

California Considering an Anti-Alien Law.

A sweeping anti-Japanese, anti-Chinese bill was passed on the 28th by the lower house of the California legislature. The bill is known as the anti-alien property holding bill. It provides that an alien who does not become a citizen of the United States shall not be permitted to hold title to lands in the State of California for more than five years. If within that time the alien does not become a citizen the district attorney shall compel the sale of his lands or houses. Since the Japanese and Chinese cannot become citizens the bill is aimed directly at them, and absolutely precludes them from owning real property for more than five years.

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Santo Domingo.

The consummation of the United States and Santo Domingo treaty (p. 1139) has caused great excitement in Santo Domingo. The ministry is on the verge of resigning, revolution is threatened, and Cibas is in open rebellion.

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Canada.

A special royal commission for the investigation of the life insurance business in Canada has reported to the Dominion Parliament. The evidence is said to show that every abuse found to exist in the insurance business in the United States, except that of political campaign contributions, has been found by the commissioners to exist in Canada. The commissioners have drafted and recommend a drastic bill aimed at freeing life insurance from the control of financial interests which use it for non-trustee purposes, and to put an end to the high cost of obtaining new business.

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The "Lord's Day Act" went into effect throughout Canada, with the exception of the Province of Quebec, on the 3d. At the time the bill was passed a clause was added permitting such Provincial legislatures as wished, to substitute laws of their own. Quebec, which had protested against the Dominion bill, thereupon passed a less severe law. British Columbia, though dissatisfied with the bill, must abide by it, since its legislature failed to pass a substitute. A press dispatch thus enumerates some of the principal prohibitions of the law:

Public entertainments given for money, advertising any such performances, baseball, football, gambling, racing, hunting, shooting, fishing, the sale of intoxicating liquors except on physicians' prescriptions, between the hours of 7 o'clock on Saturday night and 6 o'clock on Monday morning, the sale of cigars, the bringing into Canada or selling of any foreign newspaper, carrying on any business, or the employment of any person to do work on the Lord's day.

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In the British Parliament.

The disestablishment and disendowment of the state church in England and Wales was favored in a resolution passed by the House of Commons on the 27th, by a vote of 198 to 90, but the Government is not committed by the resolution. This is the first time in its history that the House has passed such a resolution. In the course of the debate Mr. Augus-

tine Birrell said he failed to see how the continuance of the established church could be justified. The church had done the state no good, and the state had done the church nothing but harm. Personally he believed that disestablishment, far from harming the church as a spiritual body, would restore it to a position of spiritual authority. The ministry's hands, however, were already too full to assume any responsibility in the matter.

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The Prime Minister, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, who has hitherto refused to endorse the present woman suffrage movement in England, has now written a letter in which he promises to support "with much pleasure," the bill presented by W. H. Dickinson, to give the suffrage to women (p. 1112).

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A suggestion that the Foreign Secretary utilize the most-favored-nation clause of the Anglo-American treaties, with the view of securing the admission of British goods into the United States on the same terms as Cuban goods, was offered in the House of Commons on the 5th.

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The London County Council Elections.

In the London County Council elections (p. 1112) held on the 2nd the Progressives met defeat. In the old Council there were 83 Progressives, 34 Moderates, now called Municipal Reformers, and one independent. In the new Council, according to cable dispatches, there are 79 Municipal Reformers, 36 Progressives, and 3 Laborites. The Progressives protest that the Municipal Reformers only won by "money and mendacity." The Daily News said: "The election marks a stage in the Americanization of English political contests." John Burns described the campaign of the Municipal Reformers as the "most vulgar and most disgraceful that ever has discredited British public life." The election was lost nominally because of the cry for economy, a cry which the London Tribune declared to be insincere since the Council's rate has risen but a farthing in three years, and because the Council's debt is relatively less than that of other great English cities. The fight was actually between the progressive people and the vested interests, especially the electric trusts, backed by such "ground landlords" as the Duke of Norfolk.

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The Second Russian Douma Meets.

The Douma (p. 1140), the lower house of the Russian parliament, opened its sessions at the Tauride palace, the meeting place of the first Douma, in St. Petersburg, on the 5th, and on the same day the Council of the Empire, which is the upper house, corresponding to our Senate, and which had not been dissolved when the first Douma was dissolved, also convened. The Douma elected as its President, Feodor Golovin, Constitutional Democrat from Moscow, and the caucus candidate of the united Left parties. The vote stood 331 for Mr. Golovin. In his speech of acceptance Mr. Golovin said:

The will of Parliament is law. Therefore we accept thankfully the great honor conferred on us. Although

we are of various opinions, we all are united with the same intention of unifying the country on a constitutional basis. We all know how passionately the country is awaiting relief from its sufferings, the way for which has already been pointed out by the first Douma, and involves the fulfillment of the promises made in the October, 1905, manifesto and the working out of a mass of social legislation. The principle of popular representation is powerful. Once called to life, it can never die. In unity with the will of the monarch and the hopes of the country the Douma must and will irresistibly advance until its high mission is fulfilled.

On the eve of the assembling of the Douma its composition was estimated as follows:

Monarchists	90
Moderates and Octoberists.....	36
Polish Nationalists	43
Progressives	29
Constitutional Democrats and their adherents.....	92
Left party	192
Indefinites	13

But the voting for president is believed to show still greater radical strength, the Monarchists and Octoberists mustering on joint ballot only 102 votes. The Polish Nationalists are said to have cast their fortunes definitely with the Constitutional Democrats, abandoning their earlier plans to steer a middle course. President Golovin was to be received in audience by the Czar on the 7th, and pending this no sessions of the lower house were to be held. It is reported that the parties in majority demand Mr. Stolypin's resignation as Prime Minister, and do not expect to do any constructive work until it is received.

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At the close of the first session of the Douma a revolutionary demonstration occurred in the streets of St. Petersburg leading to the detention prison and the general court building, more formidable than any uprising since the dreadful "red Sunday" of two years ago. The authorities met the crowds this time with whips and lances, instead of with shot, and while hundreds were injured, no one was killed. At least 40,000 persons were on the streets, with red flags, singing the Marseillaise, and battle songs of the Russian revolution. The cry of the Social Revolutionists was taken up as a slogan: "Through fight, our right!" A monster demonstration was also held in the neighborhood of the university, to celebrate the "victory of revolutionary democracy." Troops and police arrived here too late for interference, and the crowds neither wrought harm nor received injury.

NEWS NOTES

—Regis Henri Post is to succeed Beekman Winthrop as Governor of Porto Rico.

—Nicaragua and Honduras continue their warfare (p. 1139), and Honduras is threatened with revolution.

—Persia (p. 1091) continues restless, and the Government is said to be losing control. The Assembly is forming battalions for a National Guard.

—The city council of Council Bluffs voted on the 5th against municipal ownership of the water sup-

ply and renewed the franchise of the private water company.

—The constitutional convention of Oklahoma on the 4th adopted a proposition providing for the initiative and referendum. The vote was 80 to 5, with 27 absentees.

—A National Anti-Capital-Punishment League has been organized in Kansas City, Kansas, with J. L. R. Marsh as president and W. T. Withrow as general secretary-treasurer.

—The first Transvaal ministry under the new constitution (p. 1139) was sworn in on the 4th. The new Premier is General Botha, formerly commander in chief of the Boer army.

—An earthquake shock was reported from Costa Rica on the 1st, and on the 2d a volcano at Pozzuoli in southern Italy, supposed to be extinct, was reported to be emitting dense smoke.

—Senator Brown introduced in the Illinois Senate on the 5th a joint resolution for a constitutional amendment granting suffrage to women. The resolution strikes the word "male" from the present constitution.

—The promised new elections in Cuba (p. 849) are to be held piecemeal. The municipal elections are to come off in June, according to current news from Washington. The elections for president and Congress will be further postponed.

—Smith McPherson, Federal judge in Iowa, decided on the 27th that the street railway company of Des Moines has a perpetual franchise granted in 1865, and that subsequent restrictive legislature is in conflict with the Federal Constitution.

—W. W. Rose, the Democratic and municipal ownership mayor of Kansas City, Kansas, who was ousted by the Supreme Court of the State, and upon reelection again ousted (p. 705), was on the 38th nominated by the Democrats for reelection.

—The "American Monetary League" has been organized with Robert A. Thompson of Pennsylvania as president, S. M. Owen of Minnesota as vice-president, A. H. Livingston of Missouri as treasurer, and James A. Fulton of McKeesport, Pa., as secretary.

—Wendell Phillips Garrison, second son of the great Abolitionist and Non-Resistant, died at South Orange, N. J., on the 27th. Mr. Garrison had been for more than 40 years editor of the New York Nation. He wrote jointly with his brother, Francis J. Garrison, the life of William Lloyd Garrison.

—A party sent out by Thos. F. Ryan and the Gugenheims to investigate and prepare for the exploitation on a gigantic scale of rubber, mining and railroad concessions granted last Autumn by King Leopold and the Belgian Parliament, in the Congo country (p. 871), sailed from New York on the 5th.

—Action was begun at Chicago on the 20th by John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and Daniel L. Cruice, president of the Municipal Ownership league, to compel the board of election commissioners to place on the "little ballot" the so-called "three pronged" proposition (p. 1137).

—The Democratic convention of Michigan on the 28th nominated George H. Stone and John R. Carr for Supreme Court Justices, and in the platform