

accompanied the news of the failure of the long fight for a recount of the ballots in the city election. And it is certain that tens of thousands of voters, nominally attached to the old parties and taking no account of Hearst's principles or lack of them, will vote to put him in the Governor's chair as the best available method of rebuking election grand larceny and the cowardly or purchased political leaders of both parties, who have condoned or confirmed it.

CHARLES O'CONNOR HENNESSY

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

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Week ending Wednesday, August 8.

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### The Russian Autocracy Still in Control.

The mutiny at Sveaborg (p. 419) was put down after several days of desperate fighting. A related mutiny at Kronstadt, feared at the time of writing our news article of last week, was more quickly brought to a close. The third of the sea fortresses which were believed to be ready for simultaneous mutiny—that at Sevastopol—seems to be in the balance. Telegraphic communication has been cut off, and on the 6th it was reported that 20,000 persons had left the city in panic.

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On the 4th an effort to establish a general strike throughout Russia in fulfilment of the revolutionary program, was inaugurated, but it was incomplete, probably partly from being premature, and it has therefore proved inadequate for its purpose. St. Petersburg and Moscow were the crucial points, and it was estimated that by the evening of the 4th 100,000 men were on strike in St. Petersburg. But on the 5th, feeling a lack of cohesion and co-operation, and affected by coercion on the part of the government, and by a heavy downpour of rain which prevented open-air meetings, the printers and then other workers, returned to their trades. On the following day the Moscow strikers began to follow their example, and the strike was broken.

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With autocracy once more in the saddle, but facing danger on every hand, it is natural that the administration should try to lay down a program, on the one hand sufficiently attractive to some of the revolutionary elements to lead them to break ranks, and on the other preservative of the autocracy and vested interests. And this is just what has happened—even down into details. Evidently there are clear-sighted men in the administration. The Associated Press dispatches of the 7th report an inter-

view with a member of the cabinet which is so enlightening that we quote it in full:

The official said that Premier Stolypin at least intends to pursue and hold an affirmative policy amounting virtually to a determination on the part of the administration to settle the agrarian question according to its own lights, and irrespective of parliament, and then go to the country upon this issue. The government expects to rally not only all the landed interests, but the mass of the peasantry to its side, by actually giving the latter some immediate relief, instead of merely holding out hopes of a more advantageous settlement in the indefinite future, which has been the stock in trade of many reformers. Politically this move may prove strong. The actual bestowal of land, even if in smaller quantities than expected, and the division of communistic holdings, will, it is believed, make the peasantry disinclined to vote for candidates to the lower house who might propose a totally different solution of the question.

But, above all, individual possession, the government calculates, will inculcate that respect for property the lack of which, under the system of communistic holdings, has made many peasants such easy converts to the theory of the nationalization of land.

The crux of the question is its financial aspect. It will be a herculean operation to find the funds required to purchase the private holdings, which the project of the minister of agriculture contemplates acquiring through the land banks, even though the owners, under the spell of the agrarian disorders, are ready to sell at moderate prices.

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### Great Britain.

The education bill which had passed its third reading in the House of Commons (p. 418), passed its second reading in the House of Lords on the 3d. On the same day the trades' disputes bill (vol. viii, 874; vol. ix, 9) passed the committee stage in the Commons, and was reported amid ministerial cheering. This bill is a result of the Taff Vale decision that a trades union's funds are liable for the illegal acts of individual members of the union. During the debate several amendments opposed by the government were only defeated by narrow majorities. The reports state that—

in place of the clause in the original bill exempting the funds of a union from damages when illegal acts have been committed without the authority of the union, a clause was adopted giving a trade union, whether of workmen or employers, complete immunity from claims for damages for illegal acts committed during a strike.

A spectacular situation was created when Mr. Balfour, the leader of the Opposition, accused the Prime Minister, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, of bad faith in allowing the debate on the bill to continue beyond a certain hour, and then, amid ironical cheers, withdrew from the House, followed by some sixty members of the Opposition, a few of whom afterward returned.

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On the 4th Parliament adjourned until Oct. 23. The session has a good record. The dispatches thus summarize the work done:

The Irish laborers' cottages bill, the colonial marriages bill, T. P. O'Connor's musical copyright bill and a large number of minor bills were passed, and the trades' disputes bill, the workmen's compensation bill, and the merchant shipping bill are all in an advanced condition.

The education bill is the expected feature of the

autumn session. In the winter there will probably come up a bill introduced only at the close of this session—the Scotch crofters' bill which with the Irish laborers' cottages bill will be likely to ultimately form the basis for dealing with the land question in England also. This bill is reported as going to greater lengths in the reform of land legislation than even the Irish bills, and will be keenly contested by the unionists.

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In the meantime the land hungry are becoming impatient. The Chicago Inter Ocean of the 5th prints a dispatch about what it calls "the Manchester Grablanders," who have appeared in London under the leadership of a Mr. Arthur Smith. They are described as

a band of twelve desperate malcontents, a company of strong, resolute, uncompromising Northmen of the "unemployed," who walked 300 miles to London, and strode through the streets of the capital as men whose self-respect had not been shaken by the woes of want and the long-drawn-out agonies of hope deferred.

Apparently they have already "grabbed" some ecclesiastical land, but they evidently do not mean to stop with that. Mr. Smith is quoted as saying: "We have started a movement that will revolutionize England; we have put into practical operation the famous maxim, 'The land is the people's.' We are proving to the government, to the rich, and to the world that Englishmen at any rate will insist upon the right to Mother Earth."

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#### American Politics.

At the Republican convention for Iowa on the 1st (p. 421), Governor Cummins was completely successful. He was himself renominated for governor on the first ballot by a clear majority of over 200, receiving 933 votes. Of his two adversaries, Perkins received 603 and Rathbun 104. His principal supporter, Senator Warren Garst, was nominated on the first ballot for lieutenant governor, his vote being 917-1-3 to 722-2-3 cast for L. B. Raymond, his competitor.

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The Democratic convention for Iowa met at Waterloo on the 7th and nominated a full ticket with Claude Porter as candidate for governor. The platform condemned government by injunction, advocated stringent laws against campaign contributions from corporations, favored the establishment of a bi-partisan railroad commission of six members, expressed sympathy with the political movement of the national labor organizations, and endorsed Wm. J. Bryan for the Presidency in 1908.

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In the Republican convention for Idaho held on the 1st, Frank R. Gooding was re-nominated for governor and the party was pledged in the platform to the State policy which Governor Gooding has carried out, it being understood that the allusion here was to the prosecution of the labor union leaders (p. 228) extradited from Colorado upon the charge of murdering Governor Steunenberg.

The Democratic State committee of New York, which met on the 1st (p. 420), fixed September 25th as the time and Buffalo as the place for holding the State convention.

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At the Democratic convention for North Dakota (p. 372), held on the 2nd, John Burke was nominated for governor. The platform endorsed Wm. J. Bryan for President, and declared for equal taxation, an extension of the primary law for candidates for State office, the popular election of United States senators, a popular referendum, the abolition of tariff protection for all trust goods, and public ownership of public utilities.

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The Democratic State convention for Michigan (p. 422) met at Detroit on the 2nd and nominated Charles H. Kimmerle for governor. The convention endorsed Wm. J. Bryan for President and the platform favored the nomination of all candidates by direct vote, popular election of United States senators, railroad passenger fares of not more than 2 cents a mile in the lower peninsula and 3 cents in the upper, the abolition of straight voting on the official ballot, and the enactment of laws making it a criminal offense for members of the legislature to accept railroad passes.

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#### Mayor Johnson's Alleged Contempt of Court.

Arguments in the proceedings against Tom L. Johnson, mayor of Cleveland (p. 416), and W. J. Springborn, director of public service of that city, were continued on the 1st before Judge Kennedy, who heard the case in place of Judge Ford, by whom the injunction had been issued. On the 3rd Judge Kennedy decided that Mayor Johnson was not guilty of contempt, and dismissed the proceedings as to him. In the case against Mr. Springborn, the court held that he had violated the temporary injunction by not ordering all work to stop immediately upon being served with notice. Mr. Springborn was therefore fined \$100 and costs, and from this judgment he is taking an appeal.

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#### The Traction Question in Cleveland.

An interesting feature of the traction controversy in Cleveland (p. 416) relates to a peculiar attitude of the local newspapers toward it. All the daily papers but one have opened their advertising columns to arguments by newspaper men employed by the old traction company, which is seeking a renewal of franchises, while the paper that refuses the advertisements from the old company has offered its space free to the three-cent fare company which is seeking to establish municipal ownership and operation. The paper that opens its columns in this public spirited manner is the Press, one of the chain of daily newspapers, some twenty-five in all, throughout the United States, which is owned and managed by Mr. Edward Scripps.

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#### The Traction Question in Denver.

The legal controversy in Denver over the results