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**EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE**


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**BRITISH POLITICS.**

London, June 29.—On this side of the water the fight is going on right merrily; the enemy are at last being forced into the open, and, despite the weakness of their position, are making a good fight with the best talent that their millions enable them to command.

Their entrenched position in the House of Lords, which as you know is composed almost entirely of bishops, land holders, railway and other franchise-holders, may enable them to thwart any legislation on the lines of change in our present system of assessment for local-taxation, which during the past few years the weight and influence of the great municipalities have forced to the front of the battle. Over the budget, however, these privileged gentlemen have no control; hence, in order to be true to their repeated pledges, the present Government will practically be compelled to make use of the budget to give the country the first installment of sound radical economic and social reform, on the lines of a uniform, national tax on land values, which may probably be made to include all privately held franchise values.

Hence you need not be surprised that, in truth, the land values taxation question is now everywhere to the front wherever practical politics is seriously discussed, more especially in Scotland and the north of England.

In the House of Commons Henry H. Whitley, member for Halifax, forms with Charles Trevelyan, J. Dundas White and Josiah Wedgewood, an active, keen, energetic and well-equipped fighting body it would be difficult to beat; and it will not be their fault if during the next few years the continuous work for land value taxation of the past twenty-five years does not materialize in the shape of a good installment of sound taxation reform.

Of course, the English League for the Taxation of Land Values (376-77 Strand, London, W. C.,) continues as active as limited means permit, and demands for its literature steadily increase. Necessary expenditure in connection with the general election has again forced it into debt; so just now, though there is much urgent work to be done, it has to be very careful about assuming expenses. However, besides the central London work, the Yorkshire branch, under the competent guidance of Mr. Fred Skirrow, continues active and flourishing; and a branch in Lancashire, with headquarters at Manchester, may be looked for before the end of the coming winter.

LEWIS H. BERENS.

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**AUSTRALIA.**

(See vol. viii, p. 780; vol. ix, p. 78.)

Corowa, N. S. W., Australia, June 7.—When in 1904 the Reid ministry was formed (vol. viii, p. 307), about a dozen protectionists deserted Deakin and formed an alliance with the Labor party. For this the Labor leaders promised that these members should not be opposed by Labor candidates at the

next Federal election. Both the Political Labor League conference of New South Wales, and the Political Labor Council conference of Victoria have refused to endorse this agreement, in spite of strong protests from Mr. Watson; they also condemned alliances with any other party. So Mr. Watson is left in the unpleasant position of being unable to fulfill his promises.

It is probable that at the next election some of these protectionists will be displaced by Labor members, and that other followers of Deakin will join Reid rather than make any further concessions to the Labor party, so that the Deakin party, already the smallest in the House, will be further diminished.

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There has been a great deal of platform speaking during the recess, and the three leaders have announced the policies they will advocate at the next election.

Watson (Labor) will support a graduated tax on land values, old age pensions, and the nationalization of the tobacco and sugar industries.

Deakin (Protectionist) advocates increased protective duties, and probably he will also support the graduated tax on land values.

Reid (Free Trade) has issued a long programme the principal planks being anti-socialism, a fiscal truce, old age pensions, repeal of a clause in the postal act prohibiting colored labor on mail steamers; repeal of clause in the immigration act against contract labor; repeal of the union label provisions; efforts to encourage immigration and to assist settlers on the land. It is not an inspiring programme.

My description of the Commerce Act (vol. viii, p. 780) was incomplete. The act applies to the following articles used for food or drink or in their preparation: Medicines, manures, apparel, jewelry, seeds and plants.

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The Federal parliament opens for the last session to-day.

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Mr. Max Hirsch has just returned from his trip to Europe. It is reported that he is greatly benefited in health, which means, I am afraid, that he is not completely restored.

ERNEST BRAY.

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**ITALY.**

Rome, June 30.—On my return from Naples yesterday it was at once evident that the threat of the strike of the tramway men had gone into effect. The strike had begun that morning—St. Peter's Day, a great holiday, when shops are all closed and thousands throng to the great church across the Tiber. The orthodox newspapers this morning are strong in denunciation of the strikers, especially for beginning the strike on such a day. There can be no denunciation on the ground of disorder. The cabs, which have taxed themselves ten cents each to help the strikers, are busy, and one line of cars is being operated by policemen without interference. The only sign of activity on the part of the strikers is a

bill posted about the city, calling a meeting of workmen for the purpose of inaugurating a movement for "municipalizing" the car service.

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All but the few of the many thousands who visited the great church of St. Peter yesterday had to make their pilgrimage on foot. It was a wonderful sight to a stranger. At the time of the vesper service the crowd in and about the Cathedral may have been twenty thousand, or it may have been fifty thousand. The famous bronze statue of the Apostle was robed magnificently in purple and gold, and on his breast hung a large cross of gold, richly jeweled, with a large ruby in the center. All day the long line passed to kiss the toe; old and young, some well dressed and some in rags, tall men who had to stoop and children who tiptoed to reach the foot. There was not one of the many shrines in the great building that was not thronged; everywhere curious visitors, kneeling worshipers, priests and sisters, in every imaginable costume from all the lands of the world, all mingled together, talking, or laughing, or praying. Toward the western end, about six o'clock, the throng pressed thickest. There in a fenced space rich carpeting had been laid, and soon appeared the company of cardinals, priests and attendants. Most richly robed was the patriarch of Constantinople, who had the place of honor; but the man among all, who would strike the attention of any one for his strong and intellectual face, was the famous cardinal, prime minister of Leo XIII, Rampolla. It was an impressive sight to those who are impressed by pomp and ceremony. Turn the eyes wherever one would, all was the perfection of art, beauty, and magnificence; here and there noble marble statues, or glorious paintings and mosaics, or altars rich with richest carvings and gildings, and above, everywhere, reaching up to the highest dome, mural decorations, paintings and frescoes, that have been famous for centuries. And through all this charm of the eyes there came pouring down, from two choirs above, in swelling tones of organ, viols and voices, the chants and hymns of the service. For half an hour the great crowd was almost still. On my right stood a barefoot friar in a gown of coarse brown stuff, with white cords around the waist, on my left an old woman who was quite ragged, in front two full-blooded Negro priests, wearing black gowns trimmed with red. Even before the service was completed the crowd began to move, and as it surged out through the wide doorways and down the great court, one could see, even better than within, what a mottled throng it was of all conditions and nations.

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Something said about poverty in a former letter must be retracted, namely, that to see the real essence of poverty in any city one must go to look for it. Naples is an exception. There poverty grins or weeps at one from almost every corner, not only in the narrowest streets but often near the palaces and sumptuous hotels. And yet even in Naples, to see the worst, a walk must be taken down into the low quarter between the station and the bay. It is too awful for description. And the young children there, with their dark, pathetic eyes—to think of

them, of their inevitable life in the fifth of narrow, noisy streets, where there is not even the free space of a sidewalk, to think what little possibility there is for any one of the thousands to live a life other than that of meanest drudgery—to see these children face to face is almost heart-rending. And the mothers, too, are crowded there, cooking, sewing, calling to neighbors or quarreling with them, and sometimes showing ill humor by cuffing the children. Surely there can be nowhere darker regions than these streets of sunny Naples. To get away from the lower city, on some height above the houses, is like passing from inferno to paradise. It is impossible to imagine any scene more beautiful than the Bay of Naples in the afternoon, just before the sun sinks behind the ridge of Posillipo. In the south lies Capri, with its lofty headlands; then Sorrento and Castellamare, with mountains half green, half brown, rising behind; then the plain of Pompeii; then Vesuvius with its barren ashes and lava turned in the distance to rosy pink; then Naples, looking as quiet and innocent as Vesuvius, with its picturesque roofs rising in semicircles from the bay; then behind Posillipo the mountains of Ischia standing guard at the northern entrance of the bay—the whole makes a scene of most wonderful beauty. It is not surprising that nations and factions have fought for the possession of such a harbor. The history of Naples, like the history of all Italy, is full of conflicts from without and from within.

What all this fighting has meant for the masses of the people their poverty tells us. More than twenty centuries ago, in that splendid extract preserved by Plutarch, Tiberius Gracchus spoke to the Roman people of how they had fought and fought and yet had not space of their own to be buried in. So it has been. For kings, consuls, princes and nobles, the people have fought in their blindness. And their guerdon through the centuries has been blood, or sweat and poverty. But there are signs that the people of Italy are becoming educated and united as never before. Men like Mazzini have not spoken and written in vain.

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Naples carries with it the thought of Vesuvius and Pompeii. The mountain has lost by the recent eruption about three hundred feet, but it now looks entirely peaceful, except that occasional wreaths of smoke rise from the crater. The day I spent at Pompeii the puffs of smoke were somewhat more frequent. Most of the mountain is bare and barren, and rising as it does from the shore level, it looks higher than its four thousand feet would indicate in comparison with the measurement of other well-known peaks.

The interesting discoveries and remains at Pompeii have been written about and fully described in many books. In a wonderful way the visitor can see how an ancient city was built and lived in, one that has been buried since 79 A. D. It is really most remarkable how well preserved are many objects, even the most delicate decorations of various rooms in some of the houses. It was my good fortune, through the introduction of a friend, to make the visit in company with an important official of the great Museum at Naples, who put me in the proper directions, in charge of one of the best guides.

at the place. And this reminds me to tell an incident which the members of a well-known fraternity will appreciate. The evening before going I had happened to mention the fact that I was to make the visit with the gentleman from the Museum, and I noticed that a man opposite seemed to be listening. Next morning as the train was starting, this man entered the same compartment, and we exchanged bows of recognition. As we walked away from the station on arriving at Pompeii, he followed us so closely that my friend asked me in a whisper if I was alone. I felt somewhat embarrassed, but assured him that I was, that I did not even know the man's name. When we passed the main entrance to go up to the offices, I felt relieved; but, looking from a window, I saw the persistent man standing below and evidently waiting. To make a long story short, he followed me all day. There seemed no way to be rid of him, and his action was most disagreeable—until the secret was revealed. He was an American newspaper man, and proved to be an interesting companion on the return trip.

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All that has been said of the inexhaustible wealth of antiquarian and artistic interest that is to be found in the ruins, the palaces, the galleries and churches of Rome is still short of the truth. The visitor who has been here two weeks may, by hard work, arrive at the knowledge that perhaps in two years he might be able to see something.

J. H. DILLARD.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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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.

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Week ending July 18.

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### War in Central America.

Cable dispatches announced on the 11th that war had broken out between the Central American States of Guatemala and Salvador, and that there had been a battle in which the Salvadorean troops had been victorious. Guatemala, which lies southeast of Mexico and west of the colony of British Honduras and the State of Honduras, and northwest of the little State of Salvador, has been struggling for a long time with revolution. The revolutionists declare their purpose to be the Americanization of the republic, by that meaning to put the government on a more liberal basis and to insure freedom for all citizens. President Cabrera on the other hand, declares he is in love with everything American, and that he has sent two of his sons to American colleges. It is reported in the press dispatches that President Cabrera's term of office expired in 1905. He has insisted, however on continuing in office. The revolutionists in line with sympathetic, inter-related revolutionary movements among the Central Amer-

ican States, have not failed to appeal for support to certain elements in Salvador and Honduras (vol. v., p. 711), not only for asylum but also for assistance. Guatemala's complaint is that the army which came from Salvador was more Salvadorean than revolutionary; and Salvador has made no great effort to conceal her part in the revolution.

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It was reported by way of Washington under date of the 12th that—

General Tomas Regalado, former President of Salvador and leader in the invasion of Guatemala, had been killed in a desperate battle at El Jicaro, five miles from the frontier, in the department of Jutiopa, Guatemala. The Salvadorean invaders, re-enforced by revolutionists under General Toledo, who had recruited his forces and had good artillery, were decisively defeated and chased across the border, twenty-five miles away, by the victorious Guatemalans. There was heavy loss on both sides.

On the 13th it was reported that martial law had been proclaimed in Guatemala, and that all male persons above 21 years of age had been called to arms. The U. S. warship Marblehead, at Panama, was ordered to proceed immediately to La Libertad, on the coast of Salvador, to safeguard American interests.

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On the 14th Honduras was reported to have declared war against Guatemala, but President Bonilla of Honduras promptly denied this, stating in a dispatch from the capital of the State, Tegucigalpa, under date of July 16, that—

Honduras has not declared war. Guatemala without justification or reason has invaded the territory of this republic and the whole country has come to the national defense.

This invasion seems to have been made by Guatemalan troops in pursuit of fugitives from the army of General Regalado, the Salvadorean commander, who was killed in the fighting at Jicaro. Desperate fighting is reported on the 15th, the troops of Salvador and Honduras winning a victory, the Guatemalans suffering a loss of 2,000 men in killed, wounded and prisoners. On the 16th from four points in Guatemalan and Honduran territory came news of bloody encounters.

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The United States government has been using its best offices to bring about a cessation of hostilities, and on the 16th the state department in Washington received word from Phillip H. Brown, the American charge of affairs for Honduras and Guatemala, that Honduras is willing to disarm and submit its grievances to arbitration as soon as Guatemala and Salvador agree to do likewise. The state department has arranged for placing the Marblehead at the disposal of peace commissioners from the warring States. In the meantime a tacit armistice prevails. A dispatch coming by way of the City of Mexico, declares Salvador victorious in every battle, and gives the following losses in the fighting up to date:

Salvador—Dead, 700; Guatemala—Dead, 2,800; Salvador—Wounded, about 1,100; Guatemala—Wounded, 3,900.