

from the common wealth, without giving anything in return, competition plays no part.

EDWARD HOWELL PUTNAM.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Manila, June 21.—Although there are plenty of people here, the population isn't much greater, if as great, as it is in the States, counting people who think for themselves. We have a very pernicious custom house that hits most everybody; and although the duties are not nearly as high as they are in the United States, it pinches so badly that there are very few protectionists, even among those who were so before they got here.

The American population is made up largely of ex-soldiers. I suppose I don't need to explain to you what sort of people go into the army. Folks here do get lazy, probably from the climate, which is not conducive to hard work or study, and we get so we don't care.

The fate of the Islands, or the government, seems to be a little uncertain as yet. We can't find out whether the Islands are going to be sold, kept, or turned over to the natives. The worst course of the three would be preferable to the uncertainty that is hanging over them at present, for then folks would know what to look out for. As it is, nobody will branch out, or invest, and there is nothing doing beyond the barest necessary work that has to be done. Many people here would like to start ranches, but if the Islands are going to be turned over to the Japs, they realize that the Japs will soon freeze them out; and if the Islands are to be turned over to the natives, I doubt if there are many Americans who could stay here.

As a class, the natives don't like us, and as a class the Americans don't like the natives any more than they like the Negroes of the South. There are exceptions, of course. But all this talk about benevolent assimilation is rot—"there isn't no sich thing," as Nasby would say.

Some of the Filipinos have intelligence, but not many of them. They are great folks to stay home. Those who have traveled have learned, but few have traveled. When the American troops, in 1899, were advancing on Mololos the Filipino Congress, instead of arranging supplies or trying to get their forces together to make a stand, was debating the question as to whether a colonel's uniform should have two red stripes on the sleeve, or one gold band on the shoulder, or some such equally important question. Most of the Filipinos are like people in other places; as long as they get enough to eat and don't have to work too hard, they are contented, and don't get restless. Very few are ambitious. It is easy to make a living, and they have but few wants, which are easily satisfied. Such a thing as a failure of crops is almost unheard of, and there is no winter, therefore no incentive to saving; consequently they spend their money quick, and live from hand to mouth.

If there is an American or other white man who thoroughly understands the native, I haven't heard of him. The native is a study. They are all sup-

posed to be Roman Catholics; and I guess they are, in so far as they are anything at all. They haven't got religion so bad but that it will all come off later on.

We don't hear much more about the invasion of China. I expect the authorities in Washington, or wherever it came from, have seen a great white light. It is said the Chinese have a well drilled army of about 200,000 now, armed with the best guns and drilled by Germans and Japs, and that in a few years they will have an army of a million. What the United States has to fight China for I am sure I don't know, and I am equally sure that they will not find it as easy to walk over China as it used to be. Since the Japs licked the Russians people seem to have a good deal more respect for yellow men. If the Chinese can make a better use of the earth than the white people, I don't see but what they are entitled to it; and everybody knows (who knows anything on the subject) that the Chinaman is a worker, sober, and minds his own business—qualities that win in the end.

THEODORE SIDDALL.

NEWS NARRATIVE

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.

Week ending Wednesday, August 15.

Russian Conservatives Demand Constitutional Government.

Disorders continue (p. 441), while parties are crystallizing. On the 10th the Grand Duke Nicholas, uncle of the Czar, while putting troops through blank firing practice, was nearly killed by bullets which whistled about his head. As precautions are taken against the troops having any ball cartridge in their possession except when on patrol duty, the occurrence is not believed to have been an accident. One of the Grand Duke's aid-de-camps is quoted as saying: "It was no more an accident that was the firing of the charge of grape from the saluting battery at the Winter Palace on the occasion of the ceremony of blessing the waters of the Neva by the Emperor a year and a half ago" (vol. vii, p. 678). On the other hand it is believed that the troops, even when not prepared to go to the length of mutiny, are becoming less and less disposed to fire on their brethren the peasants. It is reported that 2,000 soldiers have notified their officers that it will be useless for them to give orders to shoot down the peasants. On the 11th trial was begun by court-martial at Helsingfors of the Sveaborg mutineers. At the first sitting two lieutenants and five soldiers were found guilty, and all were shot, and buried in a common grave. On the 14th began at St. Petersburg the trial of the Kronstadt mutineers.

✦

A correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, writing

on the day of the dissolution of the Douma, told of "a good Russian woman" whom he had called on that morning who was busy looking up in Carlyle's "French Revolution" what the next move was to be. The peasants do not understand the situation. Those of the village of Gravoff are reported to have beaten almost to death their member of the Douma, Mr. Stefanduk, who could not explain to their satisfaction why he returned home without obtaining the land and liberty he had promised them. The government does understand, and it knows what it wants. The ministry is reported as already beginning a far reaching campaign preparatory to the election of a more tractable parliament in December. Their program will include definite reforms, and they will work for the nomination of candidates who will exactly stand for the program. The government will have the support of the nobility and landed proprietors who are not out of sympathy with the Constitutional Democrats in political matters, but who fear the program of enforced expropriation of land to which the Constitutional Democrats are committed. The congress of Lithuanian land owners, in session at Minsk on the 14th, adopted a resolution declaring that the cardinal principle of any reform must be inviolability of private property, thereby indorsing the stand taken by the Polish deputies in the late parliament.

✦

The government has not succeeded in including in Mr. Stolypin's cabinet the three conservative members of the Douma who refused to sign the Viborg manifesto, but issued a moderate one of their own—Count Heyden, Prince Nicholas Lvoff and Michael Stakovich (p. 418). Count Heyden asserts that they refused to enter Mr. Stolypin's ministry because since only two places were offered them they would have been a negligible quantity, with the preponderance of power in wholly unliberal hands. These three conservatives, on behalf of what they call "the Party of pacific Regeneration," have issued another manifesto, printed in part in the American press of the 12th, in which they call for constitutional government and compulsory expropriation of land where necessary. The manifesto says:

The members of the late parliament who have held aloof from the aims of the party of popular freedom have decided to unite on the basis of a common program, their main object being the creation of a constitutional monarchical state.

The regeneration of Russia is dependent upon a strong monarchical power, popular representation and freedom based on the rights and equality of all before the law. All nationalities must enjoy equal political rights and citizenship of the highest order and must form a strong constitutional government, which, without arbitrariness but unswervingly destroying the old order of things, must carry into effect the liberties proclaimed by the Emperor's manifesto of Oct. 30, 1905.

Regarding the agrarian question, this party considers it necessary, and will not hesitate to demand compulsory expropriation of an amount of private property necessary to create permanent peasant holdings.

This parliamentary group styles itself the Party of Regeneration. It is the enemy of violence and arbitrariness wheresoever they may emanate. Only through the law can the people's needs be satisfied.

The Passing of an Immemorial Autocracy.

Reports have been coming from Persia relative to riots on the part of "divinity students" (p. 370), who have been demanding "reforms promised last January." And these were followed on the 11th by the astonishing information, at which even the Persian minister in Washington had expressed surprise, that Persia was to have a national assembly. Persia, the original home of the fire-worshippers, is now a Mohammedan country. It lies east of Asiatic Turkey, and west of Afghanistan, with the Caspian Sea and Turkestan on the north, and the Persian Gulf and the bays of the Indian Ocean on the south. It is governed by a Shah who has had absolutely autocratic powers. These powers he has claimed as viceregent of the Prophet Mohammed. This claim has been denied by a great part of the priesthood, and undoubtedly it is just for this reason that the reported rioters have been "divinity students." According to "The Statesman's Year-book" just issued, it was announced last January "that Persia is to have a Representative Assembly elected by the mullahs (priests), merchants and landowners, the Shah himself to be president." Whether or not this promise was made in good faith, the people, led by the clergy, seem to have forced the fulfilment of it. The Persian minister received on the 10th from the Shah's new Grand Vizier and minister of foreign affairs, particulars of the reforms which have been granted. According to the dispatch, "the assembly will be composed of equal parts, namely, princes of the blood, clergy, chief of the reigning dynasty, cadjar, high dignitaries and personages, merchants and representatives of corporations. The assembly will meet at Teheran, and it is provided that all civil and constitutional laws shall originate in the assembly, and after the signature of his majesty shall become effective." A Persian official in London said in an interview on the 11th that the granting of a constitution to Persia was one of the effects of the Russian upheaval. The news of the Russian struggle had long been the subject of discussion in the bazaars of Persia. The economic distress in that country also had played no small part in creating the desire for some measure of political freedom, which the Shah had long desired to grant but had been opposed in so doing by the late Grand Vizier. Private advices from Teheran received in St. Petersburg, state that the demands of the progressives in Persia far outrun what the Shah offers to grant. These demands involve the practical abolition of all the real power of the Shah, leaving him only a figurehead, and even propose the abrogation of the so-called "divine law," on which his authority is based. They provide that the national assembly shall have competence in all questions of state, and include complete amnesty and freedom of the press.

✦ ✦

"Church and State" in France.

Pope Pius X has issued an encyclical to the archbishops and bishops of France prescribing their attitude toward the law of the French Republic decreeing separation of church and state (vol. viii, p. 743). The encyclical, which was made public on the 14th,