

tion and cost of a sea level canal." In his message transmitting this report to Congress, President Roosevelt announced that "any attack on the type of dam now is merely an attack on the policy of building any canal at all." He added that "the only criticism which can be directed against the work is that it sometimes has been almost an excess of caution in providing against possible trouble."

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#### The British "Suffragette" Movement.

At the reopening of Parliament on the 16th an attempt was made by "suffragettes" (vol. xi, p. 877; xii, p. 55) to attract public attention by the use of an airship. An eighty foot airship hired for the occasion and manned by Percival Spencer, the aeronaut, Miss Muriel Matters, one of the heroines of the grill incident in the House of Commons, being the passenger, went up at Hendon coincident with the opening of Parliament and headed toward London. It was decorated with flags, and Miss Matters was plentifully supplied with handbills. It was her intention to pass over Westminster and distribute suffragist literature to the crowds attracted by the reassembling of Parliament. The feeble motor on the balloon, however, was not able to cope with the adverse winds and the airship never got within sight of the House of Commons. After an erratic flight it descended at Croydon.

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On the following day, the 17th, the branch of "suffragettes" known as the Women's Freedom League, held a large public meeting which adopted resolutions to continue the militant propaganda for suffrage. Mrs. Despard was delegated to carry the resolutions to Premier Asquith on the 18th, forty members in the audience volunteering to form an escort. Mrs. Despard, Countess Russell and Miss Matters, the heroine of the airship trip of the day before, were among the speakers.

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When Mrs. Despard and her escort tried on the 18th to present the resolution to Mr. Asquith they were balked by the police. They first attempted to march in procession, but their line being broken by the police, they mingled with a crowd of the curious and sauntered singly toward Downing street. The police, however, had completely blocked all entrances to the thoroughfare and twenty-four of the more militant who tried to break through the lines were arrested, charged with interfering with the police. For a time there was a scene of great disorder, women time and again throwing themselves against the double line of police, only to be forced back, or, if they were unusually persistent, to be handed over to constables, who marched them off to the police station amid cheers, hoots and hisses from the throng. The police finally cleared the

street and the women who were not arrested returned to their hall, where they were addressed by leaders. The women taken into custody were later arraigned in a police court. They refused to pay the fines imposed and all were sent to prison for terms varying from a fortnight to a month.

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When the session of Parliament was well under way on the 18th, a contingent led by Mrs. Despard attempted to gain access to the Premier, but the police barred the way. The women refused to budge, insisting upon their right to enter the building. No serious disturbance occurred. But Mrs. Despard and several of the others were placed under arrest. On the 19th, sixteen of these were tried in the Bow street police court. Ten were sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from one month to six weeks, after having refused to give security for their good behavior for six months. Two gave the required sureties and the other four were discharged. Mrs. Despard and several of the others secured an adjournment.

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#### British Government in India.

Following the suppression of the nationalist congress in India by the British authorities (p. 129) comes news by mail of a suppression of Indian associations. On the 5th of January the following order was issued:

Whereas, The Governor-General in Council is of opinion that the associations described in the schedule hereto annexed constitute a menace to the public peace, in the exercise of the power conferred by Sec. 16 of the Indian criminal law amendment act, 1908, the Governor-General in Council hereby declares the said associations to be unlawful.

The schedule is as follows:

The Anusilan Samiti,—an association whose headquarters are at Dacca; the Swadeshi Bandhab Samiti,—an association whose headquarters are at Barisal; the Brati Samiti,—an association whose headquarters are at Faridpur; the Surhid Samiti,—an association whose headquarters are at Mymansing; the Sadhana Samiti,—an association whose headquarters are at Mymansing.

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Of this proceeding, Taraknath Das (p. 128), an Indian student at Norwich University, Northfield, Vt., writes:

The associations were not given any chance to defend themselves, and the government took no pains to prove that they are really a menace to the public peace. The members of these associations are educated young men of nationalist ideas. The associations are devoted to the promotion of self culture, dutifulness, fellow feeling and devotion to mother country. Their definite program is (1) to revive and introduce healthful athletics for the improvement of the physical condition of the people;