

business. If a line is drawn between them, it must be drawn on well defined grounds, and logical reasons must be offered.

+

Lastly, let us consider the more sentimental objection to mail order business—the objection that one should be a true patriot to one's locality, and spend one's money at home. Supposing a person buys a suit of clothes from a local dealer. Does he actually spend his money "at home"? Perhaps the wool came from Australia, the goods were spun and woven in an English mill, part of the price constituted customs duties paid into the United States treasury, a New York tailoring firm made the cloth into clothes, the lining was cotton from Mississippi, spun and woven in a New England cotton mill, and perhaps some silk for the buttonholes came from France. The buttons were of German manufacture, and the goods were finally handled by a wholesale house in Chicago, which sold it to the local dealer in a small town in Missouri. Now, *how much of the \$20 paid for the suit is actually expended in the local town (well, of course, the local dealer knows)?* And what injustice to his town's industrial development does the man do if he buys the same suit for a few dollars less from a mail order house in Chicago? Would not the man have the few dollars saved by such a transaction to spend on something which perhaps was actually manufactured in his own town? At any rate, what more good would the money he saves do in the pockets of the local dealer than in the pockets of the man who had himself earned them in the same town, and continued to live and work there?

If the mail order business does fail to live up to its past and present standards it will disappear by itself. But as long as it is honestly conducted, as long as it is a labor-saving device in modern business life, and as long as the local dealers do not try to perfect their methods, so long the mail order business is a purely logical outcome of existing conditions, and the monopolistic spirit which denounces this business, because of the keen competition it affords, is entitled to no consideration.

ERIC OBERG.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

AUSTRALIA.

Corowa, N. S. W., July 20.—In the Federal parliament the first business taken up was the "Australian Industries preservation bill," usually called the "Anti-trust bill," which was thrown out last session (vol viii, p. 781). This time the Labor party supported it; and it has been passed by the House

and sent to the Senate. As it may be amended I shall not go into details at present; but as it stands now it is the worst example of paternalism and government by regulation yet passed.

+

You will have heard of the very sudden death of Mr. Richard Seddon, premier of New Zealand. He had been on a short visit to Australia, and died at sea the day after leaving Sydney on the return voyage. Though without definite political principles he was democratic in most respects. Much of the legislation passed by the governments of which he was head was beneficial, and New Zealand suffers a great loss by his death.

+

Rabbits have increased so rapidly in the eastern States of Australia that they have become a terrible pest. The New South Wales minister for lands stated recently that the government lands in the western division, which are let on lease, had decreased in value £8,000,000 owing to the rabbit plague, and rents had to be lowered in proportion. Private landowners are put to great and continual expense to keep down the number of rabbits. On the other hand, a large trade has grown up in the rabbit carcasses and skins which are largely exported. But of course it is far more profitable for the country as a whole to grow sheep and cattle than to export rabbits.

Some time ago a committee was formed in New South Wales, funds raised by subscription principally among the large landowners, and negotiations entered into with the Pasteur Institute, Paris, with the object of trying to destroy rabbits by disease. An agreement was made after some time, and now Dr. Danysz has arrived to make experiments. The New South Wales government set apart Broughton Island off Newcastle, N. S. W., for this purpose, and all experiments are to be carried on under government supervision. Dr. Danysz proposes to use a microbic disease called a "pasteurella," somewhat akin to chicken cholera. He declares it will not affect any animal but the rabbit. The scheme has aroused a great deal of opposition on the grounds that the disease may affect human beings and domestic animals, and that the rabbit trade will be destroyed.

ERNEST BRAY.

NEWS NARRATIVE

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 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 Wednesday, August 22.

Earthquakes in South America.

Earthquakes which rival if they do not surpass in destructiveness San Francisco's "tremblor" of last April (pp. 56, 78) have nearly wiped out Valparaiso,