

Conservatism and radicalism, therefore, go so far together. Both may be assumed to approach the case with an honest desire to thoroughly diagnose it, and both with the same ultimate object in view of attaining the normal state of social health.

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EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

AUSTRALIA.

Corowa, N. S. W., Australia, April 22. —The Federal ministry was defeated in the House last night on the arbitration and conciliation bill, an amendment moved by a Labor member to include all Commonwealth and State public servants under the provisions of the bill being carried against the ministry by nine votes. The voting was as follows:

	For the Amendment.	Against.
Labor	23	0
Ministerialists	2	19
Opposition	13	10
	38	29

Several members of the Opposition voted for the amendment to wreck the bill and overthrow the ministry. Mr. Reid, leader of the Opposition, voted against the amendment.

Last year the same amendment was proposed, but negatived, and an amendment to include railway (State) employes was carried against the ministry, which then dropped the bill. It was not thought that the Labor party would carry the public service amendment this time, but it was expected that, as before, they would win over the railway employes.

Mr. Deakin, the ministerial leader, will resign, and it is considered probable that Mr. Watson, leader of the Labor party, will be sent for by the Governor General to form a ministry.

ERNEST BRAY.

NEWS

Week ending Thursday, May 26.

Notwithstanding the startling headlines of the daily press during the week, relative to the progress of the Russo-Japanese war (p. 103), nothing of serious concern has been reliably reported since our last issue, except the destruction of a first-class Japanese battleship, the *Hatsuse*, by Russian mines off Port Arthur, and the sinking of the Japanese cruiser *Yoshino* in a collision. The total loss of life reported by the Japanese vice admiral, Togo, was 210 on the *Yoshino* and 441 on the *Hatsuse*.

A diplomatic event, reported on the 20th, is of more importance than any of the military occurrences so far as they are known. It is the revocation by Corea of all treaties and agreements with Russia. This revocation comprises the Yalu timber concessions, which are said to be one of the principal factors in bringing about the war. So long as the Russians remained on the western bank of the Yalu the Japanese, though very much discontented at the failure to evacuate Manchuria, were not willing to plunge into hostilities; but the procurement by Russia through M. Pavloff, the resident Russian agent and minister at Seoul, of a large concession of land on the Korean side of the Yalu precipitated the crisis. The Japanese felt that the alleged timber concession was really intended for military purposes, and they were confirmed in their suspicion by Russian opposition to the application of Japan, England and the United States to have free ports opened at the mouth of the Yalu river and above at Wiju and Antung.

Reports of the 22d relative to the British invasion of Thibet (p. 104) tell of an engagement near Gyantse on the 21st in which three farmsteads occupied by Thibetans were captured by the British. In this report, a special to the *London Times*, it is said that the British losses within the preceding two weeks were 57, which, the report continues—

perhaps will surprise men who have been inclined to underestimate the importance of the present military operations. The self-confidence and military ability of the enemy [the Thibetans] has increased greatly of late. Diplomacy has failed utterly, and the commanders of the British forces now see that it will be necessary to carry out the fight to the end.

France is in a diplomatic controversy with the head of the Roman Catholic Church over the relations of the Church to the French government. This controversy appears to be supplementary to the closing of the Catholic schools in France (vol. vi, p. 822) and to promise a complete dissolution of the French union of church and state. The immediate pretext is a diplomatic note of protest sent

to some of the Powers by the papal secretary of state with reference to the French government. In consequence of this the French government has withdrawn the French ambassador, Mr. Nisard, from the Vatican. In announcing their act the council of French ministers said on the 24th:

The government is convinced of the authenticity of the reported protest sent by the Vatican to the Powers, and therefore has decided to recall M. Nisard, leaving routine business in the hands of the third secretary of the Vatican embassy.

The resulting situation is reported from Rome to be regarded there as hopeless with reference to the relations of the Vatican and France. The Pope himself is described as being convinced that the separation of church and state in France is now only a question of time. He is quoted, however, upon high but anonymous authority by press dispatches to have observed that the presence of a French ambassador at the Vatican has not prevented the French government from adopting measures extremely objectionable to the Church, and that the separation perhaps might prove not an unmitigated evil. In this connection he is reported to have pointed out to the cardinals that, wherever the Church is supported wholly or in part by the state, it is made subservient to the political exigencies of the government, while in those countries where the Church gets only voluntary support it generally is untrammelled in the exercise of its rights. The prosperity of the Catholic Church in England and the United States is said to have been referred to by him with a statement of his belief that French Roman Catholics also will supply their clergy with the support which the French government will refuse.

On the American side of the globe labor disturbances upon a large scale are attracting attention and causing alarm. The largest of these is the general strike, begun on the 24th, of the freight handlers employed by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad in New York and New England and the marine firemen employed on the boats of this railroad system. The strike was or-