

declaring unconstitutional any or every act of Congress now subject to its appellate jurisdiction.

By its refusal to grant the Supreme Court a veto on acts of Congress the convention of 1787 prohibited the exercise by that tribunal of such power, for "all powers not granted by the Federal Constitution to the United States"—whether to its judicial, legislative or executive departments—are forbidden. Nevertheless, the Supreme Court, under the regime of that rank Federalist, Chief Justice Marshall, author of the indefensible Dartmouth College decision, early usurped this denied authority. And the wonder is that Congress and the country, with this ample Constitutional remedy at hand, should have so long submitted to this judicial usurpation.

Why these important and far-reaching precedents, now brought into the limelight by Mr. Berger, have been ignored by Congress and the country for more than 40 years, it is not easy to explain. Neither is it easy to explain why, now that he has resurrected them, they are still given little or no attention by the press of the country.

W. M. H.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, September 19, 1911.

Premier of Russia Assassinated.

Peter A. Stolypin, President of the Council of Ministers since 1906, and Minister of the Interior, of the "Empire of all the Russias," was assassinated while attending a gala performance of the opera in the city of Kiev on the evening of the 14th. The Czar was present at the opera at the time of the shooting, having come to Kiev to be present at the unveiling of a monument to Czar Alexander II, which had taken place in the afternoon. He had also received deputations from the new western Zemstvos, and had given a reception to the nobility, previous to the special performance of the evening which was to mark the close of the festivities. Mr. Stolypin received two wounds. One bullet cut his hand, and another grazed the liver and lodged in the spine. The assassin was instantly apprehended, and was found to be a Jewish lawyer named Dmitri Bogroff, who seems to have been playing a double part between the police and the revolutionists. He was in the confidence of police officials and gained entrance to the opera house as a police spy. It was hoped for a day or two that Mr. Stolypin's life might be saved, but peritonitis set in and he died on the 18th. The Jews of Russia are panic-stricken, fearing retaliatory massacres. Thirty thousand troops have been poured into Kiev to prevent excesses. Mr. Kokovsoff, minister of finance, who was appointed acting Premier after Mr. Stolypin was

shot, has sent a peremptory circular to the various governors on the maintenance of order. This was the fourth attempt on Stolypin's life in five years. The Chicago Record-Herald of the 16th thus summed up Stolypin's relation to the different political groups of Russia:

Stolypin is hated by the Leftists and feared, suspected and denounced by the extreme Rightists. The Black Hundreds call him traitor. The advanced Liberals detest him. Even the mild Octobrists have had to rebuke and repudiate him. The upper house of the Russian "parliament" passed resolutions of censure against him. The Douma has thundered and condemned him. The grand dukes regard him as an enemy. But the Czar feels that he needs Stolypin and has on several occasions prevented him by personal appeal from resigning office. Stolypin is chiefly identified with intense nationalism, the movement to substitute private peasant ownership of land for communal ownership, and opposition to violence and crime as means of reform. Only the Moderates and the commercial elements sport him.

On the 19th the same paper expressed the view "that he was a Conservative with Liberal leanings who sincerely believed that Russia was not ripe for genuine constitutionalism." [See current volume, page 301.]

+ +

Strikes and Food Riots in Europe.

Spain is suffering severely from strikes which may lead to revolution. There are general strikes at Bilbao and Saragossa, and partial ones at Huelva, Cadiz, Valencia, Seville and Gijon. Mobs of strikers aided by socialist and republican agitators have been in conflict with the soldiery in several cities, with fatal results. On the 19th the inhabitants of the towns of Alcoer and Carcagente, near Valencia, revolted, drove out the authorities and proclaimed a commune. On the same day the King suspended constitutional guarantees throughout the nation. [See current volume, page 855.]

+

In Italy, at Parma, mobs of striking bricklayers were fired upon by soldiers on the 14th.

+

In France the war against the high prices for food, which had been languishing for a few days, owing to vigorous precautions of the authorities or the palliative measures of the mayors in establishing municipal butcheries and food depots, burst forth afresh on the 12th with riots at Saint Etienne and Cherbourg, and on the 13th at Creil and Charleville. At the two latter places troops charged the crowds and large numbers were injured. [See current volume, page 933.]

+

Similar food riots have broken out in Austria. At Vienna, on the 17th, the mobs destroyed property and built barricades, throwing missiles at the soldiers sent against them, and crying: "We want