

business. If a line is drawn between them, it must be drawn on well defined grounds, and logical reasons must be offered.

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Lastly, let us consider the more sentimental objection to mail order business—the objection that one should be a true patriot to one's locality, and spend one's money at home. Supposing a person buys a suit of clothes from a local dealer. Does he actually spend his money "at home"? Perhaps the wool came from Australia, the goods were spun and woven in an English mill, part of the price constituted customs duties paid into the United States treasury, a New York tailoring firm made the cloth into clothes, the lining was cotton from Mississippi, spun and woven in a New England cotton mill, and perhaps some silk for the buttonholes came from France. The buttons were of German manufacture, and the goods were finally handled by a wholesale house in Chicago, which sold it to the local dealer in a small town in Missouri. Now, *how much of the \$20 paid for the suit is actually expended in the local town (well, of course, the local dealer knows)?* And what injustice to his town's industrial development does the man do if he buys the same suit for a few dollars less from a mail order house in Chicago? Would not the man have the few dollars saved by such a transaction to spend on something which perhaps was actually manufactured in his own town? At any rate, what more good would the money he saves do in the pockets of the local dealer than in the pockets of the man who had himself earned them in the same town, and continued to live and work there?

If the mail order business does fail to live up to its past and present standards it will disappear by itself. But as long as it is honestly conducted, as long as it is a labor-saving device in modern business life, and as long as the local dealers do not try to perfect their methods, so long the mail order business is a purely logical outcome of existing conditions, and the monopolistic spirit which denounces this business, because of the keen competition it affords, is entitled to no consideration.

ERIC OBERG.

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## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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### AUSTRALIA.

Corowa, N. S. W., July 20.—In the Federal parliament the first business taken up was the "Australian Industries preservation bill," usually called the "Anti-trust bill," which was thrown out last session (vol viii, p. 781). This time the Labor party supported it; and it has been passed by the House

and sent to the Senate. As it may be amended I shall not go into details at present; but as it stands now it is the worst example of paternalism and government by regulation yet passed.

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You will have heard of the very sudden death of Mr. Richard Seddon, premier of New Zealand. He had been on a short visit to Australia, and died at sea the day after leaving Sydney on the return voyage. Though without definite political principles he was democratic in most respects. Much of the legislation passed by the governments of which he was head was beneficial, and New Zealand suffers a great loss by his death.

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Rabbits have increased so rapidly in the eastern States of Australia that they have become a terrible pest. The New South Wales minister for lands stated recently that the government lands in the western division, which are let on lease, had decreased in value £8,000,000 owing to the rabbit plague, and rents had to be lowered in proportion. Private landowners are put to great and continual expense to keep down the number of rabbits. On the other hand, a large trade has grown up in the rabbit carcasses and skins which are largely exported. But of course it is far more profitable for the country as a whole to grow sheep and cattle than to export rabbits.

Some time ago a committee was formed in New South Wales, funds raised by subscription principally among the large landowners, and negotiations entered into with the Pasteur Institute, Paris, with the object of trying to destroy rabbits by disease. An agreement was made after some time, and now Dr. Danysz has arrived to make experiments. The New South Wales government set apart Broughton Island off Newcastle, N. S. W., for this purpose, and all experiments are to be carried on under government supervision. Dr. Danysz proposes to use a microbic disease called a "pasteurella," somewhat akin to chicken cholera. He declares it will not affect any animal but the rabbit. The scheme has aroused a great deal of opposition on the grounds that the disease may affect human beings and domestic animals, and that the rabbit trade will be destroyed.

ERNEST BRAY.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

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Week ending Wednesday, August 22.

### Earthquakes in South America.

Earthquakes which rival if they do not surpass in destructiveness San Francisco's "tremblor" of last April (pp. 56, 78) have nearly wiped out Valparaiso,

the seaport of the South American State of Chile, and have inflicted great damage at Santiago, the capital, and at a number of smaller cities. Word was received in the United States under date of the 16th from Buenos Ayres that on account of a terrible earthquake in the Andes communication with Chile had been cut off. Later came the news that at eight o'clock on Thursday evening, Aug. 16th, the district of Chile in which Valparaiso and Santiago are situated had been shaken by a most violent earthquake. At once whole rows of houses in Valparaiso collapsed, and, as in San Francisco, within fifteen minutes fires appeared in different parts of the city. The shocks continued all during the night and afterwards, and by Aug. 20th 381 shocks had been recorded as having been felt since the first, which was the most terrific. Water gave out, and winds swept the fires, once believed to be extinguished, to renewed destruction. Apparently not more than 20 per cent. of the buildings of the city have escaped. The loss of life is estimated at from 3,000 to 5,000. Among the dead is Senora Montt, the wife of Admiral Montt, the President-elect. Valparaiso has been a city of about 125,000 population, and the press reports speak of 100,000 persons being encamped in much misery in the squares of the city and on the heights above. Food is lacking and cold rains have added to the suffering. In Santiago many buildings were thrown down, and fire followed. The dead there are reported as 55, and the property loss as \$6,000,000. Many small towns suffered relatively more than Santiago. Eleven in Chile and three in Argentina are believed to be practically demolished. One of the Chilean towns—Quillota, 30 miles from Valparaiso, with 10,000 inhabitants—after suffering greatly from the first shocks, was reported on the 21st, as a result of a later shock, to have wholly sunk from sight, with all its inhabitants save about a hundred. The Island of Juan Fernandez, often called "Robinson Crusoe's island," which lay about four hundred miles west of Valparaiso in the Pacific, and belonged to Chile, has wholly disappeared. In the early part of the 18th century a Scotch castaway lived on this island for four years, and his adventures formed the basis of Defoe's immortal story. In the early part of the last century it was used by the Chilean government as a convict settlement, out of more recent years it has been but sparsely inhabited.

An earthquake shock was reported from Quito, the capital of Ecuador, on the 21st, and shocks were reported from the Island of Martinique, in the West Indies, on the 14th and 20th.

#### Mr. Root in South America.

At a state banquet given to him at Buenos Ayres on the 14th (p. 464), Elihu Root, Secretary of State of the United States, delivered another of the series of speeches which are making so much impression in South America. In this speech Mr. Root said to the people of Argentina:

We rejoice in your prosperity. We are proud of your achievements. We feel that you are justifying our faith in free government and self-government, that you are maintaining our great thesis, which demands the posses-

sion, the enjoyment and the control of the earth to the people who inhabit it.

Here as elsewhere Mr. Root's utterances have been received with the most profound gratification. The Brazilian government has recognized the import of the speeches Mr. Root delivered at Rio (p. 417) by changing the name of the building in which the sessions of the Pan-American Conference have been held, from "Pavillion St. Louis" to the "Monroe Palace."

In view of the terrible calamity which has befallen Chile, Mr. Root will limit his proposed visit there to a call for the expression of sympathy.

#### The Pan-American and the Drago Doctrine.

The Pan-American Conference's committee on the Drago doctrine, which declares against the use of armed force for the collection of public debts (p. 395), recommends that the individual countries composing the Conference ask the Hague tribunal to pass upon the merits of the proposition, not only with regard to the forcible collection of public debts, but of all pecuniary claims.

#### Threatened Revolution in Cuba.

A revolt against President Palma's government (p. 130) which does not seem to be based on any political issue, was reported from Cuba under date of the 19th, when seven Liberal leaders were arrested on the charge of conspiring to assassinate the President and overthrow his administration. Disorder and outlawry had been growing in the western provinces where bands of so-called rebels have been gathering. Their grievances are said to be that the government has been most unjust in the matter of elections and appointments, and has not carried out its promises of public improvements. Troops have been sent to the disturbed districts.

#### Threatened Revolution in Santo Domingo.

Santo Domingo, which comprises the eastern half of the large island southeast of Cuba, is disturbed by revolutionary bands presumed to be acting in the interests of the former President Jimenez. The press dispatches make no connection between the outbreak and the return to the United States on a vacation of Col. George C. Colton, who is in charge of the collection and impounding of the Santo Domingo customs, under American jurisdiction. It may be remembered, however, that Santo Domingo's last revolutionary event, which involved no bloodshed, occurred last December (vol. viii, p. 630) when Col. Colton took charge of the customs. In regard to the customs, Col. Colton reports that "despite the fact that the Dominican customs produced greater revenues last year than ever before, averaging more than \$200,000 per month, the comparative collections thus far this year are about one-third more."

#### Terrorism in Russia.

Deprived of self-government through the dispersal of its first national assembly (p. 393), the baffled mass of Russian life seems to be gradually working