

with selfish or evil impulses and who wish at the same time to be popular with their fellows, are never straightforward. Napoleon Bonaparte loved war and bloodshed better perhaps than any other man who ever lived, but, when he wanted a war, he never failed to make the French people believe that he and they were being attacked.

The comparison of Roosevelt with Lincoln or Washington, in either character or achievements, is desecration. Roosevelt is a mere bubble, and will have absolutely no historic existence. He is utterly selfish in everything he does, and his only achievements of any consequence have been of a negative character. Even the peace conference between Russia and Japan was a mere theatrical performance. He cares nothing for peace in itself, but he does care for the hurrahs of men. And he did what he did in this case primarily because of its effect on his popularity and because he couldn't stand it any longer to have attention so extensively diverted from himself.

He has done more in the last six months to dehumanize mankind than all the humane societies can do to counteract it in years. Boys and young men the world over have been led to look upon killing as legitimate and manly. Civilization is only a habit at best. It is much easier to drag men down than it is to lead them to a higher moral plane. The fact that Mr. Roosevelt has held one of the highest official positions in the world gives him a peculiar power for corruption.

The world is growing. Humanity is in its teens. Out of the future are certain to come beings of far higher character and understanding than we are—beings who will reverse present-day ideals and judgments, and who will recognize such bloody expeditions as Roosevelt has just been engaged in in Africa as needless and barbaric.

J. HOWARD MOORE.

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### "THE WHITE MAN CAME."

Death Song of King Bombilo, of the Congo Country  
as Given by Professor Bersot, of Geneva, in  
"Under the Whip." Reprinted Here  
from the London Labour  
Leader.

We were happy.

The white man came.

I had twenty children, boys and girls; where are they?

The white man came.

We no longer have any bananas or fish or game.

The white man came.

Oh, Bombilo, where are your children?

The white man came.

My white hairs incline towards the earth, but this profaned earth where my ancestors sleep will not have my body.

The cruel white man will not have my body. I shall sleep in the big river.

I shall sleep in the big river.

The white man came.

## NEWS NARRATIVE

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.

Week ending Tuesday, March 15, 1910.

### The Single Tax in Vancouver.

At the meeting of the City Council of Vancouver, British Columbia, on the 2d, Alderman Ramsay moved a resolution in favor of the total exemption from taxation of buildings and other improvements on land. Alderman McKechnie objected that the city had gone far enough already in this direction, in its exemption of improvements to the extent of 75 per cent. Aldermen Crowe and Whiteside supported Alderman McKechnie's objection. In support of the proposed complete exemption of improvements, Aldermen Stevens, Hepburn, McPherson and the Mayor spoke, as did the mover, Mr. Ramsay. The latter explained in answer to objectors, that it did not follow that total exemption would decrease the city revenue, but they would have to put a higher rate on land—which was quite right. It was the man who held land for speculative purposes, he said, who would have to pay. The Mayor said he had given considerable thought for a good many years to the question of exemptions from taxation. He believed in the single tax and in eliminating taxation of improvements entirely. The taxation of improvements was not equitable, he argued; for the assessor assessed one building at one value and another building at another. One man paid too high and another too low. But if they wiped out taxation on improvements they then based their taxation upon land values, which could be determined to a nicety and with no injustice to any person taxed. Another reason why they should not tax improvements was because it was taxing a man's industry. It might be said that an office building being a revenue producer, should be taxed in excess of another. But the man whose building was on the lot adjoining a large office building had the value of his real estate increased. That was the unearned increment. "We sometimes talk about bonusing manufacturers," continued the Mayor, "but no other bonus is as good to offer a manufacturer as to tell him that when he comes to the city of Vancouver all his improvements are exempt from taxation and he is on the same level as other people." Then, again, the advertising value attaching to a movement of this kind was great. Vancouver was the

best advertised city of its kind in reference to its excellent fire department. If they carried that resolution it would be advertised because of its improvement in taxation. It would emphasize the fact that Vancouver is a progressive and thinking community. The Mayor added that, as far as he could judge, the percentage of the community not in favor of this movement is very small. An amendment offered by Alderman Crowe to the effect that the 75 per cent exemption on improvements continue, was lost by an adverse vote of 7 to 5; and thereupon the resolution in favor of the total exemption of buildings and other improvements on land was adopted.



#### Tax Revision in Illinois.

A tax commission provided for by the Illinois Legislature at its last regular session, was appointed last week by Governor Deneen. It consists of Charles E. Merriam, B. L. Winchell and John P. Wilson, of Chicago; Alfred M. Craig of Galesburg; Benjamin F. Caldwell of Springfield; A. P. Grout of Winchester, and David Kinley of Urbana. Mr. Merriam is professor of political economy at the University of Chicago, an alderman from a Republican ward, and chairman of the Merriam investigating commission; Mr. Winchell is president of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Co.; Mr. Wilson is a corporation lawyer; Mr. Craig was a Supreme Court justice from 1873 to 1900; Mr. Caldwell was formerly a Congressman; Mr. Grout is a farmer, and Mr. Kinley is professor of economics at the State university. The function of the commission is:

1. To make a complete compilation of all laws bearing on taxation now in force in Illinois and all Supreme Court decisions relating to such laws.

2. To tabulate full and pertinent statistics showing, so far as practicable, the amount raised by taxation in each county and municipality in the State and the rates adopted, the proportion between the true and the assessed valuation, and other information referring to the practical operation of the present revenue system in the State. It is made the duty of all county and municipal officials to furnish the commission with information.

3. To investigate all complaints that may be made to it of illegal, unjust or excessive taxation, and to endeavor to ascertain to what extent and in what manner the present system is defective, unequal or oppressive.

4. To inquire into the tax systems in force in other States, especially those in which new methods of taxation have been introduced, with a view to ascertaining what changes in the revenue laws of Illinois are expedient and desirable.

5. To embody the results of its investigation in a report, with full index, to be transmitted to the Governor by January 15, 1911.

6. To draft and file with the Governor revenue bills embodying its recommendations.

#### The Strike in Philadelphia.

It appears from later news dispatches regarding the Philadelphia traction strike (p. 229) that the situation was much more serious last week than the police then reported it to be. There is good reason to believe, also, that the traction company and the police are directly responsible for causing the riotous disturbances. On the 8th a band of "strike breakers"—men furnished by private detective agencies at high wages to business concerns under strike for temporary use—took a car down a crowded thoroughfare at high speed shooting into the crowds on the sidewalk as they went, and wounding several persons. On the following day over 1,000 employes of the Baldwin Locomotive Works joined the sympathetic strike; and on the 10th the police, disguised in plain clothes and armed with heavy clubs, prevented a mass meeting from peaceably assembling in a base ball park, which had been engaged for the purpose, driving women as well as men along the streets with extreme brutality. At this time the committee in charge of the sympathetic strike reported 139,571 persons as having quit work, including 40,000 in the building trades, 20,000 in the metal trades, 30,000 in the textile trades, and 19,000 garment workers. Five newspaper reporters were arbitrarily arrested by the police on the 10th, for no known reason. They were observing the situation in the company of the strike leaders. President Taft was appealed to on the 11th by the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, to interfere; but upon advice from the Department of Commerce and Labor he refused. The strike committee issued a manifesto on the 12th to the members of the police force. "Get together and organize yourselves," it reads, "and let the law-defying bandits who precipitated this strike, and who have persistently refused to end it, understand that you at least will not represent anarchy; organize and cast in your lot with us, and establish a precedent for other and future strikes."



An extension of the sympathetic strike was proclaimed on the 13th, by the Philadelphia Central Labor Union, which called upon all milkmen, bakers, grocery clerks and other food distributors to quit work on the 14th, and urged all labor unionists to withdraw their deposits from the banks. That the general strike has stirred up public opinion seems evident from the fact that business men brought about on the 14th, a conference between President Kruger of the traction company and President Mahon of the traction men's union, with a view to settling the strike. The company had theretofore refused to confer.



#### Some Other Strikes.

At Trenton, N. J., on the 10th the street cars