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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, October 12, 1909.

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### A Spanish Educator Condemned to Death.

In washing out revolutionary stains in Barcelona in blood (pp. 825, 946), the Spanish government (p. 972) has aroused the indignation of liberal Europe. Since the suppression of the incipient revolution 4,000 persons have been held in prison in Barcelona alone, and more than 10,000 in the province. All schools in Catalonia have been closed, and none may be opened except by permission of the parish priest and the mayor. All prisoners are tried by martial law. Especial feeling has been aroused over the bringing to trial of Professor Francisco Ferrer, well known to French liberals and socialists. Professor Ferrer is said by the London Nation to be a great educationalist, and to be the founder of the only secondary school in Spain free from clerical domination. Anatole France declares that "Ferrer's sole crime is that he has established schools;" and his trial is regarded, outside of Spain, as an example of persecution of opinions pure and simple. According to press dispatches of the 9th the evidence submitted by the judge who conducted the preliminary investigation included some documents relating to the proclamation of a Spanish Republic. It also comprised letters from Republicans, Free Masons, and Free Thinkers residing in various foreign countries, as well as political and revolutionary documents referring to the organization of a universal proletariat society, which, it is argued, proved Ferrer's complicity in the revolutionary agitation. Ferrer, speaking in his own defense, described how, with the police dogging his steps, he tried to keep out of sight during the rioting. He denied that he had been involved in politics, and declared that he was solely interested in the improvement of the education of the youth of the country. Dispatches of the 11th announced that Professor Ferrer had been convicted, and had been sentenced to be shot on Wednesday night of this week, unless his sentence should be countermanded. A dispatch from Rome under the same date announced that the workmen of that city who are adherents of the extreme parties would stop work Tuesday afternoon and hold a demonstration in behalf of Ferrer.

### Congo Missionary Acquitted of Libel.

It will be remembered that it was announced last May (p. 469) that two American missionaries in the Congo, the Rev. Wm. Morrison and the Rev. W. H. Sheppard, a Negro and the founder of the Presbyterian mission at Luebo, had been made defendants in a suit for libel brought by the Kasai Rubber Co., a Belgian commercial trust, of which the Belgian Government holds half the stock and appoints the controlling officials. The grounds of complaint were public statements made by the two missionaries, that the Congo officials levied upon the natives oppressive so-called taxes, to be paid in rubber; that whole villages, including women and children, were impressed by the soldiers for gathering the rubber; that they often were compelled to travel many miles to the rubber forests and to sleep there for more than a week under unhealthy conditions; that they were cruelly punished for failure to meet the taxes imposed, and that so large a proportion of their time was taken for gathering these taxes that they were unable to cultivate crops and raise food necessary for their support. The charges against Dr. Morrison were later withdrawn on account of an error in the bailiff's summons. After several postponements Dr. Sheppard's case came to trial on September 20th, and on October 5th he was acquitted. According to the Literary Digest, Emile Vandervelde, one of the foremost lawyers of Belgium and a Socialist member of the Belgian Chamber of Deputies, was to go to the Congo to defend the missionaries. Mr. Vandervelde "has for years been the leading critic of Belgian misrule."

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### The German Socialist Congress.

In the London Nation of September 25, the significance of the proceedings at the recent German Socialist Congress at Leipsic (p. 923), is indicated. The Nation says:

There were no scenes and no split, and neither revisionists nor Marxists did anything to damage the best electoral prospect the party has had for many years. The two sections fought as usual, but the tide is pretty certainly with the reformists. The Congress rejected a motion for the drafting of a programme as a basis of co-operation with the radicals and it re-affirmed the Dresden formula of a revolutionary party; but it approved the support given to Prince Bülow's inheritance tax, and it rejected a resolution condemning any and every co-operation with non-socialist parties. This last decision undoubtedly marks the growing strength of the reformists, and the change is probably due to the increased weight of the trade union influence. The trade unionists are inclined to condemn a policy of barren negotiation, and to press for concrete results, and as their opinions crystallize one may expect to see the German Social Democracy approximate much more closely to the English Labor Party.