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GERMANY AND GREAT BRITAIN.

THE German Chancellor joins fervently in Sir Edward Grey's wish for more cordial relations between Germany and Great Britain, but unfortunately, like Sir Edward himself, does it in suspicious and threatening tones. He says that Great Britain must now show her sincerity in desiring peace by giving practical expression of that desire in her foreign politics. If this means anything at all, it means that Germany will soon give Great Britain a chance to show its friendship under conditions of international stress. Unfortunately the Germans and the British are too much alike in their dispositions, their ambitions and other qualities which ought to make for peace, but do not. They are rivals for commercial and naval supremacy, and there is no use in blinking the fact. The greatest hope of peace to-day is in the personal influence of the Kaiser, who in this respect is wearing the mantle of Edward VII. The need of the German nation of room for expansion is obvious, and the best parts of the earth are either occupied by Great Britain or tabooed by the Monroe Doctrine. The situation is an exceedingly difficult one. It is hard to devise a happy solution of the problem and the alternative of war is odious, we are convinced, to both nations alike. We hope that British and German statesmanship will be equal to the task required. It would be well for the public men and the press of both nations to avoid, so far as possible, the use of irritating phrases. Most wars are precipitated, not to say caused, by phrases.

PRESIDENT Taft's Message to Congress is devoted entirely to the Anti-trust question. He recommends a Federal Incorporation law which shall provide for the voluntary formation of corporations to engage in domestic and foreign commerce and says that a purely negative statute like the anti-trust law may well be supplemented by specific provisions for the building up and regulation of legitimate national and foreign commerce. The President says he can see decided advantages in a new criminal law which shall describe and denounce methods of competition which are unfair and enable Government to prosecute single misdemeanors.

The Message seems to be favorably regarded by the big business institutions. A supplementary Message will probably deal with the tariff ques-

tion, and in view of the fact that the House is now controlled by a hostile majority and of the failure of the President's reciprocity alternative to tariff reduction there is naturally much curiosity as to how he will deal with the subject.

THE VOTE FEMININE.

IT IS hard to predict or to predicate anything about the vote feminine. For instance, most people have assumed that only a small proportion of the women would vote if they had the privilege; that they would vote for prohibition almost to a woman, and vote for almost anything "faddy." In the Los Angeles election 95 per cent. of the women on the list voted, about seventy-five per cent. of them against the Socialist or "faddy" candidate for the mayoralty; and in a constituency where 70,000 were women out of a total list of 140,880 a prohibition amendment was defeated. Explain it who can. "If she will, she will you may depend on't; and if she won't, she won't and there's an end on't." Another marvel, only one woman is on record as having gone back to the poll wanting to change her vote.

RETIREMENT OF JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER.

MR JOHN D. Rockefeller's retirement from the presidency of the Standard Oil Company is an event, the importance of which has been discounted by the fact that that great combination has so recently been shattered into its original fragments by the Supreme Court of the United States. Mr. Rockefeller's resignation may, however, be taken as an acknowledgement of the completeness and finality of the work of destruction. He is seventy-two years old, he can afford to retire from business, and he has earned the right to cease playing a game in which the stakes can have no further practical interest for him. By continuing in the struggle and by constant attention to business he might add a few millions or hundreds of millions to his wealth, but to paraphrase the great Earl Derby, of what advantage would that be to him. When a railway promoter wanted to run a line near Knowsley, the Earl positively refused to consider the scheme. "But," said the railway man, "this will double your income." "Can you show me" persisted the Earl "that it would be any advantage to me to double my income."