

the inhabitants of Florence and Bologna thrown out of their beds at 8 o'clock! Think how dreadful that one word is, "terremoto."

HERBERT HUNTER VAUGHAN.

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A LAND MEETING IN ENGLAND.

London, Jan. 22.—It was quite dark when I left the most dismal of all London stations, and the train was an unconscionable time depositing me at the end of a little stub line right in the heart of Surrey. I stumbled up the poorly lighted street and across a ghostly looking market place, for it was shrouded in mist, and found the Old House at Home, the rendezvous of the local Land Club.

The meeting on this occasion was of the council formed of delegates from the local clubs of Surrey and Kent. Some of them had walked five miles, one had bicycled ten and one had come from thirty miles away by train, and all were good-humoredly intent on satisfying their land hunger. The various Land Clubs muster nearly 600 members, all of whom have applied to their County Council for land, and are still waiting.

The need of such an organization is apparent. It is not enough in this case to make the first actor in the series do his part, to have the action communicated all down the line until the pig gets over the fence. After the necessary pressure on the local authority has created the small holdings, the holder must be upheld or the whole movement will fall into disrepute. This means, organization. It means the inauguration of all the helps the small holders of the continent have—cheap money, through co-operative banks, co-operative briefing, co-operative dealing with transportation companies and co-operative selling. This may be to the holders' own co-operative bacon factories or creameries. The background of the whole scheme, however, has yet to be filled in, and these men are not forgetting it. It is the taxation of land values. Already prices of agricultural land have stiffened all over the country, though only a few paltry hundred acres have been purchased under the small holdings act.

The chairman of our meeting was the wife of the secretary of the Fabian Society. He was also present and must be a tower of strength to the council through his knowledge of men and affairs. Mr. Montague Fordham, whose book "Mother Earth," is the scripture of the land clubbers, is as picturesque as an Edward Carpenter or a Whitman, and has a smile which would melt any heart but a territorial lord's.

The discussion ran on such subjects as the fate of a recent deputation to the Minister of Agriculture to move him to put the Act in force through his Department, the possibility of co-operating with the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and whether the present was the psychological moment for launching the movement on national lines.

After the meeting I heard from Mr. Fordham the sad story of some of their members whose innocent desire to have land to use has meant loss of employment or eviction from their cottage, and any one who knows rural England knows that this means eviction from the district. To stand by men in the hour of their need is another and most important function of the Union.

The London Daily Chronicle is doing splendid work. It has a column on taxation of land values every day.

A. K. MAYNARD.

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SUPPRESSION OF NATIONALISM IN INDIA.

Norwich University, Jan. 26.—We are pretty well convinced from the news reports that the people of India are marching towards a stage of political transition. Indian nationalist leaders have been deported without any trial. They were deported under the regulation of April 7, 1918. This regulation has different sections and it is an exhaustive one. I quote the principal part of the preamble to show whether or not the regulation is expressive of the greatest amount of self-government consonant with the retention of the dependent status of the people of India. It reads thus: "Whereas reasons of state embracing the due maintenance of the alliances formed by the British Government with the foreign Powers, the preservation of tranquillity in the territories of native Princes entitled to its protection, and the security of the British dominions from foreign hostility and from internal commotion, occasionally render it necessary to place under personal restraint individuals against whom there may not be sufficient grounds to institute any judicial proceedings, or when such proceeding may not be adapted to the nature of the case, or may for other reasons be inadvisable or improper, and herein referred to; the determination to be taken should proceed immediately from the authority of the Governor General in Council."

From the letter and spirit of the above regulation we see that persons may be put in restraint against whom there is no sufficient ground to institute judicial proceedings. This idea is contrary to the principle of civil right; and the practice of restraining people without proper judgment is shocking to all who have any sympathy for the principle of civil rights. An individual is supposed to be innocent unless proved guilty of certain crime, and the innocent must not be punished or be deprived of personal liberty.

People in general are inclined to think that the British Government in India is a blessing to the people there, because it has guaranteed the people the enjoyment of civil rights. But the enforcement of a law of such an autocratic nature indicates that the people of India under British rule enjoy less liberty in the twentieth century than the British people enjoyed in the thirteenth. In the British Isle the right of trial by jury has long been regarded as one of the bulwarks of liberty.

In the celebrated Magna Charta granted by King John in 1215, we find the following clause: "No freeman shall be taken or imprisoned or disseized or outlawed or banished or any way injured, nor will we pass upon him nor send upon him, unless by the legal judgment of the peers or by the law of the land." It is against the principle of humanity and justice that because a people is in a dependent state they may be deprived of the privilege of defending themselves from arbitrary executive orders. On this point the British constitution holds that no freeman shall be imprisoned without cause shown, to which he may

make answer. The people of India are not slaves, they are freemen, too.

Lord Morley, the eminent philosopher, is the Secretary of State for India now. Every line of his books breathes the idea of Liberalism and dignity of human rights. We of India don't understand why under his regime a law has been enforced in India which cannot be justified in any case except when the country is under martial law. Then are we to suppose that India is under martial law?

We see that the Russian government gives some kind of trial to Russian revolutionists. We have seen that the British government gave the Zulu leaders a chance of judicial trial. Why then will not the British government give the Indian nationalists a chance of defending themselves before tribunals of justice instead of subjecting them to arbitrary deportation?

The American people cannot justify the measures taken by the British government in India, when they see that their own Constitution requires that all criminal cases before any United States court, shall be tried by jury. A state of dependency which denies the people civil rights cannot be justified.

TARAKNATH DAS.

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, February 2, 1909.

Russia Executes An American Soldier.

That a United States soldier, visiting his aged mother at his native home in Russia for the first time in fifteen years, with a formal furlough in his pocket, was arrested on a trumped-up charge of having deserted from one of the Czar's regiments, and was court martialed and almost immediately shot, was the story told at a meeting of the United German Trades in Philadelphia on the 31st. Resolutions were adopted requesting the United States government to demand from Russia a full explanation, apology and reparation. The soldier was Fritz Strombach, who called Philadelphia his home, although he had served in the United States army almost without interruption since 1899, much of his time having been spent in the Philippines. In the fall of 1907 he obtained a furlough to visit his mother in the province of Kursland, Russia, taking with him his savings of years. Since that time nothing was heard from him until a relative in Philadelphia received a copy of a paper from that portion of Russia with a significant mark in blue pencil, surrounding a brief item telling of Strombach's arrest, trial and

execution, the last having occurred on his mother's farm. It was upon this information that the United German trades took its action.

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Russian Politics.

With an oligarchy in absolute power, and revolutionists for opposition, political conditions in Russia are of the brutal and bloody type, in which spies and traitors play important parts and death is the penalty for defeat. Startling instances of spies in high places on both sides have just come to light. Recently there were revelations at Paris to the effect that Azef, the head of the terrorists of the Russian revolutionary movement, was a paid agent of the Russian secret police (p. 86), and now it appears that a Russian police official, Lopukine, was instrumental in furnishing the revolutionary committee the information of treachery which enabled them to detect and condemn Azef. Lopukine is consequently under arrest at St. Petersburg, charged with high treason. He is a man of high standing and connections—having the rank of state councilor and being a brother-in-law of Prince Ourusoff. It was Ourusoff who, in the first Duma, arraigned General Trepoff as "the man higher up" who instigated the Jewish massacres.

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Indian Nationalists' Congress Suppressed.

The Indian National Congress, held at Madras during the latter part of December (p. 62), which expressed sentiments of loyalty to the British government, is not regarded by all native nationalists as the true congress. Another congress would have convened at Nagpur at about the same time, but it was suppressed by the British authorities, who prohibited any gathering in that city or the district between December 15th, 1908, and January 15th, 1909.

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This prevention of peaceful public assembly of Indian nationalists, is denounced by them as a policy of the British government, designed to prevent disclosure of the sentiments of the Indian people to the world. Self-government, revival of Indian industry, commerce and agriculture, and establishment of national educational systems are the declared objects of the Indian Nationalist party. To weaken and break up this patriotic and humanitarian band, so its leaders declare, the British government has adopted several "dishonorable and uncivil" methods. Recently nine distinguished Bengal nationalist leaders were deported without any kind of trial and under an old law, the act of 1818. Among these nine men Mr. Aswain Kumar Dutt, M. A., B. L., and Mr. Krishna Kuma Mitra, B. A., were the most influential. Mr. Dutt is the founder of a college, and he organized village courts of arbitration all over the