

and in place of their evil, blighting influence set running a copious stream of fraternal human understanding and human sympathy.

We need to cast away the accursed cup of Privilege, that the thirst of all men be freely quenched out of the abundant, living waters of equal rights.

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Not until the dull-witted guests of royalty realize the horror bubbling in their golden beakers, not until the straining men in the ditch behold the cruel shame and infamy of their battered and rusted cups of tin, shall the day of emancipation dawn.

The disease of greed at the top.

The disease of hunger and fear at the bottom.

They shall beget nothing but desolation and death.

Unless—shall we be restored?

Away with the golden and jeweled cups of Privilege!

GEORGE E. BOWEN.

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## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

Moonta, South Australia, Feb. 20.

In April a referendum vote is to be taken throughout the Commonwealth of Australia to alter the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

This instrument gives the federal Parliament exclusive authority to deal with inter-State and foreign trade and commerce; but the Labor party propose giving the Commonwealth power to deal also with trade and commerce carried on exclusively within the limits of a State—a power now vested in the respective State legislatures.

The Labor party also propose giving the Commonwealth exclusive power over labor and employment questions. Because some of the States are cursed with a Tory upper House, the Labor party would centralize all power in the federal parliament.

If the federal Labor party, which possesses a majority in both Houses of the Commonwealth, understood the principles of taxation, and applied the all-round land value tax instead of their present proposal, they would soon destroy the Tory power in the upper Houses of the States. The land question once properly dealt with, the need for restrictive industrial measures would cease.

A further question to be submitted provides for giving the federal Parliament power to declare any industry or business for manufacturing or supplying goods or service a monopoly, and to conduct such industry or business by or under the control of the Commonwealth, and for that purpose to acquire any property used in connection with the industry or business. A tariff which breeds monopolies is kept up, and then we are asked to deal with effects instead of causes.

These amendments, initiated by the federal Labor government, are almost certain to be carried.

E. J. CRAIGIE.

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## INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

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### LETTERS FROM CHINA—IV.

Peking, January 31.

#### Chinese Cheap Labor.

Labor is plenty in this part of the world and, therefore, not very highly esteemed nor highly paid. At Kobe, in Japan, when we stopped there on our way, a man was at work picking buds off a tree—evergreen—to make the tree take a desired shape. He picked away patiently bud after bud. The next morning he was still picking buds off the same tree. How long before or after he worked I know not.

I am now living in my own house, with two servants. In addition, a man to take care of the pony if I get one will cost about four dollars a month or less and will live out of that. But he will do nothing except attend to the pony. The great number of this retinue is to be explained by the fact that a servant does not expect to do many things—also that that is the measure of his wages. With Feng Yang (the name is not the real one, but of my own coinage and I have as yet too little Chinese to know whether it would seem natural), I have entered into a contract by which he agrees to cook for me, and with Kwan Sun have agreed that he is to black my boots, run on errands, sweep, make fires and otherwise faithfully serve me.

Feng Yang is said to be a wonderful cook. When six unexpected guests arrived he was able to provide for them as well as for his employers. Once he sent in what seemed to be a pumpkin, and his mistress was wondering what he had sent that to the table for. When she cut into it with a knife, she found it was some sort of pie, so artfully browned over that it looked just like a pumpkin. Another time a fish came in—apparently with head and scales still on. But examination proved that Feng Yang had put on little pieces—yellow and white—alternately, in such a way as to look like scales, and he had also put on something that looked like an eye. On another occasion the lady cut open a pie and two little blue birds flew out. When he is not employed as a cook, Feng Yang earns his living by supplying sustenance for the dead. At a Chinese funeral it is necessary to provide the departed with things useful for his journey and residence in the other world; this is done by making paper images of horses, servants, houses, etc., and burying them. Feng Yang can make a paper house and lot to delight the soul. These horses, by the way, are conspicuous at the shops where they are sold. They are life size. So I am to begin house-keeping with a cook who is an artist, with a delight in the business of cooking. In Chicago you would pay for such a cook about forty dollars a month—or a hundred—besides feeding him well. With a former employer, Feng Yang received \$8 Mexican (\$3.64 U. S. gold) per month and provided his own food and house and supported his family more or