

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-