

Theirs was now a sinking ship, and the "gray wolves" who had theretofore voted with them and whose votes they had gratefully received, abandoned it.

When the subject came up in committee of the whole, a motion to substitute the minority report for the majority report—Mayor Dunne's ordinances for J. Pierpont Morgan's ordinances—was easily carried. The biters were bitten, the snubbers were snubbed. The people of Chicago will not only vote next April on municipal ownership and operation of street cars, but they will vote in such manner that their decision must be obeyed.

THE NEWS.

It was a wonderful and useful idea to develop the system of spreading news by cooperation. This is practically the idea of the Associated Press.

But suppose the idea is warped; suppose the emphasis of news is shifted from really important news to the news that is favored, or is simply sensational. Then we have a false view of the world's passing history—false, because there is a shifting of emphasis from what is important to what is of forced or trifling or morbid interest.

Take an illustration. The papers publishing the Associated Press dispatches have contained lengthy telegrams of useless details concerning President Harper's death. Now Dr. Harper, as president of the University of Chicago and as a writer on Old Testament criticism, had a national reputation. It was right and proper that the facts of his death should be made known with fitting comments. But why the lengthy columns?

Let us put the matter distinctly and definitely by way of contrast. A prominent man, no less a person than the present Premier of the English government, has recently made speeches favoring the taxation of land values. This, one would think, is a piece of news almost "sensational." The announcement of a policy by England's Prime Minister in regard to a question which has been discussed throughout the world for the past twenty-five years, ought surely to

be considered a subject of international interest. Yet not a word of attention has it received in the news of our newspapers. Now why is it that papers which have no word about so important a matter, can give columns to the life and death of a college president, whose work at best was not far reaching?

The Associated Press is a great institution, but it will have to improve in the quality of its discrimination, if it hopes to hold the confidence even of those who live on newspapers. Many people are already beginning to question whether the news that is daily given them is to be trusted as a reasonably fair and complete account of contemporary history.

J. H. DILLARD.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

AUSTRALASIA (see p. 690).

Corowa, N. S. W., Australia, Dec. 22.—The Shires bill was passed early this month. Its principal provisions are: Land values only to be taxed; minimum tax, one penny, maximum two pence, in the pound; suffrage to be one tax-payer one vote for each councillor to be elected; women tax-payers to be on equality with men, both as to voting and eligibility for the council. In the present municipalities, women tax-payers, if single or widows, may vote, but not married women, and no woman may be a councillor.

The shire tax on land values will take the place of the present State tax of one penny in the pound; but there will be no exemption, so even if a shire does not make the tax more than one penny, this act will cause a satisfactory step forward in land value taxation. The local government extension bill, obliging the existing municipalities to tax land values only, is almost certain to be passed next session.

Another good measure passed by the New South Wales parliament is a liquor act, somewhat similar to that of New Zealand. Each State electorate is constituted a licensing district, in which a local option poll will be taken on the day of each general election for the State parliament, and every State elector has a vote. Three propositions will be submitted: (a) Continuance of existing licenses, (b) reduction, (c) no license. A bare majority will be sufficient to carry "a" or "b," but to establish a no-license electorate it will be necessary that there be a three-fifths majority, and that the whole number of voters at the polls be not less than 30 per cent. of the

electors on the roll. The same majority will be required to restore licenses in a no-license district. A special licensing court is to be constituted to administer the act. If reduction be carried, the court has to decide on the particular houses and the number to be closed. The number is not to exceed a quarter of the existing licenses. No compensation will be paid; but a time limit, varying from three to eight years, according to circumstances, is fixed, after which the licenses will not be renewed. Badly conducted houses will get the shortest time. There is a local-option liquor law in Victoria which allows for immediate reduction only, and provides for compensation—a system which works out very, unfavorably to the general taxpayer.

The New Zealand elections were held on December 6, and, contrary to expectation, Mr. Seddon's majority is considerably increased. The latest returns (incomplete) are: Government, 56; Opposition, 16; Independent, 6. Messrs George Fowlds and A. W. Ell were reelected; Mr. P. J. O'Megan was defeated by a small majority. The Independent Labor party was annihilated. The liquor prohibitionists did not do nearly so well as they expected. Local-option polls were taken on election day, but the final results have not yet been reported. So far, the number of no-license districts has been increased from three to four, and reduction carried in several others. No license has to be carried by a three-fifths majority.

Mr. Max Hirsch, the eminent free trader and leading single taxer of Australia, who sails for Europe on the 26th, was given a farewell dinner in Melbourne on the 19th.

ERNEST BRAY.

NEWS NARRATIVE

How to use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives: Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue so until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Thursday, Jan. 25.

Surprise in Chicago traction proceedings.

When the franchise extension ordinances came on the 18th before the committee of the whole of the Chicago City Council, pursuant to special order of that body (pp. 693-94), the proceedings were