

had been in power before, they would have avoided the bloody and costly war, and that henceforth the object of the government would be to guarantee the safety of Melilla by the system of fortified positions which were already occupied.

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Two letters written by Professor Ferrer on October 2 and 4, from his cell, to Mr. Naguel, president of the French committee of defense for the political prisoners in Spain, through friendly hands reached their destination. In them Ferrer asserts his innocence of the charges of having incited to acts of violence, and of knowledge of the existence of a revolutionary document, said by the police to have been found in his house. In a later letter to Mme. Charles Albert at Paris he speaks of a letter which had failed to reach his friends, in which he had given a full account of his trial, and the inability of his accusers to find a charge against him, and he adds: "The judge has searched everywhere and found nothing against me. He was obliged at last to call upon the supreme prosecutor, who had charged me with being the director of the rebellion, and demanded proofs of him. He was obliged to admit that he had no proof, but said that he had heard these things."

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The Czar of Russia Visits the King of Italy.

The Russian Emperor crossed Germany and France to reach Italy by a somewhat circuitous route last week in order to make a two days' visit (p. 780) with King Victor Emmanuel at Racconigi. The avoidance of Austria, and the fact of the visit itself, have aroused fears in Germany and Austria that a closer alliance between Russia and Italy is under way, together with a weakening of the bonds of the "triple alliance" between Germany, Austria and Italy. To democratic eyes the threatening of international relationships is a less impressive feature of this Imperial visit, than the precautions taken to protect the Czar against attack from friends of the Russian people, or from the European "under dog." Four great European armies were laid under contribution. As usual, Russian troops formed an unbroken line along the railway from Odessa to the Russian frontier. The train schedule was frequently changed. According to the Berliner Zeitung, "at the start three trains exactly alike stood in the station side by side on parallel tracks. No one knew by which train the Czar would travel. They ran through Russia at intervals of a few miles and halted side by side in the larger stations on the route. Part of the journey the Czar was in the middle train, part of the time in the first, then he changed to the last train. So the terrorists could not know which train to attack, even if they had succeeded in reaching the railroad." Thousands of troops guarded the stations and

lines through Germany and France. A special commission of generals met the Czar on the Italian frontier, and on the way to Racconigi the Imperial train passed through a double line of 23,000 men who guarded the tracks. Four thousand troops were massed along the short road leading from the station to the castle. The Czar left on the 25th for his return through France.

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Finland Again Losing Her Autonomy.

The establishment of a new basis of relationship between the grand duchy of Finland and the Russian Empire, intimated last February (p. 208), seems to have been worked out. The appointment of two "denationalized" Finns to the Finnish senate, by the Governor general of Finland, in the places of two senators who in September notified the Governor general that they would not accept reappointment to office because the Russian cabinet insisted that the Finnish senate contribute \$4,000,000 to the defense of the Empire, is understood to mean the downfall of Finnish autonomy, since this step places the entire machinery of state in the hands of the Russian Governor general and a senate denationalized by Finns who have spent their lives in the governmental service of Russia. As an indication of the Russian advance, an Imperial manifesto was published on the 14th, ordering that the military contribution of \$4,000,000 shall be taken from the Finnish treasury and turned over to Russia. Cossacks began arriving at the important cities of Finland on the 19th. These troops are reported to be the advance guard of the force dispatched by the Russian government as a preventive measure against any movement on the part of the Finns to oppose Russia's action in enforcing its demands for the \$4,000,000 contribution.

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Persia Under Nationalism.

The deposed Shah of Persia (p. 804), as was expected, took refuge with his friends the Russians, and is now living quietly in Odessa.

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The foreign mail advices of the Laffan news service report the appointment as Premier of Persia of the "Sipahdar"—the field marshal, as he is called—the Nationalist leader who, when the Nationalists entered Teheran and took charge of the government, was made minister of war (p. 710). The Sipahdar's real name is Mohammed Velikhan Naser-es-Sultaneh. He is a man of the widest experience in Persian affairs and administration. "Toward the end of the reign of Naser-Eddin," says the report, "he was intrusted with the control of the national mint. The Persian coinage at that time was, owing to the fall in the price of silver, in a depreciated condition, but

Mohammed succeeded in reorganizing it with great profit to the national exchequer. Under Muzeffer-Eddin he became director general of customs. In this capacity he laid the foundation of the system upon which to this day Persia's international credit is based and which saved the country's finances during the late troubles from utter ruin." As a governor and as concessionaire of the Persian telegraph system he became the richest man in Persia. After the abrogation of the Constitution by the late Shah, he was sent to subdue the revolt which broke out at Tabriz (vol. xi, pp. 348, 369, 395, 471, 831; xii, pp. 63, 396, 419); but being at heart a Liberal, and seeing, moreover, the signs of a new day, he resigned and went back to his home, to later organize the army that captured Teheran. His assumption of the premiership gives at least a strong hand to a government struggling with the problem of constructing a democracy in an ancient Asiatic civilization that dates its absolutism back 2,500 years, to the days when the laws of "the Medes and Persians" were royal decrees which "altered not."

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Constitutionalism in China Advances According to Schedule.

The Chinese ten years' program for constitutionalism, laid down last year (vol. xi, p. 708; vol. xii, p. 825), is working out as planned. The steps for 1909 were announced as "election of provincial assemblymen; issuing of school books." Word has come that the Provincial Assemblies have actually met in the capitals of the respective departments. Their function seems to be more advisory than legislative. The Chinese, unaccustomed to the new forms, are said so far to have paid but little attention to this evidence of a new epoch.

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British Politics.

In the House of Commons on the 22d, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. George, presented the Budget (p. 1020) estimates as revised.

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The present situation is described at length in the Chicago Tribune of the 24th by T. P. O'Connor, M. P., who has just arrived in this country on an Irish party mission, accompanied by Richard McGhee, a former Irish member who is also a land value taxationist. Mr. O'Connor's letter, written from New York, is the best first-hand report of the British situation that has yet been made in an American paper. At the time he left London the Commons had adjourned for a week, to give the Ministry a chance to rest. The danger he now fears is not that the Lords will reject the Budget, but that they will pass it and that the Ministry "will then be satisfied and will make the

attempt to live through another year or two of office." Continuing he says:

This is the reason of the tone which Mr. Redmond has taken up during his recent successful tour of speech-making in the English cities. He has declared his strong opinion that the Government will be ill advised if they don't have an early general election, whether the Budget be accepted or rejected. And even he went the length of saying that he and his party would do their best to force the Government to a dissolution. This is also the attitude of the radicals, including the radicals in the ministry. The powerful and aggressive speeches of Lloyd-George and Churchill have not been made without a purpose. They provoked wild outbursts of rage from all the friends of the House of Lords and people speak of these two politicians as Abraham Lincoln was spoken of in the bitterest days of the civil war. But it is just what they want. They are determined to force a general election if they can, being convinced that if the House of Lords question be not tackled now, it will not be tackled for years to come, and that until the House of Lords is brought to its senses there can be no hope for real progress in England.

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Free Speech in Philadelphia.

In the Goldman injunction case in Philadelphia (p. 1017), Judge Willson in his adverse opinion said that the case rested upon two contentions: that (1) under the Constitution of Pennsylvania "every citizen may freely speak, write and print on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that liberty;" and that (2) under the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, no State can "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." As to the first contention he held that Miss Goldman can claim no infringement of a right, "because she is not a citizen, either of Pennsylvania or of the United States." As to the second he holds that "it does not appear that the State of Pennsylvania has attempted to discriminate against the plaintiff personally, or as one of a class of persons." Considering, then, the essence of the question, Judge Willson made this assertion of the arbitrary powers of peace officers over freedom of speech:

The question which the plaintiff would have us determine is whether or not public officers, entrusted with the preservation of the peace, acting (as we ought to presume the defendants would) in the honest exercise of their judgment, should be restrained from prohibiting the delivery of lectures which would be likely to excite public disturbances and to result in a breach of the public peace. If such public officers should attempt to interfere in such a case, their interference would be justified, not upon the ground that the person to be affected by their action was an alien or a citizen, but by the knowledge that dangerous and disturbing sentiments tending to disturb the peace would be uttered. We do not mean to say that an alien has the same or as full a right to at-