

Senator Lodge offered to the Committee on Foreign Relations the following resolutions:

Whereas, The reports of the inhuman treatment inflicted upon the native inhabitants of the Congo Free State have been of such a nature and so well sustained as to draw the attention of the civilized world and excite both the indignation and the compassion of the people of the United States, therefore be it,

Resolved, That in the opinion of the Senate of the United States the time has come when the affairs of the Congo Free State should be made the subject of international inquiry, and the Senate respectfully advises the President that in any steps he may deem it wise to take in co-operation with or in aid of any of the powers signatory to the treaty of Berlin, which shall seek to ameliorate the conditions of the Congo Free State and redress any evils now existent there, he will receive its cordial support.

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Famine in Russia.

The political struggle in Russia would seem to have diverted attention from the continuing famine conditions prevailing in large areas of the empire (p. 488). A dispatch from St. Petersburg dated the 8th tells of dreadful suffering. In ten provinces in central and southeastern Russia there have now been three bad harvests in succession. There are villages of 3,000 and 4,000 inhabitants where there is literally no rye or wheat to be had at any price, and the villagers, famished and broken-hearted, await death from hunger, or from the typhus and scorbutic diseases which are rife among them. Refuse of all sorts, chaff and dirty straw have been eaten. The dispatch reports a government inspector as describing districts which he had traveled through where the people were mere skeletons moving about, hollow-eyed and fever-stricken, with rage burning in their hearts against a government which failed to succor them.

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The Fate of the English Education Bill.

The House of Lords passed the education bill (p. 850) to its third reading on the 6th. On the 10th the Government unexpectedly announced its decision to reject the Lords' amendments entire, and allow the bill to be dropped. A new bill will be introduced at the next session. This decision places the responsibility of killing the bill on the House of Lords.

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On the 10th the Lords rejected the plural voting bill which was passed by the House of Commons at the instance of the Government. The principle of the bill was "one man, one vote."

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The Church and State Crisis in France.

The "separation law," divorcing France from official connection with all religious sects (p. 801), went into full operation on the 12th. The law was passed by the Chamber of Deputies, July 3, 1905 (vol. viii, p. 218), and by the Senate, Dec. 6, 1905 (vol. viii, p. 581), and was ratified as a law Dec. 11, 1905, to be put in force a year from that date. This act of disestablishment provided that within a year from the passage of the act the churches might be turned over to "public worship associations," and it was hoped and believed that the Catholics would institute

such associations. This, however, they have been forbidden by the Pope to do (p. 463).

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On the 11th the papal Nuncio, Mgr. Montagnini, was expelled from France, and escorted to the Italian frontier by a commissary of police. The Premier, Mr. Clemenceau, stated to the Chamber of Deputies on the same day that this action was taken because of the Nuncio's complicity with prominent clergymen of Paris against whom proceedings were pending, and also because he had incited churchgoers to rebellion. The Premier asserted that interference by foreigners under orders from Rome in the politics of France, was not permissible. Cardinal Richard, Archbishop of Paris, and the bishops and parish priests of the department, were ordered by the Government on the 11th to vacate their residences on the 12th. In other departments the clergy were notified to leave their residences on the 13th or 14th. The law contemplates life pensions to the older clergy, and pensions for from four to eight years for the others. An effort is being made by several deputies through the mayors of communes to induce two Catholic laymen in each parish to make the declarations which would ensure the conservation of the church property of that parish for Catholic worship—the declarations which the Pope has forbidden the priests to make. There is still another year, namely, until Dec. 11, 1907, within which the state may, if it deems it wise, transfer the religious property to public worship associations; but in the meantime the title to the property has been lost to the Catholic church, and the State has the right to seize, sell or destroy all of the church's property, or otherwise put it in liquidation. If the State takes over the religious property, the churches may be used free, but the act says the State must dispose of all the property within five years—that is to say, by Dec. 11, 1910.

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In the early morning of the 12th the Government issued a grant of 24 hours of grace. After that date the Roman Catholic church, as such, is outlawed in France. The situation has aroused the intensest feeling, but it is not believed that serious outbreaks will occur.

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French Nationalization of Railroads.

A proposal that the Government purchase for the nation the Western railroad passed the Chamber of Deputies on the 7th, by 364 votes to 187.

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The Bellamy Storer Incident.

Mr. Bellamy Storer, late United States ambassador to Austria, whose peremptory recall by the President was understood to have been caused by Mrs. Storer's excess of zeal in urging upon the Vatican the appointment of Archbishop Ireland to a cardinalate (vol. viii, p. 849), caused to be placed in the hands of the President and the cabinet, on November 20, a pamphlet disclosing correspondence with President Roosevelt both before and after his becoming President, relative to the issue between them. This pamphlet, which reached the public press of the 8th by channels unauthorized by Mr. Storer, he avers, was an effort on the part of Mr.