

tion and cost of a sea level canal." In his message transmitting this report to Congress, President Roosevelt announced that "any attack on the type of dam now is merely an attack on the policy of building any canal at all." He added that "the only criticism which can be directed against the work is that it sometimes has been almost an excess of caution in providing against possible trouble."

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The British "Suffragette" Movement.

At the reopening of Parliament on the 16th an attempt was made by "suffragettes" (vol. xi, p. 877; xii, p. 55) to attract public attention by the use of an airship. An eighty foot airship hired for the occasion and manned by Percival Spencer, the aeronaut, Miss Muriel Matters, one of the heroines of the grill incident in the House of Commons, being the passenger, went up at Hendon coincident with the opening of Parliament and headed toward London. It was decorated with flags, and Miss Matters was plentifully supplied with handbills. It was her intention to pass over Westminster and distribute suffragist literature to the crowds attracted by the reassembling of Parliament. The feeble motor on the balloon, however, was not able to cope with the adverse winds and the airship never got within sight of the House of Commons. After an erratic flight it descended at Croydon.

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On the following day, the 17th, the branch of "suffragettes" known as the Women's Freedom League, held a large public meeting which adopted resolutions to continue the militant propaganda for suffrage. Mrs. Despard was delegated to carry the resolutions to Premier Asquith on the 18th, forty members in the audience volunteering to form an escort. Mrs. Despard, Countess Russell and Miss Matters, the heroine of the airship trip of the day before, were among the speakers.

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When Mrs. Despard and her escort tried on the 18th to present the resolution to Mr. Asquith they were balked by the police. They first attempted to march in procession, but their line being broken by the police, they mingled with a crowd of the curious and sauntered singly toward Downing street. The police, however, had completely blocked all entrances to the thoroughfare and twenty-four of the more militant who tried to break through the lines were arrested, charged with interfering with the police. For a time there was a scene of great disorder, women time and again throwing themselves against the double line of police, only to be forced back, or, if they were unusually persistent, to be handed over to constables, who marched them off to the police station amid cheers, hoots and hisses from the throng. The police finally cleared the

street and the women who were not arrested returned to their hall, where they were addressed by leaders. The women taken into custody were later arraigned in a police court. They refused to pay the fines imposed and all were sent to prison for terms varying from a fortnight to a month.

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When the session of Parliament was well under way on the 18th, a contingent led by Mrs. Despard attempted to gain access to the Premier, but the police barred the way. The women refused to budge, insisting upon their right to enter the building. No serious disturbance occurred. But Mrs. Despard and several of the others were placed under arrest. On the 19th, sixteen of these were tried in the Bow street police court. Ten were sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from one month to six weeks, after having refused to give security for their good behavior for six months. Two gave the required sureties and the other four were discharged. Mrs. Despard and several of the others secured an adjournment.

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British Government in India.

Following the suppression of the nationalist congress in India by the British authorities (p. 129) comes news by mail of a suppression of Indian associations. On the 5th of January the following order was issued:

Whereas, The Governor-General in Council is of opinion that the associations described in the schedule hereto annexed constitute a menace to the public peace, in the exercise of the power conferred by Sec. 16 of the Indian criminal law amendment act, 1908, the Governor-General in Council hereby declares the said associations to be unlawful.

The schedule is as follows:

The Anusilan Samiti,—an association whose headquarters are at Dacca; the Swadeshi Bandhab Samiti,—an association whose headquarters are at Barisal; the Brati Samiti,—an association whose headquarters are at Faridpur; the Surhid Samiti,—an association whose headquarters are at Mymansing; the Sadhana Samiti,—an association whose headquarters are at Mymansing.

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Of this proceeding, Taraknath Das (p. 128), an Indian student at Norwich University, Northfield, Vt., writes:

The associations were not given any chance to defend themselves, and the government took no pains to prove that they are really a menace to the public peace. The members of these associations are educated young men of nationalist ideas. The associations are devoted to the promotion of self culture, dutifulness, fellow feeling and devotion to mother country. Their definite program is (1) to revive and introduce healthful athletics for the improvement of the physical condition of the people;

(2) to establish free night schools, private classes and libraries, for the intellectual and moral improvement of the people; (3) to practice self sacrifice in the service of humanity by aiding the famine-stricken and forlorn; (4) to intensify the sentiment of unity and fellowship by establishing local courts of arbitration; (5) to promote agriculture, commerce and other industry. The only excuse the British government gives for suppressing these organizations is that a few of the members are devoted patriots.

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Socialism in Russia.

In spite of all police precautions the revolutionary socialists of Russia (p. 129) have held a four days' conference at St. Petersburg, which came to a close on the 22d. Its most important action was a decision to discountenance terrorism.

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Politics in Finland.

The Czar dissolved the Finnish parliament (vol. xi, p. 472) on the 22d, and ordered elections for May. The new parliament to assemble June 1. This action was in consequence of criticism of his policy by President Svinhufvud's response to the speech from the throne at the opening of the parliament. The parliament had been cautioned to avoid contentious topics in its reply, but the president raised the question of the recently established control of Finnish legislation by the Russian cabinet, and declared that the action of the Czar was unconstitutional and an infringement of the rights of Finland. The establishment of a joint Finnish-Russian conference to elaborate a new basis of relations between the grand duchy and the empire is reported to have been practically decided upon.

NEWS NOTES

—A Tennessee bill for direct primaries, vetoed by Governor Patterson, was passed over his veto by the legislature on the 19th.

—Carroll D. Wright, president of Clark College at Worcester, Mass., and former Commissioner of Labor of the United States, died on the 20th, aged 69 years.

—An arbitrary reduction of prices ostensibly to meet the competition of independent steel producers, was ordered on the 19th by the United States Steel Corporation—the steel trust.

—Geronimo (vol. x, p. 178), the great war chief of the Apaches, who has been an American army prisoner since his surrender to Gen. Miles in 1887, died at Fort Sill on the 17th at the age of 86.

—At 2-cent fares per mile, under the Missouri law (vol. x, p. 248), the trunk line railroads in that State earned more in 1908 than under the 3-cent rate of the previous year, as reported by the State board of railroad commissioners.

—A resolution demanding the abrogation of the Russian extradition treaty (pp. 129, 133), introduced

in the Wisconsin legislature by the Socialist members, has been favorably reported by the committee to which it was referred in the Senate.

—A small convention was held at Indianapolis from the 16th to the 18th (p. 108) which advocated the establishment of a permanent tariff commission. Its permanent chairman was James W. Van Cleave, the prosecutor of Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison (p. 149).

—Formal count of the electoral vote for President and Vice-President (vol. xi, p. 829) having been made in the presence of the Senate and the House of Representatives at Washington, Mr. Taft and Mr. Sherman have been duly declared elected to those offices respectively.

—Patrick F. Kerin, editorial writer on the Pittsburg Leader, died at San Antonio, Texas, on the 18th. A thoughtful writer along single tax lines, Mr. Kerin gave to the editorial policy of the Leader a tone which was widely appreciated and endowed the Leader with more than a local reputation.

—Magee's victory for first mayor of Greater Pittsburg (p. 152) on the 16th, was won by a plurality of 35,000 and a majority of almost 30,000. He defeated W. H. Stevenson, Civic League candidate, and Dr. George C. Hearst, Democrat. Only about 65,000 votes were cast out of a registration of 86,000.

—The first of the Atlantic fleet to return from its voyage around the world (p. 156), is the dispatch boat Yankton, which cast anchor in Hampton Roads on the 17th. The remainder of the fleet arrived on the 22d. It was reviewed by President Roosevelt on board the naval yacht Mayflower off Fort Monroe.

—A mass meeting for the purpose of demanding revision of the extradition treaty with Russia (pp. 129, 133) was held at International Theater, Chicago, on the 21st, under the auspices of the Political Refugee Defense League. Bishop Fallows, the Rev. P. J. O'Callaghan and Mother Jones were among the speakers.

—All the delegates to the South African convention (vol. xi, p. 732) have signed the draft constitution for a federation of the provinces of South Africa which the convention framed. A curious compromise on the capital for the new Commonwealth was made. It is to be at Cape Town for the parliament, at Pretoria for the executive, and at Blomfontein for the judiciary.

—The jury trial of Emma Goldman (p. 123) in San Francisco for "anarchy" resulted in a verdict of "not guilty." She was defended by Cameron King and Ernest E. Kirk. Her lecture agent, Dr. Reitman, was also discharged. After the acquittal Miss Goldman spoke, "with her soul in her mouth" as she reports it, to an audience of 2,000 people in one of the largest halls of San Francisco.

—A race riot, this time against the Greeks, broke out on the 21st at South Omaha. The immediate cause was the killing of a policeman two days before by a Greek whom he had arrested. This gave occasion for a mass meeting at which speakers attacked the Greek residents generally. After the meeting half the audience went to the Greek quarter and, reinforced by 3,000 or 4,000 people, made indiscriminate attacks upon Greek stores and residences.