

the State, they resolved to use it as an asset. For Brennan, Guffey, Donnelly, Ryan and Dewalt to be for Wilson is, of course, a political joke. But the reorganizers were not to be scared by any such move on the part of the regulars. While the Wilson resolution was being read in the rump meeting, the reorganizers were endorsing Wilson for President in the warmest terms. To be sure that there should be no "deal" later, a resolution was unanimously adopted that each Democrat express on his ballot at the primary election his choice for President. Any violation of such instructions by a national delegate, the resolution continued, should be regarded as an act of "perfidy and dishonor."

BERNARD B. MCGINNIS.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN SPAIN.

Chicago, July 15.

Mr. Antonio Albendin has an article in the Madrid Herald of June 17 on the present state of affairs in his country, commenting upon the attitude of the press and reformers toward the ever-prevailing poverty of the masses. For a brief time during the winter season the papers make much ado over the suffering of the poor, with sensational announcements of people dying in the streets of starvation, and strongly urge that charitable associations make strenuous efforts to relieve the distress. Then they subside and for the balance of the year avoid the subject as if all were going well in the world. Little or no attention is given serious matters by the numerous organizations that expend much energy on matters of minor importance, such as the Association for the Care and Preservation of Trees; the Association for the Improvement of the Condition of Tenants, which ignores thousands of people who are without a roof to cover their heads; the League to Combat Tuberculosis, which entirely overlooks poverty as the primary cause of the disease; and efforts on the part of legislators to assist the poor by proposed "Internal Colonization," on lines of "small holdings."

All of these endeavors are regarded by Mr. Albendin as merely treating effects and ignoring basic causes, and he does not believe that good results can be obtained as it is unintelligent action.

That there may be a better comprehension of the true cause of their economic ills, and that they may know that there is a cure, he recommends that they read "Progress and Poverty," and in verification of the correctness of the theories therein expounded he points to the improvement already manifest in such countries as Denmark, England, Germany, Australia and Canada where the land value tax has been, at least in some degree, applied.

C. L. LOGAN.

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The public life of Charles the First
Was absolutely shameless.
At home the matter was reversed;
His private life was blameless.

—Chicago Tribune.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, July 25, 1911.

The Lords' Veto.

At last the great struggle of the Liberal-Irish-Labor coalition in Great Britain to hold in check the absolute veto powers of an hereditary legislative chamber upon progressive legislation by the popular chamber, approaches a successful close. [See current volume, page 681]

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The climax came on the 21st. At its session of the 20th the House of Lords had passed the House bill, as amended out of shape by the Lords, without division and after only three hours' debate. Thereupon, on the following day, the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, communicated informally to the Tory leader, Mr. Balfour, the substance of an announcement he intended to make in the Commons on the 24th. Following is Mr. Asquith's communication:

Dear Mr. Balfour: I think it is courteous and right, before any public decisions are announced, to let you know how we regard the present situation. When the Parliament Bill, in the form which it has now assumed, returns to the House of Commons we shall be compelled to ask that House to disagree with the Lords' amendments. In the circumstances, should the necessity arise, the Government will advise the King to exercise his prerogative to secure the passing into law of the Bill in substantially the same form in which it left the House of Commons, and his Majesty has been pleased to signify that he will consider it his duty to accept and act on that advice.

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When Mr. Asquith arose in the Commons on the 24th to make his announcement, the opposition, led in this by Lord Hugh Cecil, created and maintained such a disturbance that he could not proceed. "During three-quarters of an hour," the dispatches read, "Mr. Asquith rose at short intervals and read a sentence or two from a manuscript, only to be overwhelmed by jeers, hootings and cries, among which 'Traitor' was the most frequent, but with 'Redmond,' 'Patrick Ford,' and 'American dollar' often distinguishable." Finally, closing his manuscript, he said: "I am not going to degrade myself. I shall simply state the conclusion at which the government has arrived." He then announced the conclusion briefly, but it was not heard above the din of the Tory outcries. Even "the Speaker's pleadings to 'observe the de-