

curb to curb, and to maintain it in proper condition.

It is held that its rights under the old ordinance lapsed under the time limit. And obviously the company had no faith in the alleged rights under the former grant. It evidently regarded them as lost by reason of its failure to carry out the terms of the ordinance within the time specified; and it confessed the fact when it asked Councils to grant a new franchise. Even the negotiation of the secret agreement was a confession that it had no rights in the street.

The episode has caused widespread expression of hostile sentiment. The Mayor has been savagely criticised by members of his own party. His defenders are few and far between. He himself has undertaken no defense. The Johnstown Daily Democrat, which made his election possible because it believed in his pledges to the people, has exposed the transaction in all its apparent ugliness, and has stirred up a feeling on the subject that seems to be deep and general.

It is probable that the courts will be invoked to determine the rights of the people in the case. There is no public official who appears to be disposed to act in behalf of the city, and it must therefore devolve upon some citizen to initiate proceedings. There is also talk that Councils may institute an investigation; but this is not taken seriously, although Councilmen claim they were gold-bricked in the transaction, having been made to believe that the traction company already possessed the right to occupy Maple avenue with a second track.

S. R. BEEBE.

AUSTRALIA. (p. 22.)

Corowa. N. S. W., May 25.—The Federal Parliament is still in recess, but a good deal of discussion on politics has been going on in the press and on the platform.

At a conference of the Political Labor league, of New South Wales, held in Sydney in February, a motion was carried that the Labor platform should state that the objective of the party is "a cooperative commonwealth founded upon the socialization of the production and distribution of wealth." This produced a strong protest from a Roman Catholic delegate, who declared that Roman Catholics were debarred from being socialists by the encyclical of the late Pope Leo XIII. The Catholic Press, a leading Roman Catholic paper of Sydney, took the same view, saying that nine-tenths of the Catholics had supported the Labor party, but now it had cut them off. Afterwards, however, Cardinal Moran, the head of the Roman Catholic church in Australia, smoothed the matter over by announcing that while some persons had made extravagant utterances

and advocated false principles, it was not just to saddle the Labor party with the responsibility for them. A milder expression was finally adopted, instead of that above quoted: "the securing of the full results of their industry to all producers by the collective ownership of monopolies and the extension of the industrial and economic functions of the state and municipality."

Lately the labor leaders seem to think they have been going too fast, for they have repeatedly complained that they are misrepresented by their opponents, and that their aims are not to establish state socialism, but merely to abolish monopolies.

It is evident that before long great efforts will be made to combine the protectionists and the Labor party on the basis of mutual concessions, the tariff to be increased in return for increased labor and socialistic legislation.

A tariff commission was appointed last year to inquire into the working of the tariff. It has been taking evidence for some months, and when its report is received by Parliament there will probably be a great tariff discussion, which may be very awkward for Mr. Reid, the prime minister, as half his cabinet and a large number of his supporters are protectionists.

Mr. Max Hirsch, who was at one time in the woolen business, gave evidence before the tariff commission. He produced samples of Victorian made flannels which he had had analyzed, showing they contained a large proportion of cotton. He therefore argued that they did not deserve to be protected as woolen. Mr. Hirsch was treated by the chairman of the commission as a hostile witness, but he managed to make out his case very well.

There are several anti-socialistic organizations now, but they all have purely negative policies, and some are acting very foolishly by misrepresenting the Labor party. For instance, the Victorian branch of the Australian Women's National League employs a woman lecturer who frequently states that state socialism means the abolition of marriage and religion. State socialism might involve that ultimately, but it is not advocated nor even desired by the great majority of the Labor socialists.

Mr. G. H. Reid, the prime minister, is organizing an anti-socialist body called the Australian Liberal League, but he has not gone into details yet, and so far the programme of the league is vague and apparently negative, which indicates that it will be useless. Mr. Reid's only chance would be to adopt a positive, bold, democratic policy. The majority of our people, even those who support the Labor party, are

not really socialists, but they are dissatisfied with things as they are. The tariff question is a great obstacle, for a great many democrats are protectionists. Still, if Reid were to adopt a really democratic policy I believe he would draw a large majority. A purely negative programme will produce no enthusiasm.

ERNEST BRAY.

NEWS NARRATIVE

Week ending Thursday, June 29.

Norway and Sweden.

After exciting debates on the secession of Norway (p. 183), the Swedish Riksdag, at its session of the 27th, referred the ministerial bill for adjusting the details of separation to extraordinary committees of both houses. The committee of the upper house consists of 3 Ministerial and 9 Opposition members; that of the lower house of 5 Ministerial, 5 Opposition, and 2 independent members. The preceding debates brought out bellicose speeches from the Opposition, and the favor with which these were received indicated that the peaceable separation policy of the King and the Ministry might be obstructed by the Riksdag.

The King gave out a formal statement on the 27th to the effect that he does not approve the selection for King of Norway of a member of his family (Bernadotte), as the Norwegian Storting proposes, and that he will not consent to it unless the Swedish Riksdag expresses its wish for such a selection.

Official announcement of the independence of Norway reached the United States on the 22d, through the American consul general at Christiania, who transmitted a declaratory note from the Norwegian minister for foreign affairs. Presumably the same note has reached all the powers through like channels of communication.

Possible Revolution in Russia.

Dispatches from St. Petersburg tell of gloomy days for the Czar's government. Details are only meagerly reported, owing to the censorship at the various points of disturbance, but a state of almost open war is believed to