

fangled idea, forgetting or ignoring the fact that it is older than the Constitution.

The Articles of Confederation, the organic law of this country previous to the present Constitution, were adopted on the 15th of November, 1777. Article 5 of that time-honored document contains the Recall. It may be well for such of our reactionary fellow-citizens who have never read it, or having read it have forgotten it, to read it again. It is as follows:

"Art. V. For the convenient management of the general interests of the United States, delegates shall be annually appointed in such manner as the Legislature of each State shall direct, to meet in Congress on the first Monday in November, in every year, with a power reserved to each State to recall its delegates, or any of them, at any time within the year, and to send others in their stead for the remainder of the year."

This is where we get the Recall. It is not new.

J. W. DUTTON.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, August 8, 1911.

Arbitration Treaties.

At a dinner of the American Society for Judicial Settlement of International Disputes on December 18 last, President Taft declared that he saw no reason why the ancient tradition should be preserved that questions affecting the vital interest and honor of nations could not be arbitrated; that in his opinion these questions were as susceptible of dispassionate arbitration as any other international issues. The French Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Jusserand, immediately offered on behalf of his government to enter into such treaty relations. Sir Edward Grey, British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, called out approval of such forms of treaty in the House of Commons. And as a final result nearly identical arbitration treaties have been worked out between each of these countries and the United States. These treaties are regarded as the greatest single step yet taken toward the preservation of universal peace. As summed up in the *Chicago Record-Herald*, the general features of the treaties are as follows:

The contracting parties agree to submit all questions which diplomacy has failed to settle to a commission composed of an equal number of citizens of each country.

The commission does not decide, but recommends a settlement which, if adopted by the governments, disposes of the dispute.

If the dispute is regarded by one as justiciable, and by the other as not justiciable, the dispute is submitted to the commission, and if the commission decides that the dispute is justiciable then the dispute is to be referred to arbitration; that is to say, machinery is created in the form of a commission between the failure of diplomacy and arbitration at The Hague, or by some special tribunal, in the expectation that a careful and thoughtful discussion of the difficulty will result in a recommendation acceptable by both countries.

In case of a decision to arbitrate either party may ask for a delay of a year in which to settle the difficulty without the need of resorting to the arbitration agreed upon.

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Both treaties were signed on the 3rd, that with France receiving signature in Paris, where the French Ambassador to the United States happened to be, and in Washington by the Secretary of State, Mr. Knox; and the treaty with Great Britain being signed in Washington by the British Ambassador, Mr. Bryce, and by Mr. Knox, in the presence of President Taft. The President immediately transmitted the treaties to the Senate, ratification from which body they await. At the request of the President the Senate has adopted the unusual but not unprecedented course of making the treaties public in advance of its consideration of them. They received publicity in the press of the country on the 6th. [See vol. xiii, page 1202; current volume, pages 250, 277.]

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European Deals in Morocco.

The war scare in European capitals over rights in Morocco, reported last week, has been subsiding. The German government has given no indications of resentment over the English warnings to Germany to keep out of Morocco: and various German papers, indignant in behalf of national honor, have used unusual freedom in applying to the Kaiser such epithets as "William the Timid," "The Valorous Poltroon"—these especial terms being used by the *Pan-Germanic Post*. In the meantime Germany and France are bargaining with spheres of influence—Morocco against French Congo territory. [See current volume, page 805.]

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The Lords' Veto.

In expectation of an attack by the Tory leader, A. J. Balfour, upon the Liberal-Irish-Labor-coalition on the 7th, the galleries of the House of Commons were filled with lords, diplomats and distinguished strangers. Mr. Balfour had given notice of his motion five days before. The motion was in this form:

That the advice given His Majesty by His Majesty's Ministers, whereby they obtained from His Majesty a pledge that a sufficient number of Peers would be created to pass the Parliament Bill in the

shape in which it left this House, is a gross violation of Constitutional liberty by which, among other consequences, the people will be precluded from again pronouncing upon the policy of home rule.

[See current volume, page 776.]

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Intense excitement prevailed in the House as Mr. Balfour arose on the 7th to speak in support of his motion. He charged the Ministry with having "acted wholly without precedent," and not "in order to meet any great question of state," but "in order to further a party arrangement between different sections who support them, and in order to prevent the people of the country from pronouncing their opinion on home rule." Mr. Balfour laid special emphasis upon his statement that the Ministry had placed the King in a cruel position by exacting a promise from him to "swamp the House of Lords" when he had just come to the throne.

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Mr. Asquith, on rising to reply as Prime Minister, was received with enthusiastic demonstrations. He is described by the dispatches as appearing in his best form. Beginning with taunting thanks to the Opposition for "this opportunity though unexpected motion," the "very thing that the Ministry wanted," Mr. Asquith laid bare—with the King's approval, as he explained—the whole story of the guarantees he had obtained from the King for "swamping the House of Lords." He had not begun with a king just come to the throne; but as early as April 14, 1910, he had advised King Edward that the only method of dealing with the situation the Lords had raised and the Tories were supporting was through the use of the Royal prerogative of appointing lords. He had already told in his speech of his hope and belief that the House of Lords would obviate the unpleasant necessity by accepting the Lords' veto bill, and that "only when that hope was frustrated, as it was last month [by the final action of the House of Lords] was His Majesty asked—and consented if it was necessary—to exercise his prerogative" of appointing enough new lords favorable to the measure to secure its enactment. The democratic spirit of the Ministry came clearly to the surface when Mr. Asquith said:

We took the only course consistent with honor and a true regard for the dignity of the Crown. The course was correct, considerate and Constitutional, and in my own name and in those of my colleagues I am perfectly content to accept the decision of the House and of my fellow countrymen in regard thereto. I have served three Sovereigns, and have always been an upholder of the dignity and just privileges of the Crown. But I will hold office not only with the favor of the Crown but with the confidence of the people. I would be guilty of treason at the

supreme moment of the struggle if I betrayed their trust.

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When Mr. Balfour's motion came to a vote, it was defeated by 365 to 246—a majority of 119 in a House of 611 and out of a total membership of 670.

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The Haytian Revolution Succeeds.

President Antoine Simon of the French Negro Republic of Hayti in the West Indies, fled from the capital city of Port au Prince on the 2nd, taking refuge on the sole Haytian warship, "The 17th of December" (named for the day on which President Simon was elected in 1908). Port au Prince was left to two revolutionary parties and such committees of safety as the diplomatic corps could provide. English and German marines were landed from ships of their respective nations, for the preservation of order. The American minister, Mr. H. W. Furniss, not approving of the use of foreign armed forces, made no call for American marines. On the 4th the ex-President sailed for Jamaica. The two revolutionary parties, each straining for control, are headed respectively by General Cincinnatus Leconte, a former minister of the interior, and by General Antenor Firmin, who deserted his post as Haytian minister to Great Britain, to join the revolt against President Simon. On the 6th General Leconte's army entered Port au Prince and immediately proclaimed their leader as President. The American minister had gone outside of the city previous to the entry, and warned the victorious army that if public order was disturbed he would cause American marines to be landed to keep the peace. The troops advanced in good order and occupied all the stations in the city, dislodging therefrom the supporters of General Antenor Firmin, who marched out without any show of resistance. Later General Leconte made triumphal entry into the capital and was acclaimed by the populace. On the day following General Firmin arrived by steamer, and upon the order of General Leconte was permitted to come ashore. Arrangements are being made for a joint session of the Senate and Chamber of Communes to meet as a national assembly for the election of a president in succession to President Simon, this election by joint session being the constitutional method by which Hayti elects her presidents. [See current volume, page 806.]

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Land-Value Taxation in Texas.

When J. J. Pastoriza, the Singletaxer, was elected one of the Commissioners of Houston, Texas, it was not supposed that he could do more than promote "good government" in the superficial