

who is wise enough to understand and brave enough to advocate the theory which reveals the means by which we shall make real progress.

LIZZIE NYE NORTHROP.

### EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

London, England, July 24.—We are beginning to reap the first fruits of the flood of reactionary thought which has steadily made headway during the past 25 years. Education, of a sort, and freedom to combine, to speak and to think, were wrested from the privileged classes at the beginning of the last century; and the people were getting out of hand, were commencing, to use Thorold Rogers's words, "to think of their natural rights." Henry George's immortal works quickened the pace; and the clever men of the privileged classes began to fear for the continuance of their privileges. As they know full well, his inspiring thoughts have gained headway in the minds and hearts of the thoughtful amongst the disinherited, and cannot be met and overthrown in a fair fight.

This sense of insecurity, to which Lord Salisbury so successfully appealed, has consciously or unconsciously impelled the privileged to unite in defense of their privileges. The passions and prejudices, as well as the ignorance, of the masses had to be appealed to; for they realized that anything they could do would have to be done in the guise or name of democracy, and, of course, in the interest of "the working man", without whose aid they were indeed helpless. Hence it is that the enthusiasm for democracy, for the brotherhood of man, for equal rights and equal opportunities to all, regardless of color or of race, has gradually been supplanted in the public mind by imperialism, by nationalism, by a studious disregard of principles, and an appeal to selfishness and materialism.

Imperialism! What crimes have been committed in its name both by you Americans and we Englishmen. But it cannot last, unless, indeed, the masses may be induced to forge fresh fetters for their own enslavement. And this is the immediate aim of the reactionaries on this side of the water.

Protectionism and conscription, of course under new names and new pretenses, these are the trump cards of the reactionaries. Chamberlain has led the first suit; and his lead cannot be countered by the old weapons, with which the ordinary official Liberals are meeting it, and will continue to meet it unless we can stop them. If we cannot, they must lose—some of them, I suspect, would be quite glad to lose—and the coming gen-

eration will find itself enslaved and helpless in the hands of its oppressors.

There is no doubt in my mind that much ground we once thought won forever, has already been lost; and I look around in vain for men in the orthodox Liberal party capable of leading the nation on to recover it. Land reform is the "joker" (you will, I think, understand the allusion) which could win the trick; but this card the Liberal party as at present constituted will not play—though, to suit their own ends, they may play *with* it, and flourish it in the eyes of their official enemies.

In view of the present situation, we are bringing out and selling through the trade, at half price, sixpence (12 cents), a special issue of the authorized edition of Henry George's "Protection or Free Trade." So far, we have ordered 17,000 copies, and if only we can secure the necessary financial support, we shall sell 50,000 and possibly 100,000 during the coming 12 months. We shall have large double crown placards, advertising the book, all over London; and we are in treaty to have similar placards at all railway bookstalls. There is, as you well know, no better antidote to the Chamberlain poison; and we shall do our best and strain our financial resources to the breaking point to get it as widely diffused as possible.

It will be heavy and most trying work, more especially as the financial resources at our disposal are most meager; but we must take advantage of the opportunity now presented. It may be that after all the Tories are playing into our hands; for every real struggle in the past has been fought out over fiscal questions—I mean in England; and it is into the field of fiscal politics that their move will force the taxation of land values. The opportunity for really effective propaganda work has come; and unless funds fail us we shall take the fullest advantage of it.

LEWIS H. BERENS.

## NEWS

Week ending Thursday, Aug. 6.

To the great Roman Catholic world, the event of the week has been the election of a successor to the late Pope Leo XIII. (p. 264) as head of their Church. The conclave of cardinals was assembled for the election in the Sistine chapel at Rome on the 31st, the number in attendance being 62, and on the 1st the voting began. The regulation two ballots were

taken, but without result. On the 2d the next two were also without result. Likewise with the two ballots of the 3d. But on the 4th a unanimous choice was made on the first ballot, the successful candidate being Giuseppe Sarto, patriarch of Venice, who has become Pope under the title of Pius X.

Pius X. is an Italian, born at Riese in 1835. He was of peasant birth, and his brother is postman and a small storekeeper in a village in Mantua. The pope was educated at Treviso and Padua. At 23 he was consecrated a priest at Castel Franco; and for 9 years following he acted as coadjutor to the parish priest of Tombolo in the province of Padua, going thence in 1867 as parish priest to the parish of Salzano. In 1875 he was elected chancellor of the bishopric of Treviso, and in 1884 Pope Leo appointed him bishop of Mantua, a place he held until 1893, when he was raised to the cardinalate and appointed patriarch of Venice.

Somewhat more definite news of the persecution of reformers in China than that which was briefly referred to editorially last week (p. 260) has since been received. It seems that the Chinese reform newspaper at Shanghai, the "Supao," is being prosecuted by the local Chinese authorities for sedition, warrants having been issued against the editor and his staff, seven persons in all, with a view to turning them over to the Chinese government for capital punishment. The editors have thus far been able to prevent the consummation of this purpose by appealing to the foreign ministers to assume jurisdiction of the matter. The ministers have not decided to comply. On the contrary, the Russian, French and American ministers favor surrendering the editors to the Chinese government. But the British minister is opposed to doing this, and upon his application to his government has received instructions in accordance with his wishes. The fact was announced in the House of Commons on the 5th, by Mr. Balfour, who said that the British minister at Peking had been telegraphically instructed that it was the opinion of the