

ment brought about by the withdrawal of even the most unpromising material from noxious surroundings.

Well indeed did Congressman Parsons comment upon that extract by saying: "If infants of the rich and poor come into the world on a substantial equality, they die with an inhuman inequality." "A German investigator," he added, "found that for every 1,000 children born among the working classes 505 died in the first year; among the middle classes 173 died in the first year; and among the higher classes only 89 died during the first year."

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Exactly what the British committee meant by "removal of the causes," is problematical. Their remedy, however, is the right one, its efficacy depending upon the extent of application. To rescue children from the environments of debasing poverty will of course have some effect, in individual cases; but in the grand result no effect can be secured without removing the fundamental causes of poverty in the midst of abundance. Anything else would be too much like Herbert Quick's greenhorn on a sail boat, who busied himself with pumping water out of the center-board slit, until he found that he was merely pumping the ocean up through the boat and into the ocean again. That the cause of poverty in the midst of abundance is not "heredity" is coming to be seen. That it is institutional, needs but to be candidly considered to be plainly recognized. So long as these institutional causes are tolerated, individual relief and rescue will be like trying to pump the ocean dry through the center-board slit of a sail boat.

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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 Tuesday, June 22, 1909.

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### The British Finance Bill.

The best American reports on the conflict in Great Britain over the budget (p. 588) are the weekly cable letters of T. P. O'Connor. From that of last Saturday, as published in the Sunday Tribune of Chicago, it appears that Mr. O'Connor's

belief (and he is a member of Parliament) is that—

the budget will pass triumphant. The minority among the Liberals against the land taxes, though much advertised in the Tory papers, is small in number and smaller in authority. The members of it consist mainly of a small remnant of Roseberyites and already are affrighted.

Mr. O'Connor explains that—

the land taxes have created the widest and wildest rage among the capitalists of all classes, and are put deliberately in the forefront of the fight by the Government.

But while these taxes—small in amount, but terrific in their significance—are so wildly opposed by privileged interests, Mr. O'Connor finds that—

the land tax is the item in the budget which most appeals to the popular imagination, and it accounts largely for the return of virility and popularity to the Government.

Proceeding with his description of the situation, Mr. O'Connor writes:

As I have already cabled, the huge Liberal majority is split into relays, some taking their vacation now, so as to come back a month or two later, and relieve those who have remained at their posts. The Liberal majority is so huge that it can afford to take these liberties, the Tories still not forming one-fourth of the entire House. The Independent Labor members and the Irish party are, of course, uncertain factors; and they now and then vote against the Government and so fill up partially the big gap between the Liberal majority and the shrunken Tory minority. One day, for instance, these forces combined brought down the Government majority to 23. But on the budget the two sections may be counted as usually going with the Government. The Independent Labor section are so delighted with the land tax, with the big additional burdens put on the rich, and with the generally radical tone of the budget, that they may be counted on as among the most ardent friends Lloyd-George would have in fighting his way through. The Irish party resent the whisky tax as an additional burden on their already overtaxed country; but they know they cannot defeat the budget—the Liberal majority is omnipotent on that point—and they realize accordingly that by joining anything like filibustering tactics—as some factionists recommend them to do—they would be playing into the hands of those who want to wreck Birrell's land bill and in that way to discredit the Irish party.

So certain is the passage of this radical budget in the House of Commons by a tremendous majority, that the privileged interests are hysterically urging the House of Lords to block it. Says Mr. O'Connor on this point;

Frantic cries are raised in the jingo Tory newspapers against the budget. The Daily Telegraph, which represents the classes most opposed to the budget, is therefore making desperate appeals to the House of Lords to defeat this budget, if not in one form, then in another. The constitutional practice is that the House of Lords can accept or can

reject the budget as a whole, but cannot amend it in any particular whatever. The ultra Tory organs then are crying out that if the ministers do not amend the budget the House of Lords should reject it as a whole. An alternative course suggested is that the House of Lords should insist on its right to criticise the budget in detail; and in this way to postpone passing it till this year is finished. The Daily Telegraph, for instance, starts by saying that the budget probably will not reach the House of Lords till the month of August or the beginning of September, and then it goes on to point out how by judicious and leisurely discussion of the details of the measure the House of Lords may postpone the passage of the budget till next year. The plan means that the finances of the country would be thrown into chaos; that the only escape from this anarchy would be a dissolution; and that this dissolution would throw the Liberal ministry and the budget out on their heads together.

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#### The British Land Reform Movement.

A popular demonstration in favor of the land reform proposals of the British ministry is set for the 10th of July at Hyde Park, London. The provisional committee, of which Josiah Wedgwood is chairman, has issued an address from provisional headquarters (21 John St. Adelphi, London, W. C.) to sympathetic societies, in which it invites co-operation in support of the following resolution to be offered for adoption at the Hyde Park demonstration:

That this meeting heartily welcomes the important proposal in the budget to secure a complete valuation of all land in the United Kingdom, holding this to be the essential basis of any constructive policy of land and social reform; it further hopes that the Government will firmly resist any mutilation of their proposals dictated by selfish interests, and will seek an early opportunity for so extending them as to secure the best use of all land, which must result in increased employment, better housing for the people, and greater prosperity for our national industries.

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#### The George Movement in Germany.

News dispatches of the 15th from Berlin, in reporting the re-assembling of the Reichstag on the 15th, state that—

among the official communications laid before the House was one from the Government concerning the proposal to tax the unearned increment in real estate values. The Government has decided that it is inexpedient to do this for Imperial purposes, inasmuch as there are seemingly insurmountable difficulties in the way of an equitable adjustment of the taxes on city and country values; but it approves as just the taxing of the unearned increment for local purposes, as is now being done in many municipalities.

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#### Preferential Voting in Australia.

Recent mail advices from Catharine H. Spence of Australia to Robert Tyson, of Toronto, secre-

tary-treasurer of the American Proportional Representation League, are to the effect that the Hare-Spence system of proportional representation—similar to that proposed by the British Proportional Representation Society (p. 621)—has been successfully tried in Tasmania. The trial came off on the 30th of April at a general Parliamentary election for the State of Tasmania at which 30 members were chosen from 5 electorates. Of the result Miss Spence writes:

The election has gone off without a hitch and has secured the best representation ever known in Australia. At the last election, which was under the old plan, 35 was the number; and many of these have been defeated, so that there is much "new blood." Labor has had great triumphs; instead of 7 out of 35, labor has secured 12 out of the 30. The recent proportional representation bill on the Hare plan was delayed for a year in Tasmania because the Legislative Council would not allow their electorates to be grouped; so that the electoral act was passed only applicable in its entirety to the Legislative Assembly—the lower House. On receiving news of the Tasmanian elections, the Effective Voting League of South Australia telegraphed congratulations to Mr. Douglas, chief Returning Officer, and he replied by wire as follows: "Miss C. H. Spence. Thanks for telegram. The scrutiny for Denison (the only district where the count was then completed) has proved that the Hare system is simple, effective, and easily worked. The success of the system is complete, and thoroughly justifies your self-denying labors in advocating it against strenuous opposition for so many years." When the results in all five electorates were made known, the Premier, Hon. Mr. Evans, said at the declaration of the poll: "I am perfectly satisfied with the Hare system of voting. Even those who have been its strongest opponents must admit that it is almost perfect in its operation. Never before in Tasmania have such opportunities been given for the will of the people, as a whole, to be represented." This frank and outspoken testimony is the more valuable because of the fact that Mr. Evans' colleague Urquhart, the State treasurer, has been defeated, and the prospects of the Ministry are imperiled.

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#### The Tariff in Congress.

The principal subject of tariff action in the Senate since our last report (p. 587) related to wood pulp. An attempt was made on the 17th, under the lead of Senator Brown of Nebraska, to place wood pulp and print paper on the free list. The House had recommended a tariff of \$2.00 a ton, and the finance committee of the Senate \$4.00. The free list motion was voted down in the Senate on the 18th by 52 to 29; and immediately afterward the increase to \$4 was adopted by 44 to 32. The subject of tariffs on hides was taken up on the 19th. Senators Clapp of Minnesota and Lodge of Massachusetts advocated free hides, in accordance with the House bill, but Senator Ald-