

cents during the past week, reaching 74 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents per bushel on the 13th. Dealers attribute the rise to an expected shortage of the crop, particularly in the northwest.

—At the world's temperance congress which opened its sessions in London on the 11th. Thomas W. Russell, M. P., presided and the archbishop of Canterbury addressed the meeting. More than 100 American delegates were in attendance.

—For the 11 months ending May 31 the United States treasury report of receipts and expenditures is as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Receipts | \$517,553,115 94 |
| Expenditures | 454,218,498 57 |
| Surplus | \$63,334,617 37 |

—The official report of the cash in the United States treasury for May is as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Gold Reserve..... | \$150,000,000 00 |
| Available cash balance..... | 145,783,529 80 |
| Total cash balance..... | \$295,783,529 80 |
| On hand June 30..... | 281,380,468 73 |
| Increase since June 30..... | \$14,403,061 07 |

—The convention of Federated Women's clubs brought its session to a close at Milwaukee on the 8th. The convention left the question of the color line undecided and defeated the scheme for a general reorganization. Mrs. Rebecca Lowe, of Georgia, was reelected president.

—The court of claims on the 12th awarded to Admiral W. T. Sampson the contested prize money for the battle of Santiago, thus sustaining his contention that he was officially present at the battle. Sampson's prize money award is \$8,325. Admiral Schley receives \$3,168.

—An immense mass meeting of women was held in London on the 13th to protest against destroying the independence of the two South African republics. Resolutions to that effect were adopted, and speeches were made by Mrs. Leonard Courtney, Mrs. James Bryce and Miss Eleen Robinson.

—Railway lines comprising the Southwestern Passenger association have aroused the indignation of democrats by an apparent discrimination in rates in favor of the republican national convention, the rate to Philadelphia being a single fare for the round trip while the Kansas City rate is one fare plus two dollars.

—“Freedom of Teaching in American Colleges” will be the subject of an address before the Single Tax club at Handel hall, 40 Randolph street, on the 15th at eight o'clock, by Thomas Elmer Will. Mr. Will was recently president of the Kansas State Agricultural college, whose experience enables him to reveal some startling facts relative to the subjugation of universities by men of wealth.

IN CONGRESS.

This report is an abstract of the Congressional Record, and closes with the last issue of that publication at hand upon going to press.

June 4-7, 1900.

Senate.

On the 4th Morgan reported a resolution from the committee on interoceanic canals which declared the Clayton-Bulwer treaty of 1850 to be abrogated. The resolution, which is printed on page 7014, was not considered. Teller spoke in opposition to the Philippine war and government bill, and was followed by Pettigrew, who also opposed the bill. Conferees were then appointed for the sundry civil appropriation bill. The nomination of Brig. Gen. E. S. Otis, U. S. A., to be major general, vice Merritt, retired, was received on this day. The anti-trust bill was under consideration on the 5th and was the cause of a bitter partisan debate. After the conference report on the Alaska civil code bill had been adopted Scott spoke in favor of the Philippine bill. The consideration of the conference report of the naval appropriation bill was begun on the 6th and the Penrose armor plate amendment, which is printed on page 7327, and which authorizes the secretary of the navy to contract for armor plate at a reasonable price, or if unable to do so to begin the construction of an armor plate plant, was adopted after vigorous opposition by a vote of 39 to 35. Conferees were then appointed for a second conference on the naval bill, and the military academy appropriation bill was passed. The final conference report on the naval bill was adopted on the 7th, and after a few private bills had been disposed of, Frye, as president of the senate, announced, in accordance with a previous resolution, that the senate stood adjourned sine die.

House.

On the 4th the conference report on the sundry civil bill was disagreed to and conferees were appointed. The military academy appropriation bill was passed on the 5th, and the conference report on the Alaska civil code bill adopted. Conferees were appointed for the general deficiency appropriation bill, which was finally passed on the 6th; on which day also the sundry civil appropriation bill was passed. The conference report on the naval appropriation bill was also under consideration, but no agreement was reached until the 7th, when, after a heated debate, the bill was finally passed. At five o'clock on this day the speaker, in accordance with a previous resolution, announced the close of the session, and the house adjourned sine die.

MISCELLANY

A BURGHER'S VENGEANCE.

For The Public.

“The mines are there, and dynamite's at hand.”

Thus England sneers. “No Boer can e'er withstand

Such sweet revenge. Johannesburg's a wreck

Before their gray commanders northward trek.”

More subtle a revenge the burghers sow—
How little gold brought England's pride
so low!

They leave the rest untouched, new pangs
to impart

To that raw, hideous cancer at her heart.
WALLACE RICE.

THE LARGER BROTHERHOOD.

I cannot forget that we are men by a more sacred bond than we are citizens—that we are children of a common Father more than we are Americans. . . . Thus do the multitudinous tribes of the globe stand forth as members of one vast human family, where strife is treason to heaven, and all war is nothing else than civil war. In vain restrict this odious term to the dissensions of a single community. It belongs also to feuds between nations.—“The True Grandeur of Nations.” by Charles Sumner.

AVERAGE IS A STUFFED PROPHET.

In our national kitchen at Washington is a man holding a job by compiling statistics and making averages which prove that things as they are are things as they should be. We don't want to be personal, so we will hide his identity under the name of the wrong Mr. Wright. Whenever we hear of him we are reminded of the traveler who came to a stream he desired to cross, but not knowing its depth he first asked a wise man. The wise man informed him that the average depth of the water was three feet, whereupon the traveler started to wade across and was drowned.—Justice, of Wilmington, Del.

IN LEAGUE WITH A DESTRUCTIVE PROVIDENCE.

A novel lawsuit has been brought in the Monroe county (Pa.) court. Rev. E. E. Dixon prayed that disaster might overtake a new brewery which has just been erected, and by a curious coincidence, the building was soon after struck by lightning. The following Sunday the minister boasted from the pulpit that the brewery had been struck in answer to his prayer. Thereupon the brewing company brought suit against him for damages. If the preacher denies that his prayers brought the lightning he will have to admit that his boast of the efficacy of prayer was untrue; if he still maintains that his prayers brought the lightning then he will have to admit a share of responsibility for the damages.—Justice, of Wilmington, Del.

AN ENGLISH EXPERIMENT IN CITIES.

It is pleasant to turn from the “arrogant” theme of the war to the peaceful and idyllic project of the Gar-

den City association. The idea is to construct a model town in fresh air and amid the healthful influences of country life. A site is to be obtained which possesses simply agricultural value, all future "unearned increment" being secured to the inhabitants of the town by an appropriate trust deed. The highest possible standard of commercial, social and sanitary efficiency is to be realized. It is calculated that for a sum considerably less than the London county council is spending in providing sites for "model dwellings" for persons displaced by the Strand improvements a site of 6,000 acres could be purchased, 1,000 of which would form the space for a town of 32,000 inhabitants, including open spaces, municipal buildings, library, schools, churches, baths, etc., as well as dwelling houses, warehouses and factories. The homes so provided would be no mere fractions of a huge skyscraping city barrack, but real homes, with gardens, "and bright vistas of stream and meadow and wood around." The general object is to attract population from overcrowded and unhealthy centers to new scenes which combine at once the healthy delights of country life and the social attractions of the town. Such an experiment would not only be beneficent in itself, but would form an interesting and instructive object lesson which could scarcely fail to give an impulse to social development on the best lines. The association appeals for funds to meet the expenses of offices, secretaries and the preliminary work of organization. Full information can be obtained from Mr. E. Howard, 11 New court, Carey street, W. C.—London Daily News of March 1.

NEW ZEALAND.

For The Public.

New Zealand is but a small colony in the Pacific ocean, and till lately little known to the outside world. In political economy it is, however, an object lesson to some of the larger communities.

The study of economic questions so ably expounded by the late Henry George (sneeringly called the Prophet of San Francisco by the great landlord Duke of Argyle) has made a deep impression on the minds of New Zealanders, and they have put the theory into practice, though only in a small way. The present government is strongly imbued with socialism, or at any rate is in sympathy with it. The labor laws which they have inaugurated are somewhat of a drastic

character, and are reckoned in advance of the times, but are certainly favorable to the workers. Under the present laws there cannot be either strikes or lockouts, such as have had such disastrous consequences, both in England and America.

The labor party here seems to occupy about the same position in the industrial world as the capitalist employers in America, that is, they are the power behind the throne. So things may be said to be reversed here from what they are in the states.

If the tax on unimproved land value were increased up to the fullest extent, without exemptions, and the unimproved land rating act were compulsory throughout the colony, instead of being optional with local county councils—and as a consequence customs duties abolished proportionally. New Zealand would indeed be the workman's paradise it is now reckoned to be by some.

At the last general elections Auckland (probably the most advanced city in New Zealand) elected the president of the Single Tax league, George Fowlds, Esq., as one of the three representatives for the city. This was a great victory for the unimproved land value tax, and will undoubtedly help the cause. There are other members of the house of representatives who are almost as advanced as Mr. Fowlds.

The premier, the Rt. Hon. R. Seddon, is one of the most advanced social reformers, and quite prepared to initiate much more up-to-date legislation as the people are prepared for it. One of the most far-reaching and philanthropic measures he has succeeded in passing is the old age pension act, which gives to every adult over 65 years of age a pension of £18, or over \$70 a year, that is if he has resided in the colony 25 years—subject, however, to his income from any source being less than £1 a week. This measure met with great opposition from nearly all land owners. It turns out, however, to be one of the most popular pieces of legislation ever enacted.

To show that such measures have not injured or hindered the prosperity of the colony, the premier has just announced a surplus balance of over £600,000 for the last year.

J. P. PHONERLE.

Auckland, N. Z., May 14, 1900.

He that commits a fault abroad is a trespasser at home, and he that injures a neighbor hurts himself.—Marcus Aurelius.

AN ENGLISH ANALYSIS OF THE MUNICIPAL PROBLEM.

Services which may be performed by local authorities for the inhabitants of the locality fall into two classes—onerous and remunerative. Making and repairing streets, sewers and the like belong to the first class; and very few people suggest that these duties ought to be handed over to voluntary effort. It is in regard to remunerative services that the contest between the relative advantages of municipal and individual action rages. Even here the popular mind has grasped some sort of a rough distinction. It would be thought very absurd and impracticable for a municipality to turn grocer; but water and gas are considered (outside London) as very proper articles to be produced and distributed by the representatives of the ratepayers. Profit, then, is no criterion; the fact that water and gas companies may pay very good dividends does not make the municipalisation of gas and water wrong or undesirable. The difference between a water undertaking and an ordinary industry is the difference between a natural monopoly and competitive enterprise. We say a natural monopoly advisedly; for there are plenty of monopolies artificially created in this country, and still more in the United States, which do not come into the category of gas, water or tramways. Combinations of dyers, wool combers or spinners of cotton thread are only partial and only temporary. They are always exposed to foreign competition and to the possibility of domestic competition. In these cases competition, or, at least, the possibility of competition, protects the consumer in some degree; and, moreover, if the consumer's interests were seriously threatened, it would be a matter for parliament and not for a local council. Railways are in many cases a complete monopoly. Consequently, railways have been nationalized in some countries and in others submitted to central administrative control.

It would seem, then, that those who see in municipal problems a conflict between individualism and socialism, between the laissez-faire and the collectivist theories of industry are mistaken. The founders of the Manchester school would have welcomed the interference of the municipal council in all cases where the ratepayers are exploited by a company owning a natural local monopoly. It is a cardinal principle of free trade that artificial monopolies and protectionist barriers should be broken down. But the