

been the political manager of Mayor Schmitz and is reputed to have made a fortune corruptly in politics. The courts restrained him from taking possession of the district attorney's office. The dispatches are hysterical, and there is some significance in one of them of the 29th to the Chicago Record-Herald. It states that "at a secret meeting of the board of supervisors, the night before, it was decided to form an organization 'to champion the cause of justice and fair play, refute the slanders of corporations and millionaires,' and resist attacks on the union labor administration." The reported uprising may be genuine and there are reasons to believe it is so, but the dispatches have a good deal of the flavor of editorial manufacture. It is only reasonable, therefore, to suspend opinion for better information.

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The Japanese Incident.

The question of the segregation of the Japanese children in the San Francisco public schools (p. 704), is being investigated, and a calmer view of the situation is said to obtain in Japan. On the 26th President Roosevelt deputed Mr. Victor Metcalf, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, to go to San Francisco and examine into the status of the affair; and in the meantime, on the 27th the following dispatch was sent by the State Department to the American ambassador at Tokio:

Troubles are so entirely local and confined to San Francisco that this government was not aware of their existence until the publication in our newspapers of what had happened in Tokio. The best information we have been able to obtain indicates that there is nothing even in San Francisco but an ordinary local labor controversy excited by the abnormal conditions resulting there from the earthquake and fire. This does not seem to have gone beyond irresponsible agitation, to which no attention can be paid by this government or should be by the people of Japan. The trouble about schools appears to have arisen from the fact that the schools which the Japanese had attended were destroyed at the time of the earthquake and have not been replaced. You may assure the government of Japan in most positive terms that the government of the United States will not for a moment entertain the idea of any treatment toward the Japanese people other than that accorded to the people of the most friendly European nation, and that there is no reason to suppose that the people of the United States desire our government to take any different course.

On the 29th the Secretary of State received word from the ambassador that the American message, given to the press by the Japanese government, had been received with satisfaction by the Japanese people, and had had a very quieting effect.

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Persia's New National Assembly.

The newly established National Council of Persia (pp. 560, 709), according to India, of London, was opened on Sunday, September 9, in the presence of the diplomatic body. The deputies, with Sanieh ed Dowleh, who had been chosen president ad interim, assembled in the inner court of the Palace, and were welcomed by the Shah from a window on the first floor. Nizam el Mulk, Minister of Justice, read the Royal Speech, which, in very appropriate terms, declared the National Council opened, and expressed

the hope that the new assembly might be productive of good results for the country and the nation. It is expected that a considerable time will be required for the provincial members to reach the capital.

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Russia.

The Universities of St. Petersburg and Kazan, two of the most important in Russia, were closed on the 29th by order of their faculties on account of the violation by students of the regulation that open political meetings should not be held within the college precincts. It was later decided to reopen the University of St. Petersburg on the 31st (p. 704).

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Full religious freedom was granted by the Emperor on the 29th to the sect known as the "Old Believers," numbering several million of the most prosperous and industrious class of Russia. Similar liberty is also granted to other "dissenters," with the exception of one minor sect. It is estimated that the ukase affects the religious worship of 12,000,000-subjects altogether.

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The British House of Lords in the Balance.

Parliament has got quickly to work (p. 704). On the 29th the first vote in committee of the House of Lords on the crucial education bill (p. 441), which before adjournment passed its third reading in the Commons, resulted adversely to the Government by a majority of 200. This opposition was expected, and in anticipation of it the old question—always becoming more insistent—of the obstructionist character of the Lords, has been once more under discussion. On the 8th the able Daily Post and Mercury of Liverpool had urged coercion in this frank language:

A good issue should be chosen at a good time. The Liberal Government should stake everything on abasing the Upper House, ad hoc or generally—generally for choice. A great and salutary change would then either be accomplished or be definitely set aside by a Tory reaction, which would make the Peers in esse as well as in posse dictators for another dark period of history. Even this would be better than for an unprecedentedly great and unanimous Liberal House of Commons to work in fetters, chronically reduced to futility in everything it undertook. No Liberal Parliament must ever be fatuous again. This Parliament might be beaten, but it must fight. It must fight promptly on occasion. It must pick up the glove. Would it be beaten? Great factors to the contrary are the composition, the spirit, the uncompromising resolution, of the present House of Commons. There has never been such a House since 1832, and it even excels that of 1832 because so much more representative of the actual nation, and because the potentiality of the Upper House, as against it, has been so much more definitely challenged. What was done in 1832 by warning could be done in 1907 in action; and if the nation which has returned this House of Commons stands by it, 1907 will not be satisfied with a victory on one issue such as contented 1832, but will effect a constitutional change such as will obviate in future the inconvenience and liability to tumultuous revolution which attend the operation of the present working, under Liberal Governments, of the two branches of the Legislature.

When one meets Liberal members of the present House of Commons, one finds that they converse in the spirit of this article. They are ready, if not spilling,

for a fight. They say they will "stand no nonsense." Would the electorate stand any nonsense? Of course everything depends on that. By succession, through the Duke of Wellington (in his later political form); Lord Salisbury (who received the doctrine of accommodation in writing from the duke, and himself modernized it into present-day diction); and Lord Lansdowne (who last week expressly recited it in an important speech)—the rule has been settled that after an express reference to the people in a general election the House of Lords should no longer resist. Let us suppose that the nation has passed into a frame of political mind, and developed a political character, which would secure its returning again the Parliament which it returned before. The only question which would then remain would be whether this reference back to the people should be inconveniently on each measure rejected or mangled, or conveniently upon some automatic principle of Lower House insistence. If the principles and practice of Liberal Government are to be re-established and advanced in a businesslike way upon a businesslike basis, the latter course will be adopted. That is to say, at the next hitch—whether it come on Education, or Taff Vale, or on whatever else may occasion a deadlock—Parliament should not merely pass the measure the Lower House demands, but establish such forms as would render it impossible for the Peers thereafter on any measure to frustrate the declared will of the represented people.

NEWS NOTES

—More fighting with the Pulajanes (p. 586) is reported from the Island of Samar in the Philippines.

—The second Hague peace conference (p. 635), according to reports from London, will be called for next Easter.

—The French cabinet on the 30th approved a measure providing for abolition of capital punishment (p. 444). The dispatches state that this means that at the coming session of Parliament a law will be enacted to that effect.

—A beautiful Chicago is the ideal which the Merchants' club of this city is formulating plans for. Mr. D. H. Burnham who has prepared plans for Washington, Manila and San Francisco, will have general supervision of the work.

—Wm. J. Bryan continued his speaking tour through Indiana (p. 705) and Ohio last week, and then back to Iowa and into Nebraska. He speaks at Lincoln on the 3rd on "Dreams," in reply to Senator Beveridge who at Lincoln called him a "dreamer."

—The Trans-Alaska Siberian Railway company was incorporated in New Jersey on the 24th, with an authorized capital of \$6,000,000. Its purpose is to connect America with Asia, and thereby with Europe and Africa, by an all-rail route, tunneling under Behring straits.

—The Chicago traction ordinance proposed by the traction interests in execution of Mayor Dunne's traction plan (p. 703) was submitted on the 25th by the new company—the Chicago City Railways Company. It is under examination by Mayor Dunne and his special traction counsel, Walter L. Fisher.

—The Circuit Court at Toledo on the 26th upheld the decision of Judge Kinkade of the Common Pleas Court in the sentences he gave Reuben Lemon,

Rollin Beard and Joseph Miller, convicted of conspiracy in restraint of trade in the sale of ice (p. 300), which cases were tried last summer.

—The first test case in Ohio of the Federal eight-hour day law ended in a victory for the law. After being out fifteen minutes on the 26th the jury in the United States Court found the Sheridan-Kirk Contracting Company guilty of having violated the law in the construction of the big Ohio river dam at Fernbank.

—Ibsen's "Pillars of Society," given last year in Chicago by the Hull-House Dramatic Association at Hull-House Theatre, is to be repeated at the same place on Nov. 7, 9 and 10: (Reserved seats 50 cents.) The sociological value of such a play is greatly enhanced when it is rendered as a labor of love by performers who are saturated with its spirit.

—Three great vestibule electric cars on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 28, plunged from the high trestle spanning an arm of the sea between Atlantic City and the mainland, and were submerged in 30 feet of water. The passengers were Sunday excursionists, mostly from Philadelphia. Fifty-one bodies have been recovered, and at least two more persons are known to have perished.

—An ancient human skull has been recently dug up a little north of Omaha, which is declared by Professor Fairfield Osborn of Columbia University to be that of the most primitive man yet discovered with the exception of what is known as the Neanderthal man found in Germany. The difference shown by measurements of the two skulls, according to Professor Osborn, shows that the latter was a mere animal, while the Nebraska skull is that of a thinking man, although of the lowest order.

—The New South Wales Single Tax league celebrated the Henry George anniversary by a banquet in Sydney, Sept. 4. The speech of the evening was delivered by the Premier of New South Wales, Mr. Carruthers, who among his concluding remarks said that they ought to congratulate themselves on the fact that their ideas, which were unpopular years ago, were now being received with acclamation. He still retained his old sympathy with the organization, he said; and he was doing his best, step by step, to embody those sound principles on the statute books of the State.

—"Back on the Right Side of the Bay, and Back to Stay," is the legend in big letters on a big banner that the San Francisco Star has hung all across the side of its new press building in San Francisco (pp. 99, 106, 435). The Star with justifiable jubilation announces that though it is but six short months since the great fire, "to-day The Star press occupies more than 5,000 square feet of floor in a solid iron building erected expressly for its use, with linotypes, the finest cylinder and job presses, types and other printers' supplies, that money could purchase. Every department is crowded with work and night shift succeeds day shift that we may keep pace with multiplied orders. Best of all, everywhere about us are the signs of our neighbors' equal prosperity."

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When Mr. Moody was asked by the reporter, "You tell what action was decided upon by you?"