

resources has been and still is almost more than we can stand. But, as we can tell from our correspondence, as well as from the increased demand for other literature it has created, the book is doing its work.

We shall pull through somehow. This optimism seems to me warranted by impartial and philosophic inquiry. Though in times of depression one is inclined to think that it is our desires and inclinations, rather than the evidence of existing facts, that impel us to accept it as true, yet all past history teaches us that in the eternal struggle between the social and the predatory instincts of man, the former must eventually gain the victory. To promote this end, however, is the highest duty, as well as the most satisfactory and elevating work to which any of us can devote our lives.

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## NEWS

Week ending Thursday, Jan. 14.

Between Russia and Japan (p. 630) the issue of peace or war still hangs in the balance. Diplomatic notes appear to be passing between the two governments, and ominous naval movements are in progress; but nothing at once definite and authentic is as yet reported.

In British politics another landmark has been made, by the disruption of the Liberal-Unionist party. This party was formed in 1886 under the leadership of Mr. Chamberlain, who had been a leader in the Liberal party under Gladstone. In his last administration save one, Mr. Gladstone introduced in parliament a measure of home rule for Ireland, whereupon the anti-Irish, or imperial Liberals, followed Chamberlain's lead in the formation of the Liberal-Unionist party, which entered into a coalition with the Conservative party. At the ensuing elections, those of the Summer of 1886, this coalition drove Gladstone from power and formed a coalition ministry, with Salisbury as premier. The coalition held office until 1892, when the Liberals, under Gladstone, were returned to power for a brief season. They were again defeated, however, in 1895, and the coalition secured possession of the government to hold it ever since, their latest triumph at a general parliamentary election having occurred in 1900 (vol. iii, p. 441). Mr.

Chamberlain himself did not become a member of the coalition cabinet until 1895, notwithstanding the earlier temporary victory of the coalition of which he was the master spirit. In the Summer of 1902 Salisbury withdrew from the ministry (vol. v, p. 295), Balfour taking his place as premier; and in September, 1903, Chamberlain resigned from the ministry (vol. vi, p. 391) for the purpose of relieving the premier of embarrassment in connection with the Chamberlain protection policy. Since then Chamberlain has actively promoted this policy in a political campaign made with reference especially to the next general elections. At the by-elections (pp. 598, 629) thus far this policy has not been endorsed by the voters. The latest of these by-elections was in the middle division of Devonshire on the 8th, when the Liberal candidate was elected over the coalitionist by an increased majority of 100 per cent. Immediately afterward a correspondence disclosing the disruption of the Liberal-Unionist party, noted above, was given out for publication.

The letters had been written from October 23 last to January 4, and were between the Duke of Devonshire, president of the party organization, and Mr. Chamberlain. As reported by cable—

the Duke states that Chamberlain, in forcing his protection policy as a paramount issue in the next general election, places the Liberal-Unionist organization in a position of great embarrassment, since the organization disburses funds to local associations and assists candidates in their campaigns. The Duke points out that the party is irreconcilably divided on the protection issue and that he does not see how the Central Liberal-Unionist organization can usefully continue its existence or equitably distribute the funds among candidates who are antagonistic on the present question before the country.

Mr. Chamberlain, replying—advocates a conference with representatives of the Liberal-Unionist associations of London to vote on how to continue the central body, the minority to retire, and, if they wish, to start a separate organization.

To this the Duke responds:

The Liberal-Unionist association, which has done its work in averting home rule, and which has maintained the Unionist party in power for the greater part of seventeen years, should

recognize that under present conditions its existence is no longer necessary and should be dissolved with as little bitterness as possible.

Mr. Chamberlain thereupon declares that in his judgment a continuation of the association is possible, and announces his purpose—

on his own responsibility, to call a general meeting at as early a date as possible to decide upon the course to be taken. If the meeting resolves to continue as an association he does not feel that the resignations of some of its members would deprive it of its representative character.

Elections were held December 16, for the Commonwealth parliament of Australia; but only meager reports have as yet been published in this country. The best information thus far available shows a Labor party land-slide. The Labor party gains 9 seats in the Senate and 13 in the House, while the party in power in the last parliament (vol. v, p. 503) loses 6 seats in the Senate and 5 in the House. The result reported by Reuter to the London papers, December 18, is as follows:

Senate: Ministerialists (protection), 6; Opposition (free trade), 13; Labor party, 17.

House of Representatives: Ministerialists, 27; Opposition, 26; Labor party, 29.

On this result the Melbourne representative of Reuter comments:

As regards the fiscal question, the Laborites are, speaking generally, strongly protectionist, but parliamentary history in Australia shows that they have been willing to reinforce either side provided they have been able to secure their own legislative ends. There is no likelihood of the fiscal issue being raised, inasmuch as, in addition to staunch protectionists, who form the working majority in the house of representatives, a good many theoretical free traders declare for fiscal peace. The attitude of the Labor party towards preferential trade will still be to increase the tariff wall against the foreigner without making any reduction in favor of England.

In this connection, however, it must be remembered that the Ministerialists were defeated in the House last September by the adoption of a railway employes' amendment to the Ministerial labor arbitration bill. Having opposed this amendment the Ministry dropped the whole bill when the amendment carried, thereby incensing the Labor members