, the President of the House of Representatives Committee for military affairs, has brought in a Bill providing for a volunteer army in times of danger. If necessary two millions of men may, according to the Bill, be enrolled.

THE PRESIDENT ELECT.

Washington, December 13.

After a conference with the President and the Secretary of State, Mr. Taft has announced his intention to pay a visit to Panama in the course of next month. The newspapers anticipate that he will make a detailed report of the progress made with the Canal and the general situation in that territory.

OCTOGENARIAN'S 25 CHILDREN.

New York, December 14.

A report from the *Tribune's* correspondent at Columbus, Georgia, states that the wife of one of the residents of Columbus has just presented her husband with triplets. The proud father is 82 years of age, and already had a family of 22.

(Continued on page 2.)