

The nearest that Mr. Ferrero came in his speech to wounding anybody's feelings was in introducing the subject of monopoly; and to such wounds as this might have made, Mr. Milburn proceeded to administer the proper anodyne. "We hear much of monopoly in these days," he said, "and our guest has mentioned it as one of the phenomena of history. His allusions recall an evening not long ago when I was glancing at the books in my library and my eye fell upon a copy of Aristotle. Taking down the volume, I turned the pages idly until my attention was arrested by the story of a foresighted man who had anticipated a large grape crop by buying all the wine presses he could find. The grape crop proved to be as large as he had expected, and inasmuch as he owned all the wine presses he was able to make a great fortune. Such, you see, is monopoly in all ages—the reward of foresight."

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Everybody was duly impressed with this delicate defense of monopoly, even if made by a Standard Oil employe. But Ferrero, who probably knew nothing about Mr. Milburn's professional connections, was disturbed by the inaccuracy of the quotation. He begged therefore to be allowed to correct Mr. Milburn, by explaining that it was not wine that constituted the subject matter of Aristotle's story, but oil.

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POSSIBILITIES OF INDIAN NATIONALITY.

Since October 16th, 1905, when "partition of Bengal" was carried out by the British Indian government, against the protest of the eighty millions of Bengal, the people of India have taken an advanced step toward nationalization. Whether there is any possibility of accomplishment, is the question asked from different quarters with various motives.

Some contend that Indian nationalization is an impossible thing, because there are many different races of people with no common tongue, and the masses are not well educated. The Indian people themselves realize that there are very many difficulties in the way. At the same time they affirm that there is every possibility of Indian nationalization.

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If we are to consider the lessons of history and believe in the eternal law of progress we cannot but acknowledge that party feeling and racial factions die out with the awakening of the sublime

spirit of nationalism. The history of the United States of America, of Italy and of evolving Turkey, furnish examples.

The people of India, especially the two hundred millions of Hindus, have always cherished the idea of universal race toleration. The persecuted Jews and Parsees, for instance, were welcomed with open arms by the Hindus during the twelfth century. So the race-question does not stand against our nationality.

More than three-fourths of the people of India have Hindusthanees as the common tongue, and the Indian nationalists are attempting to make it a common tongue all over India. In Austro-Hungary, Switzerland, Italy, Russia and the United States, people speak different languages, but it does not affect their nationality. We can venture, then, to say that the language question will not be a great obstacle to the movement for Indian nationalization.

The British government knows well that it is easy to govern a foreign people by keeping them in ignorance. So the people of India are denied the opportunity of education. After a glorious British rule of 150 years, only 9 per cent can read and write. Even to-day the British government is checking all kinds of private educational enterprise by drastic measures. Nevertheless we believe that there is every possibility of Indian nationality because the majority of the people of India, like the founders of the republic of the United States, though they cannot read and write, are educated up to the standards of nationalism.

It is the universal law that conflicting interests cause disunion, but common interest strengthens the tie of unity. The deplorable economic condition of India, caused by British exploitation, has made the people understand the need for Indian nationalization.

Nationalization must come sooner or later.

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The nationalists of India have given publicity to their program in three words:

"Swaraj" (self-government).

"Swadeshi" (development of Indian industry and commerce).

"Sikha" (national education in the broadest sense of the word).

In explanation of this laudable program they revealed the idea of equal opportunity, self-preservation, and no starvation caused by foreign legalized pillage. This program is the result of thirty-five years' constant labor of the Indian people.

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The idea of self-government is nothing new to

them. The village community system of the Hindus yet exists. About this village community system Lord Elphinstone and others remarked that each Indian village was a tiny republic, and all of them under a central government. The people of India believe more in construction than in destruction, so the national leaders of India are working hard to revive the institutions of the old village community system—village courts of arbitration, and other factors of self-government, in smaller units of the vast territory.

For the development of Indian industries, agriculture and commerce, they are doing their best in establishing factories, banks, agricultural societies and navigation companies, under direct control of the people themselves.

For national education they have established a national educational council. This council has favorably pronounced upon adopting all that is good from the western countries. Indian students are going out to foreign countries to get the better education which has not been provided for them at home by the British government. Here they are indebted to the people of the United States, who are helping young men from India to get education in American universities, thus giving them a chance to understand and assimilate the idea of democracy. Besides this, colleges, technical schools, and primary schools, independent of government control, are nowadays rising up in all parts of India, assuring the success of Indian nationalism in time.

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The most advanced thinkers of India cherish the idea of establishing a United States of India.

When we see that Italy has not yet been able to establish republicanism, where Mazzini and others preached the religion of the democracy of the people, we realize that we cannot say positively what will be the future form of government in India. But time will probably shape the destiny of Indian nationalism toward a federation of different States, and, like Switzerland, with the popular initiative and referendum.

The Indian people have no need of being concerned about the result, because work will produce the results.

TARAKNATH DAS.

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Thus I, for instance, lost my lamp; because the thief was better at keeping awake than I. But for that lamp he paid the price of becoming a thief; for that lamp he lost his virtue, and became like a wild beast. This seemed to him a good bargain; and so let it be!—Epictetus.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

AUSTRALIA.

Corowa, N. S. W., Australia, December 19th, 1908. —The State parliament of Victoria passed the woman suffrage bill mentioned in my last letter (vol. xi, p. 918), so the women of Victoria are now on a political equality with those of the rest of the Commonwealth. On fifteen previous occasions, bills to give women the State suffrage had been carried by the lower house, but were thrown out by the Legislative Council (upper house).

The reconstructed State ministry of Victoria soon came to grief. Shortly after it met the house, it was defeated by a fairly large majority. The parliament was then dissolved and fresh elections will be held at the end of the month.

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 Tuesday, January 26, 1909.

A Historic Rescue.

A ship in dire peril calling for assistance far over the wastes of waters and through the depths of the sea, and great steamships from fifty to a hundred miles away turning in a few moments upon their courses and coming to the rescue, thus securing the safety of nearly two thousand persons—this is the reassuring story of the collision of two Atlantic liners last week.

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The White Star steamship Republic, on her way to the Mediterranean, was rammed in a dense fog, off the island of Nantucket, early on the 23d, by the steamer Florida of the Lloyd Italian line, bound for New York. Six passengers on the Republic were instantly killed, and a few were injured, by the impact of the vessels. The Republic was so badly cut into that it was believed that she would quickly sink. Her dynamos were immediately put out of commission, but her wireless equipment included extra storage batteries of great power, and instantly the wireless call for aid, "C. D. Q.," meaning, "I am in serious trouble," was sent in every direction. The Baltic of the same line, about eighty miles away, the French steamer La Lorraine, and the Cunarder Lucania, all heard and instantly turned on their keels to seek the Republic.