

uncertain wages by contracts they do not understand and even more serious maltreatment of children supposedly under the immediate care of the government.

6. Great injustice in the administration of the courts, so that the natives dread the name of Boma, the place where the judicial system is centralized.

7. The sending out of punitive expeditions not for the purpose of establishing peace and order but for the purpose of terrifying the natives into paying a tax which, as administered, even the Commissioners regard as inhuman.

It is to be remembered that these are not charges brought against the Congo government, but findings of the Commission which was appointed by the chief Executive of the government to investigate and report on the facts. Acting upon these findings, a second commission, also appointed by the King, has recommended measures of reform.

No steps have been taken to adopt them. There is no evidence that the Congo government is undertaking seriously to remedy these evils. The powers which created the Congo government have clearly a right to call that government to account. Inasmuch as the United States gave their moral support to the establishment of the Congo government they are justified in giving their moral support to any undertaking to secure conditions in the Congo that will not disgrace civilization. We wish to assure you that for any measure you may adopt in order to give the powers such moral support of the United States, you will have our earnest and urgent approval.

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French Separation Law Amended.

The law separating church and state in France, which went into final effect on the 11th (p. 896), was amended in the Chamber of Deputies on the 21st, the bill of amendment having a majority of 413 against 166. The dispatches fail to state the character of the amendments, but their general tenor seems to be in the direction of creating new methods for working out the separation law, made necessary by the refusal of the church authorities, acting under orders from the Pope, to co-operate in the original arrangements.

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Universal Suffrage in Austria.

At the close of a remarkable sitting of the Upper House of the Austrian Parliament, on the 21st, lasting from 11 o'clock in the morning until 11:30 at night, the universal suffrage bill passed that House by a large majority. Only fifteen members voted for the principle of plural franchise, which was combatted by the Premier, Baron von Beck, who made an eloquent plea for universal equal suffrage. The Upper House also adopted the bill limiting to 180 the number of life members of that House, appointed by the Emperor. Of the movement for universal suffrage in Austria (p. 30), the Chicago Record-Herald says that it "is the by-product of the struggle in Hungary between the Nationalists and the non-Magyar elements. The government offered Hungary universal suffrage in the belief that that the masses were loyal to the Crown, and would support the union between Austria and Hungary. That offer, however, compelled the making of a similar one to the lower classes of Austria. Within a short time, therefore, Hungary as well as Austria will have universal suffrage as a fundamental feature of her constitution."

The Russian Elections.

It was reported in October (p. 704) that the elections for the next Douma (p. 896) would come off on December 30; but a ukase, issued on the 21st, set February 19 for the elections, except for those in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Siberia, the dates for which have not been given out. Announcements of disfranchisements and disabilities which will restrict the breadth and cripple the strength of the new Douma seem to be on the increase. Dispatches of the 22d stated that Professor Paul M. Milukoff, president of the Constitutional Democrats, who had been slated for the floor leader of the party in the new Douma, has been declared ineligible for election, for lack of proper residence qualification. Professor Serge A. Mourmontsoff, President of the last Lower House, and a number of other former members, have been debarred, not only from standing as candidates, but even from voting in the elections. Moreover, administrative measures against the Constitutional Democrats are being sharpened instead of relaxed, as the date of the elections draws near. They are not permitted to hold meetings, and printing establishments have been forbidden, under very severe penalties, to publish their literature.

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Progress of the Initiative and Referendum Movement.

Six States are reported to have adopted, at the recent election, some form or to have taken some step toward the adoption of the initiative and referendum (p. 800). They were Massachusetts, Maine, Delaware, Michigan, Montana and Oklahoma. In Montana only, however, was the form adopted decisive. The Montana form was an amendment to the State constitution. This was the same as the Oregon amendment, except that it had been so doctored in the legislature as to exclude constitutional amendments and amendments to special laws, and to prohibit any initiative except upon petitions signed not only by the requisite percentage in the aggregate, but also such percentage in two-fifths of the counties. The adoption of the initiative and referendum amendment is the result of the efforts of the Montana State Federation of Labor, which inaugurated the movement four years ago by inducing the conventions of both political parties to submit the amendment. The Federation followed this by stimulating the local unions to secure pledges from legislative candidates to support the amendment, and from voters to vote only for candidates making that pledge. The work was effective in obtaining the passage of the amendment in the lower house of the legislature; but, although a majority was obtained in the senate, it failed there to get the requisite two-thirds. But the people had been educated on the subject, and at the next election not only did both conventions approve the measure, but all the candidates vied with one another in supporting it. The next legislature consequently submitted it, though with the limitations noted above; and at the recent elections it was carried by a vote of six to one—36,374 for the measure, and 6,616 against it. This vote was 70 per cent. of the total vote cast for candidates at the same election. There was a pronounced affirmative majority in every county.