

—Bresci, the assassin of the late King Humbert of Italy, in confinement under a life sentence at the penitentiary of San Stefano, at Rome, was reported on the 23d to have committed suicide. During several weeks preceding that report rumors were current of his having been subjected to incessant, systematic and unendurable torture.

—A banquet at the Auditorium hotel, Chicago, is to be given on the 29th, at 6:30 p. m., to Senator James W. Bucklin, of Colorado, the author of the "Bucklin bill" for the introduction into Colorado of the Australasian land tax. Judge E. F. Dunne is to preside. Seats may be obtained at two dollars, of F. H. Monroe, 256 Dearborn street.

—The statistics of exports and imports of the United States for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1900, to and including April 30, 1901, as given by the April treasury sheet, were as follows (M standing for merchandise, G for gold and S for silver):

	Exports.	Imports.	Balance.
M ...	\$1,260,449,248	\$676,236,942	\$584,212,306 exp
G ...	37,739,156	60,957,742	23,218,586 imp
S	55,329,899	31,706,456	23,621,443 exp
	\$1,353,518,303	\$768,903,140	\$584,615,163 exp

—Elections for seats in the chamber of deputies were held throughout Spain on the 19th. The latest reported result is that the party in power has secured at least 230 out of the 407 seats. Following is an analysis of the result, upon Spanish authority:

Liberals	230	Republicans	15
Conservatives	70	Carlists	6
Dissident conserv- atives	16	National union- ists	10
Dissident liberals..	15	Catalanists	4
Supporters of Ro- mero	10	Socialist	1
		Independents	21

—The managers of the second national social and political conference, to be held at Detroit, June 28-July 4 next, have been disturbed by newspaper reports that it is to launch a new political party of single taxers, socialists and other reformers. No such purpose is in contemplation or possible. The opening speech of the conference is to be by Mayor Johnson, of Cleveland, and the address of welcome will be made by Mayor Marbury, of Detroit.

—At the national convention of the Woman Suffrage association, to be held at Minneapolis, beginning on the 30th, the evening meeting of June 1 is to be addressed by Laura Clay, of Kentucky, on "Counterparts;" by Lydia Phillips Williams, of Minnesota, on "Growth and Greetings;" by Rev. Alice Ball Loomis, of Wisconsin, on "The Feminine Factor in Society," and by Louis F. Post, of Illinois, on "The Ethics of Suffrage." The evening meeting of the 2d is to be addressed by Hala Hammond Butt, of Mississippi, on "Our Larger Destiny;" by Ellis Meredith, of Colorado, on "The Menace of Podunk;" by Gail Laughlin, on "An Industrial Laggard;" by Laura

A. Gregg, of Nebraska, on "Who Will Defend the Flag," and by Elizabeth Upham Yates, of Maine, on "Constitutional Government." On the 5th the evening meeting will be addressed by Dr. Julia Holmes Smith, of Illinois, and Mary C. C. Bradford. The closing address will be delivered the same evening by the president, Carrie Chapman Catt.

MISCELLANY

THE BETRAYAL.

For The Public.

There was a nation, simple, brave and free,
Whose generous sons loved liberty so well,
Like fire, they sprang to arms by land and sea,
To free another race from tyranny,
And, serving freedom nobly, fought and fell.

There were some syndicates loved trade and gold—
Rich, clever, cunning, calculating, cool—
But, there, *you* know the story ere 'tis told,
Of honor, faith, and freedom basely sold,
Devotion tricked, and courage made a fool.

BERTRAND SHADWELL.

WHERE CAN THE DOUKHOBORS FIND FREEDOM?

Those expatriated Russians, the Doukhobors, who to the number of 8,000 have settled during the past two or three years in the Canadian Northwest, do not find such perfect liberty in the country of their adoption as they had hoped. As is well known, the Doukhobors are a sect of Christians who take their New Testament with inconvenient literalness. They object to the individual ownership of land, for example, yet the Canadian government comes along and insists, according to law, upon registering their lands by the owner's name. But there is no one owner, protested the Russians; register it in common. Officialdom, however, saw nothing of that kind written in the statute, and besought the primitive Christians to be "sensible" and register their holdings; while the primitive Christians complained that officialdom was trying to make them false to faith and conscience. There is also trouble about state control of marriage, and official records of births and deaths; all these things the Doukhobors wish to keep themselves as a part of their religion. They have issued a simple-minded "address to all nations," asking if there is anywhere a "country where we should be tolerated, and where we could make a living without being obliged to break the demands of our conscience and of the truth." These Russians are excellent colonists,

yet the Canadian authorities are puzzled what to do with them.—New York Nation of May 16.

SOME OF THE BIG TREES ARE SAVED.

If Gov. Gage were never to do another useful thing in his term, his signing of the bill by which California will purchase and preserve the wonderful redwood forest of the Big Basin entitles him to grateful remembrance. No other measure of his administration is likely to be so far-reaching; for generations to come will cherish these stupendous groves a thousand years after our ordinary politics shall have been forgotten. Only the curious bookworm will know who did it. The very names republican and democrat will probably be as forgotten as are the names of the factions of Babylon. But under those majestic aisles of such trees as grow nowhere upon earth outside of California, men will wander and thank whatever gods they may have by then. Unhappily the national government has not done so well; and its attempt to buy for a national park the Calaveras grove of "Big Trees"—incomparably rarer and grander even than the redwoods—has fallen through. Pressure should be kept up. The government should secure the Calaveras grove. It should be shamed into doing it. Since the oldest of these sequoias sprouted there have been ten thousand wars on earth, of which not one man in a million today can name one per cent. Hundreds of nations have risen and fallen and are forgotten. And we might stop long enough in our ephemeral affairs, and take as much money as costs to keep our army one day, and save for our children these peerless monuments of the old earth. For we doubtless would rather leave the kind of descendants who would care more for that grove than for the equivalent number of pigpens and fences already turned to dust.—Charles F. Lummis, in Land of Sunshine for April.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP AS AN ISSUE.

Gradually to recover for the people all natural monopolies and to abolish all artificial monopolies is the programme for progressive party action to-day. It begins naturally with municipal monopolies, and the bearing of that beginning upon a national policy is so direct that I am inclined to believe Mr. Croker was right in suggesting municipal ownership as a national issue. Moreover, it is clear enough that the great national parties are dividing on that issue—not with-