

own verdict, the "Chinaman is the most perfect of all the servitors of this earth;" and according to Joaquin Miller they paid this highest-class servitor "one-fifth what they now pay for a poor one!"

No doubt the trades unions—like all other human institutions, including the employers' unions—need to be purged of much that is bad in them. Meantime, the trades union has ample cause to survive so long as its enemies, in combating it, contradict history, ignore natural law, and put reason, logic and common sense to shame.

HORACE CLIFTON.

NEWS NARRATIVE

Week ending Thursday, Aug. 3.

Political evolution in Russia.

As a sequel to the session of the Zemstvos congress at Moscow (p. 263), reports are at hand of the permanent suppression of the *Novesti* (p. 264), the leading Jewish liberal paper of St. Petersburg, and of the seizure by the Russian police of all the documents relative to the proceedings of the congress.

A new congress of Zemstvos is to meet at Moscow in August, in which, in addition to Zemstvos and Dumas representatives, two peasants from each province and delegates from various liberal associations of the Empire are to participate.

While the Zemstvos movement, coming up from the people of Russia, is struggling for a parliamentary system of government, the Czar is planning for the national assembly, under Imperial authority and subject to Imperial control, which he promised (vol. vii, p. 777) five months ago. Pursuant to these plans as made public within the week, this assembly will meet November 14 next, and the elections for delegates will be held one month earlier—October 14. As reported from St. Petersburg on the 30th, the plans aimed to eliminate class representation by allowing all persons to vote except soldiers, persons under 25 years of age, governors and vice-governors of provinces, prefects and other police authorities, convicts divest-

ed of civil rights, tramps, foreigners and women. It appears from this report, however, that the voting is not to be directly for delegates, but is to be for members of electoral colleges, by which the delegates are to be chosen; and that qualifications for voting for members of the electoral college are prescribed in complicated ways with reference to property interests. Under the presidency of the Czar, the council of ministers assembled on the 2d to perfect the plans.

Norway and Sweden.

The plan for dissolving the union between Sweden and Norway (p. 263), heretofore reported to the Swedish Riksdag by its joint committee, was approved on the 27th by both houses of that parliamentary body. In the upper house the committee's report was adopted unanimously and without debate. In the lower house some objection was made to a detail of the report, the Socialist leader in that body having urged that the proposal of the report to borrow \$25,000,000 to meet the new conditions might be regarded in Norway as a threat of war. Other speakers replied that the peaceful intentions of Sweden would be amply shown by a unanimous vote for dissolution of the union in accordance with Norway's wishes. About 20 members voted against the loan, but the report as a whole was adopted unanimously in the lower house as in the upper.

A new ministry for Sweden was formed on the 2d. It is bipartisan in politics and favorable to peace.

Norway has made a prompt response to Sweden's peaceful proposals. In accordance with Sweden's exaction of a referendum in Norway, the Norwegian ministry proposed to the Storting on the 27th that a referendum on the question of dissolution of the union be taken. This proposition was at once referred to a special committee, which reported favorably on the 28th, recommending, however, that the referendum be considered by itself and not as part of the series of conditions of dissolution presented by Sweden. Immediately upon receiving this report the Storting adopted it

and fixed August 13 for submitting the question of dissolution to the people of Norway.

Jewish world's congress at Basel.

In Switzerland on the 30th the Zionist congress was rent by the refusal of the majority to accept an offer of land for settlement in Africa. The movement of which this congress is representative was inspired by the late Dr. Theodor Herzl for the restoration to the Jews of their fatherland. It began with a congress at Basel, Switzerland, in 1899. At its fourth annual meeting, held in 1902 at the same place, the congress resolved (vol. iv, p. 617) to raise by collections from all parts of the world \$1,000,000 for the purchase of land in Palestine for Jewish occupation. The British government, influenced probably by colonizing possibilities, soon became interested in the movement, and at the session of the congress at Basel in 1903 (vol. vi, p. 328) an offer from Great Britain of 5,000 square miles in extent, in Uganda, British East Africa, was considered. No action was taken by the congress at that time, beyond the appointment of an inspection committee to view the land. But at the recent meeting of the congress, on the 30th of July last, the subject was disposed of. This meeting began on the 27th in the grand hall of the Casino at Basel, with over a thousand delegates representing the leading forces of the Zionist movement throughout the world, and including an unusually strong delegation from the United States. Max Nordau pronounced an eloquent eulogy in memory of Dr. Theodor Herzl, founder of the movement, this being the first anniversary of his death, and the session was suspended for an hour as a mark of respect. At the afternoon session of that day Dr. Nordau was elected president. When the British government's offer came up for discussion as a special order on the 28th, Israel Zangwill urged acceptance of the proposition, provided the particular tract offered, which had been found to be unhealthful, were replaced by or extended to a more favorable location. Mr. Cowan of London and Mr. Leon on behalf of the American delegation urged that the offer be declined. After a prolonged debate and acrimoni-

ous proceedings, the congress, on the 30th, adopted the following resolution by a large majority:

Resolved, That the Zionist congress firmly maintains the principle for the foundation of the colony in the Jewish fatherland, Palestine, or in that vicinity. The congress thanks Great Britain for her offer of African territory, the consideration of which, however, is terminated; and hopes that Great Britain will continue to aid in the solution of the Jewish question.

The minority, described in the dispatches as "the socialist section," thereupon withdrew. On the 31st they issued a circular address to the Jewish people protesting against their treatment during the meetings of the congress, and giving notice of their intention to form a special organization, with the view of taking over the Uganda territory.

British politics.

The Parliamentary paper explaining the proposed redistribution of Parliamentary seats, regarding which the Ministry recently suffered a defeat (p. 263), shows that the proposed distribution was in accordance with the following scheme:

The number of members of the House of Commons shall not be materially altered. A municipal borough or urban district with a population exceeding 65,000, not at present separately represented, shall become a separate constituency. A county or borough with a population exceeding 65,000 multiplied by the number of its members shall have an additional member for every complete 65,000 of the excess. A borough with a population of less than 18,500 shall cease to exist as a separate constituency. A county or borough with two members and a population of less than 75,000 shall (except in the case of the city of London) lose one member. A county or borough with more than two members and a population of less than 65,000 multiplied by the number of its members shall have one less member for every complete 65,000 of the deficiency. The county and the borough shall, as far as practicable, be made coextensive with the administrative county and the municipal borough respectively, but the boundaries of a borough shall not be curtailed except when the population affected is inconsiderable. In London each metropolitan borough shall be treated as if it were a borough returning the number of members returned by the present boroughs or divisions to which it most nearly corresponds.

The net result is shown in the following table:

	Gain.	Loss.
England—		
Counties	6 ..	8
Boroughs, London....	5 ..	—
Boroughs, outside London, including new boroughs.....	20 ..	6
	31 ..	14
	Net gain..	17
Wales—		
Counties	— ..	—
Boroughs, including new borough.....	1 ..	—
	— ..	—
	2 ..	1
	Net gain..	1
Scotland—		
Counties	1 ..	—
Boroughs	4 ..	1
	— ..	—
	5 ..	1
	Net gain..	4
Ireland—		
Counties	— ..	20
Boroughs	1 ..	3
	— ..	—
	1 ..	—
	Net loss..	22

Reviving feudalism in New Foundland.

Before the King there is supposed to be now pending for his approval, if he may not already have sanctioned it, a bill adopted by the legislature of New Foundland about two months ago, which would create intolerable feudal conditions in America. Newfoundland, at the mouth of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, has an area of 40,200 square miles, and a population of 217,037. Although adjacent to Canada it is independent of that Dominion and holds direct Colonial relations with Great Britain. The government (inclusive of Labrador) is administered by a governor appointed by the king, and a legislative body of two houses—the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly. The proposed feudalization referred to above began openly on the 27th of April last, according to the London (England) "Land and Labour," by the introduction by the local ministry of resolutions in the House of Assembly—

for the confirmation of a contract which, it appeared, had been made on January 12 with the "Anglo-Newfoundland Development company," promoted by "Messrs. Harmsworth, of London, England," assigning to them in perpetuity about three thousand square miles of land for the purpose of wood-pulp and paper manufacture.

The contract included amazing conditions as to the unfettered ownership of this vast area, which practically handed over the government of the region to the new company. The same day a bill embodying the contract was read a first time. Next day, April 28, it was read a second time. On May 2—the next sitting of the House—the bill was committed. On May 3 it was reported. On May 5 it was read a third time. A great public meeting of citizens was held on May 10, and passed emphatic resolutions against the bill. . . . Nevertheless, the bill was sent on to the upper house or Legislative Council, where it was read a second time on May 12, in spite of the protest and petition. On May 17 the measure was committed and reported, on May 22 recommitted for a technical alteration and again reported, and set down for third reading on May 29. On that date the third reading was deferred, and we are informed by the Colonial Office that it has not yet reached this country for the royal assent, but that the substance of the citizens' protest has been telegraphed by Sir William Macgregor, the governor. The upper basin of the Exploits river, of which it is proposed to make the Harmsworth combination absolute rulers—as we shall presently show—is a lake country more than a hundred miles long, its scenery surpassing even that of Killarney. It cuts right across the heart of the colony. The three thousand square miles included in the concession are a noble and favorite sporting and fishing country, and the deer of the great northern peninsula of Newfoundland pass across this ground twice every year when they migrate southward in the autumn and return in the spring. By fencing in the concession Messrs. Harmsworth will be able to capture almost all the deer of Newfoundland. . . . It is believed that there are valuable minerals in the concession; and these are handed over absolutely for a consideration which is little more than nominal. The Exploits river is nearly as long as the Thames, and the great region of mountain, river, lake, and forest to be handed over forever to Messrs. Harmsworth is as large as the Thames basin from London up to the headwaters near Gloucester. It includes a dozen fine lakes, one of which, Red Indian lake, is three times the length of Windermere. These lakes, and their connecting rivers, with the water power and traffic facilities appertaining to them, are handed over to the Harmsworth trust. The new Harmsworth province is now connected by rail with both east and west, the railway cutting across the Exploits river just below the ceded territory. The citizens of Newfoundland have recently had to buy back this railway from its monopolist own-