

lition of special privileges, whether of tariff or any other origin."

Less exciting than election politics but in some respects more important, are those subsurface movements which aim at economic reform. Of that order is the action last week of the railway commission of the Chicago city council. This commission was appointed to investigate and report upon the subject of street railways. Its work is not completed, but on the 11th it decided in favor of recommending municipal ownership of street railway plants. No decision has yet been made by the commission as to the ownership of rolling stock, power houses, etc., nor as to the question of municipal as opposed to private operation; but those questions will be considered in the report. The question of street car strikes is also under consideration, and the commissioners seem inclined to recommend that all grants of street car franchises contain a clause for compulsory arbitration.

NEWS NOTES.

—On the 16th the Zionists, who are followers of the Rev. John Alexander Dowie, of Chicago, consecrated the site of the Zion temple, near Waukegan, Ill., with elaborate ceremonies.

—The national convention of republican clubs met at Minneapolis on the 17th. It was addressed by Gov. Roosevelt, of New York. Isaac M. Hamilton, of Chicago, was elected president.

—An automatic telephone switchboard is the invention of E. A. Clark, of Sioux City, Ia. The invention will do away with central exchanges and render unnecessary the employment of a large force of operatives.

—India, in addition to the terrible famine, has also to fight a cholera plague, which claimed 13,000 victims last week. The summer rains, while heavy in some districts, have proven generally insufficient.

—A world's Christian Endeavor convention opened its sessions in London on the 13th with an immense attendance, including several hundred American delegates. Rev. Francis E. Clark, of Boston, the founder of the society, was reelected president.

—Attorney General Crow, of Missouri, instituted quo warranto proceedings against the St. Louis Transit company on the 17th, to test the constitutionality of the law permitting the consolidation of the St. Louis street railways.

—A call has been issued by the Farmers' federation for a farmers' conference, to be held at Topeka,

Kan., August 7, for the purpose of federating all agricultural organizations of the Mississippi valley into one central company for the sale of farm products.

—For the month of June, 1900, American exports and imports, as reported by the treasury department, were as follows:

	Exports.	Imports.
Merchandise	\$108,282,897	\$60,808,884
Gold	8,092,738	1,984,849
Silver	5,187,920	4,879,970
	\$121,564,555	\$67,673,703

Excess of exports. 53,890,852
 —For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900, American exports and imports, according to the report of the treasury department, were as follows:

	Exports.	Imports.
Merchandise	\$1,394,417,214	\$849,714,329
Gold	48,266,229	42,851,984
Silver	56,712,275	35,237,287
	\$1,499,395,718	\$927,803,550

Excess of exports. 571,592,168
 From October 1, 1834, to June 30, 1900, American exports and imports as reported by the treasury department, have been in the aggregate as follows. M. for merchandise, G. for gold and S for silver:

	Exports.	Imports.	Excess of Exports.
M ...	\$31,062,753,052	\$28,046,011,063	\$2,956,741,989
G ...	2,270,534,356	1,351,851,532	918,682,824
S ...	1,237,513,288	679,578,089	557,941,199
	\$34,510,800,696	\$30,077,440,684	\$4,433,366,012

The total excess, therefore, of outgoing wealth over incoming wealth, for the 65 years and 9 months, ending June 30, 1900, was \$4,433,366,012.

MISCELLANY

A PRAYER FOR LIGHT.

For The Public.
 Because with thieving clutch the blood-smear'd hands
 Of Indian empress, German kaiser, Russian tsar
 Are laid in lust upon the ancient lands
 Of age-old China, see a hideous star,
 Big with red portent, bursts! Their greed out blown,
 The sons of those the Monguls had mowed down
 To leave in grinning windrows of bleached bone
 Must measure swords against a Mongul throne.
 And fair America, so late to yield
 Her fate, her future to this pirate crew,
 Must see her own, their flag no more the shield
 Of this world's helpless, stricken with them, too.
 God help the gulltless! And God speed His Light
 To thieves and murderers, yellow or white!

WALLACE RICE.

IDLE TALK OF VENGEANCE.

It is well to remember that the Chinese of the different provinces, or even of different neighborhoods know very little about one another. The destruction of the Chinese sum-

mer palace by order of Lord Elgin in 1860, which was expected to make all China shudder, was scarcely heard of in Peking, hardly 12 miles away, and not heard of at all elsewhere in the empire. An English traveler in the region of the upper Yang-tse last summer found that the common people and many officials of whole provinces had never heard of the war of their country with Japan.

How are you going to wreak vengeance on such people? You might as well try to break a refractory mule in Virginia by flogging another one in Georgia.—Chicago Chronicle.

INDIA'S "FAVORABLE BALANCE OF TRADE."

The following items are taken from an article published in the Boston Pilot of July 7, under the title of "Starving India." This article had a number of facts and figures taken mostly from "Yearly Famine in India," by George E. Buell, of Rochester, N. Y.

The wheat crop in India in 1899 was 232,585,000 bushels. The average annual wheat crop for the last eight years was 234,067,750.

Over 35,400,000 bushels of wheat were exported from India in 1899; 16,509,740 bushels is the average amount annually exported from India for the last eight years.

Note from the above figures that India raised a little less than the average of wheat last year; but that she shipped out of the country two and one-eighth times more than the average shipped.

The Pilot comments as follows upon the foregoing paragraphs:

According to the "favorable balance of trade" theory, India is the most prosperous of countries, for her exports are always in excess of her imports, and especially so in famine years.

J. W. F.

HOW THE BOER ENVOYS WERE RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON.

I will tell you the way the representatives of two sister republics were received by the representatives of the greatest republic of the world. Soon after they were ushered into the presence of the secretary of state, and before they could possibly tell their simple story of British cruelty, inhumanity and injustice, before they could tell their mission in the interests of men, women and children who were fighting and dying for liberty and a republican form of government, the secretary of state—the same man who, while the representative of this republic at the court of St. James, was idolized as the chiefest of English snobs—drew from his pocket a typewritten document and proceeded to read it to the astonished Boer representatives as the

course the administration had determined to take in their cause. While he was doing this Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador at Washington, sat peacefully and contentedly in the adjoining room.

Is it any wonder that great tears stood in the eyes of those republicans from South Africa when they returned to their hotel in Washington? Is it any wonder if multiplied thousands of American freemen, who love justice and fair play, will turn against a party that will not even place a word of sympathy for liberty-loving people in its platform, and will not even so much as maintain absolute neutrality between a selfish monarchy and two little republics?—Hon. Webster Davis.

MALADMINISTRATION IN LUZON.

Telegram to Chicago Chronicle from Fort Dodge, Ia., under date of July 6.

Ernest Wheelock, of Algona, formerly private secretary to Gen. Wesley Merritt in Manila, and who has just returned from the Philippines, has given out an interview on information concerning the conditions existing there that is in startling variance with the generally accepted idea of the subject. Mr. Wheelock enlisted in the Thirteenth Minnesota, but was made Gen. Merritt's secretary, which position he occupied during that general's stay in the islands.

Mr. Wheelock indulges in a scathing criticism of the administration of affairs in our island possessions. He says that our rule in those lands is a maladministration, and that it is so recognized by all Europeans in Manila. He states that we have proven false to our promises to the Filipino leaders, and we have grossly ill treated the native people.

As to the drinking of the men there, he says that he has never yet seen a statement of it that was overdrawn, and confirms the statement of Miss Shonts regarding the multiplication of saloons in Manila since the American occupation. Wheelock does not blame the administration for this, but makes the statement in the interest of truth, being himself a republican.

"The misapprehension of the people of the United States," says Mr. Wheelock, "regarding the Philippine islands and the conditions of affairs there is only equalled by the ignorance of the Filipinos of what constitutes good, true Americanism. Why is it that after two years of occupation the Filipino and the American understand each other no better? Why is it that the people that received the armies of the United States in '98 with childlike glee should now despise with an awful

hatred the Americans and things pertaining to them?

"We found them suffering from heavy taxation and we increased their taxes. The cotton cloth that they use for clothing has been imported from Spain and passed through the custom house at Manila by paying a small preferential duty, and we put the imports of Spain on an equal footing with imports from other countries, greatly increasing thereby the cost of clothing in the island. The Filipinos accepted these increased taxes with great patience, waiting from August, 1898, to January, 1899, for the United States to declare their intentions with regard to the government of the archipelago. The proclamation of President McKinley promising everything to the islanders to a people who had become accustomed to broken promises during many generations, and its utter failure was most bitterly received and widened the breach that became a battlefield in February, 1899.

"Before leaving Manila I took pains to interview the leading business men to ascertain with as great a degree of accuracy as possible the consensus of opinion regarding the present condition of affairs, together with the cause and effect leading up to and from the same. It was the general opinion that it was more unsafe in the interior at the present time than ever before. It is true that there are no large armies of insurgents, but the islands are literally covered by bands of from 20 to 100 men, who lie in wait to pick off small detachments of Americans.

"To the uncertainty of the administration in dealing with the Philippine islands for so long a period after occupation by American troops must be attributed the trouble that has cost our country so much. About two months before I left Manila a gentleman by the name of Coombs, who was purchasing agent for the railroad, told me that a conductor on the road by the name of Messick had been arrested two weeks before and that no one had been allowed to see him or find out upon what charges he was confined. I went to the law office of John H. Voslef and detailed the facts to him and he took hold of the case, with the result that in two days he had succeeded in getting to Messick, and in a short time the latter was on trial and a free man. This is only one of the hundreds of acts of injustice that cast reproach upon the fair name of the United States. Until civil government is established and the army relegated to the barracks and the field,

there will never be peace and prosperity in the Philippines."

ST. LOUIS AND THE STRIKE. PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS.

For The Public.

A strike may be a strike the world over, even, as a spade is a spade. Yet as the utility of the spade depends somewhat on the nature of the material to be handled, so the significance of the strike is qualified by the character of the community in which it occurs.

St. Louis is not a city, and there are not wanting, among the inhabitants, those who despair of its ever being such. Though possessed of a complete municipal outfit, it is a big overgrown town, given over to blatant boasting of the biggest this, that and the other; utterly devoid of the civic sense; in all but material things (and in very many of these even) about half a century behind any city of its size in the country. Its distinguishing characteristic is individualism run to seed. Its local deity is creature comforts. Of public spirit there is next to none. Approach a typical prominent citizen with a measure purely pro bono publico, and he will tilt back in his chair, gaze at you with a half amused, half disgusted expression, and virtually say: "I am minding my own business. Why don't you mind yours?" Among the many causes assigned in explanation of this local temper, the most reasonable seems to be the climate. From four to six months of combined and continuous humidity and high temperature is apt to be demoralizing anywhere; but particularly so away from the coast with its occasional alleviating sea change. Be that as it may, it was upon such a community, such a conglomeration of individualists, each immersed in his own affairs, that the street railway strike was sprung on the 8th of May last; and if it be possible for one to regard such occurrence in the light of compulsory education he would have to hunt far and wide to find a place in sorer need of such a visitation. Whether or no the lesson taught will be retained and heeded remains to be seen. This much is certain; that eyes have been opened, the social conscience has been stirred, men formerly steeped in unthinking self-satisfaction have been made heartily ashamed not only of their municipal and state governments, but also of themselves as responsible therefor; "good citizens" who, when the charter and franchises of the Transit