

President Roosevelt, who declared that the reports of such legislation hampered him in his effort to secure exclusion of Japanese laborers by friendly agreement with Japan, when the legislature adjourned on the 12th it left the Japanese bills in abeyance.

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Forward Movements in Sweden.

Stockholm's *Tidningen* of February 3 states that the Department of State Railways in Sweden proposes the introduction of new and lower rates for "express freight," the same class of goods as is handled by the express companies in this country. According to the proposed tariff the rates should be uniform for all distances above 62 miles (100 kilometers), and would be for packages up to 4.4 pounds (2 kilograms), 8 cents; up to 11 pounds (5 kilograms), 12.25 cents; up to 22 pounds (10 kilograms), 16 cents. For distances less than 62 miles the rates are to be still lower. Special stamps will be issued so that the sender can himself stamp the packages, just as with postoffice parcels. The longest distance by rail in the country is about 1,400 miles. It is interesting to note that the Swedish State railways with such low passenger and freight rates as are in force, and such excellent service as according to all testimony they render, are not only self-supporting, but pay a very good interest on the invested capital—on some lines 6 to 7 per cent.

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A petition for equal suffrage was filed in the Swedish Riksdag, on February 6, signed by 142,128 women. Considering that until the new suffrage bill (p. 1066) becomes operative, only about 250,000 men are entitled to political suffrage in Sweden, the number of women having expressed their demand for the ballot is very large and is significant of the way in which the women in all the Scandinavian countries always have been awake to their rights. The women of Sweden have municipal suffrage on equal terms with men, the qualification for both sexes being based on the amount of property assessed. This basis gives municipal suffrage to about 50 per cent. of all men, and 25 per cent. of all women of voting age.

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A bill of great consequence to the future of woman's position in educational pursuits has been introduced in the Swedish Riksdag. This bill provides that all vacancies for instructors in public educational institutions, universities, colleges, seminaries, etc., may be filled by women as well as by men, with the one exception of the theological chairs at the universities. This is the most radical measure in this direction as yet proposed anywhere, and the Swedish people may justly be proud of their recognition of the rights of their women. Professorships have already been held by women at the foremost university of the country, Upsala, but this has as yet not had legal recognition. The bill has been favorably reported by the educational committee.

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The Russian Douma Organizing.

The new President of the Douma, Mr. Feodor Golovin (p. 1165), having been received in audience

by the Czar, the Douma resumed its sessions on the 8th. The further election of officers indicated the great strength of the radicals. The Constitutional Democrats, who already had the presidency, were compelled to abandon their own candidates for vice presidents and accept the nominees of a coalition of the more radical parties. Mr. Berrezin of Saratov, a newspaper man and a member of the Group of Toll, received 345 votes for first vice-president, to 101 votes cast for his opponent. Mr. Posnansky of Kharkoff, a lawyer, a member of the Left, received 349 votes for second vice-president, against 97 for his opponent. Professor Kapoustine of Kazan University, the Octoberist leader, was among the defeated candidates. This double victory for the Left was loudly cheered. Mr. Chelnokoff, like President Golovin a Constitutional Democrat from Moscow, was elected secretary of the Douma by a vote of 379, the highest yet given for any candidate. Adjournment was had on the 9th to enable the committees on credentials, appointed on that date, to formulate their reports on the contested seats. The next session was announced for the 13th, but was later postponed to the 15th, ostensibly to give the committees more time, but the real reason is said to be that it was discovered that the Conservatives planned a monarchical demonstration for March 4, the occasion of the anniversary of the assassination of Alexander II.

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In the British Parliament.

The woman's disfranchisement bill presented by W. H. Dickinson (pp. 1112, 1165) was debated in the House of Commons on the 8th, but could not be carried to "closure," and was therefore killed for the present session.

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At a meeting of the members of the House of Commons who are interested in the question of the taxation of land values, held February 15, a parliamentary campaign committee was appointed, with power to add, to deal with the land value situation in Parliament and in the country generally. The following are the members of this committee: Alfred Billson, J. W. Jowett, E. H. Pickersgill, C. E. Price, T. F. Richards, A. H. Scott, Sir Albert Spicer, C. P. Trevelyan, J. C. Wedgwood, J. Dundas White, J. H. Whitely (chairman), T. McKinnon Wood; secretaries, Crompton L. Davies and John Paul.

NEWS NOTES

—The little war in Central America, between Nicaragua and Honduras (p. 1166), still continues.

—Jean Paul Pierre Casimir-Perier, president of France for six and a half months in 1894-5, died in Paris on the 11th.

—The question of the municipal ownership of water works and water supply at Portland, Me., is before the Maine legislature.

—Dr. E. J. James was re-elected president of the University of Illinois on the 12th for a term of two years by the trustees at their annual meeting.

—The proposed Chicago charter (p. 1163) has been