

points in Virginia, and on the 12th from Spain. Mayor Charles Tait of Kingston, Jamaica (p. 1019), died on the 10th from injuries received during the recent earthquake.

—Nicaragua and Honduras have failed to accept the arbitration of their difficulties by San Salvador (p. 1066). But since under the agreements signed by all the republics of Central America upon the conclusion of the recent war between Guatemala and San Salvador, the United States and Mexico have the right to intervene in case of war between any of those countries, and the republics bound themselves to refer all disputes to an arbitration bureau (p. 586), President Diaz and President Roosevelt have together informed the governments of Nicaragua and Honduras that there must be no war between the two countries at this time and that they must submit their present dispute to arbitration.

PRESS OPINIONS

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

Life (New York), February 7.—The party of the loaves and fishes, of high protection and privilege; the conservative party that is opposed to all change and is satisfied to feel that it includes pretty much all the political virtue there is in the country.

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THE DESIRE OF THE SOIL.

The (London) Tribune (Lib.), January 12.—We do not believe that the desire of the soil is dead any more than we believe that the old conscious or unconscious love of the country is dead in the villages. But we have to learn how to make our land system the instrument of the one, as we have to learn how to make the country school the nursery of the other.

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LAND HUNGER.

Iowa State Register and Farmer, Jan. 18.—A craving for land is a healthy sort of appetite, but it should not be given over-indulgence. In this, as in other forms of hunger, there is a possibility of its leading to gluttony and the evils resulting therefrom. A man should take in no more than he is able to masticate and digest. In land ownership he should hold no more than he is able to manage and develop up to its level best in productiveness. He has no moral right or title to any more of the Lord's footstool than he can thoroughly cultivate and leave better than he found it. That is the seal and stamp of a good title—use and improvement.

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ENGLAND'S LAND QUESTION.

The (London) Tribune (Lib.), January 11.—If it is agreed that the nation is to set to work to reclaim its ancient and neglected possessions, the policy, of course, will not be a wild and reckless escapade or adventure, it will be a deliberate, determined, and scientific invasion. . . . The decay of the English country as a home for English men and women is not the work of inexorable laws of nature; it is largely due to the blight of the deliberate action of a powerful class. Its restoration depends on the energy which the nation is prepared to devote to it. Fortunately, the government has behind it no mere drift or eddy of discontent, but the visions and passionate hopes of great multitudes of the disinherited poor.

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CONSTITUTIONALISM IN PERSIA.

The (New York) Nation (ind.), January 17.—In Persia a new reign and a new regime have begun almost si-

multaneously. Mohammed Ali Mirza succeeds his father as Shah and King of Kings, under extremely favorable auspices. Persia is the second nation within a few years to shatter rudely our established notions regarding the Orient and Oriental capacity for political progress. The constitutional machinery that has been put in motion seems to be working well. The very fact that the first step taken by the new legislative assembly was to quarrel with the Crown over the establishment of an upper house with revisionary powers, is a good sign. That is the way young parliaments always begin. In the new monarch's reported conservative tendencies we believe there is little cause for alarm. Indeed, it is a testimonial to his straightforward character that he should have entered during his father's lifetime into a contest with the assembly, for the purpose of permanently defining the character of the new Parliament, when by waiting a few weeks he was sure to occupy a stronger vantage point as occupant of the throne.

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THE NEW REICHSTAG AND THE KAISER.

The Chicago Record-Herald (ind.), February 7.—An interesting question that the liberal and radical leaders are asking is what the government intends to do by way of proving its "new-found" sympathy with "revived liberalism." If it is counting on the votes of those groups, it must be prepared to do something to attract and hold them. There has been some intimation, to be sure, that Von Buelow really means to govern by means of "two majorities," one for measures agreeable to the liberals and another—in which the centrists are included—for "world politics," with the accompaniments of increased taxation and higher duties and prices. But clearly such a policy as this cannot be carried out without the weak acquiescence of the opposition. The probability is that the Kaiser will get all the extra appropriations he wants for ships and railroads in the colonies in return for some concessions to the liberal spirit in the shape of electoral reform in Prussia and relaxation of antiquated home policies.

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THE DEFEAT OF SOCIALISM IN GERMANY.

Chicago Daily Socialist (Soc.), February 6.—A few days ago the cables were loaded with messages telling of the "defeat of socialism" in Germany. Every daily paper, except this one, from one end of the country to the other announced in flaring headlines that Socialism was "crushed," "overwhelmed," "wiped out," "destroyed," "had its progress checked," etc., etc. Then came hundreds of editorials written in learned phraseology and pompous ignorance, philosophizing on the "reason for" and the "lessons to be drawn from," and the "probable effects of" this crushing "defeat" of Socialism. Then the "comic" writers proceeded to ring the changes on the same theme with all possible variations and degrees of humor and imbecility. The magazines are just beginning to join in the chorus, and it is probable that for some months to come there will be discussions and essays and explanations and descriptions of how, and why, and wherefore the German Socialists were "defeated." So thoroughly will this idea be injected into the public mind that for the next five years we will be continually reminded of the direful lessons of the Socialist "defeat." The ultimate result of all this, of course, will be to leave but one impression in the mind of the average reader concerning the election and that is that the Socialists were "crushed" and set back and that the Socialist movement in Germany has lost strength. The fact is that the Socialist vote of Germany increased nearly 10 per cent. The defeated, crushed, smashed, ruined, destroyed Socialists received a million more votes than any other party engaged in the election. Several barrels of ink that have been used in explaining this defeat might have been saved and the whole story told in three words—the newspapers lied.