

and seventy dependent concerns. John D. Rockefeller and several of his associates are made parties to the suit. A decree is asked declaring these combinations unlawful, enjoining them from restraining trade and making a monopoly, and forbidding the payment by the subsidiary concerns of dividends to the parent company.

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Prosecutions of Officials in San Francisco.

Five indictments were found by the grand jury in San Francisco (p. 730) on the 15th against Mayor Schmitz and his legal adviser, Abe Ruef, for extortion. The indictments charge that on different occasions Ruef and Schmitz compelled the payment of sums ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,175 from each of several restaurant men who wanted protection for their resorts. The grand jury made its report before Judge Murasky, and bail was fixed on each indictment at \$10,000. Ruef was taken into custody and was released upon depositing \$50,000. Mayor Schmitz was on the Atlantic en route to New York where a warrant was sent to await his arrival. Indictments have been found also against other officials charged with participation in the alleged policy of extortion.

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The President at Panama.

President Roosevelt debarked at Colon, State of Panama, early on the 15th (p. 777), and visited that city, and the city of Panama on the Pacific side of the isthmus. He also thoroughly inspected the Isthmian canal, the objective point of his journey, and expressed satisfaction with the methods employed and the status of the work. During the President's visit at the isthmus the rainfall was exceptionally heavy, which enabled him the better to grasp the difficulties of the situation. He left on the evening of the 17th, again in the Louisiana, for Porto Rico, where he arrived on the morning of the 21st.

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Cuba Restless.

As was to be expected, Cuba is not altogether satisfied with her status under an American provisional government (p. 678). It is reported that on the one hand the Liberal leaders (who were in sympathy with the insurgents) are clamoring that the Moderates (ex-President Palma's party) be ousted from office, to be replaced by Liberals; and that on the other hand there is a demand for an American protectorate pure and simple, as a permanency, which is of course the antithesis of the platform of the Liberals—Cuba for Cubans only. It is said that 8,000 signatures have been obtained in Havana to the following demand for such a protectorate:

We desire that the Platt amendment shall be a more effective guarantee than heretofore it has been of the wealth, good government, and liberties of the Cuban people. We wish that the political disturbances that have hurt the credit of Cuba shall not be repeated, and with this object, although it is our wish that from the president down to the last employe, the government shall be Cuban and that the form of government of a democratic and independent people shall be preserved, we desire also that the United States exercise a general administrative supervision.

The Woman Suffrage Agitation in England.

Late in October and early in November cable dispatches from England reported the invasion of the House of Commons by a band of woman suffragists, nicknamed in the press "suffragettes," who insisted upon being heard by the legislators, a majority of whom had made pre-election pledges to the cause, but had ignored the subject since their election. The reports asserted undignified, violent and hysterical behavior on the part of the women, and left a painful impression, as well as a confused idea of what had happened. As mail advices come to hand, however, the painful impression is removed, or is deflected to other quarters. We now learn that some of the leaders in the movement for woman suffrage believed that the time had come for a positive and determined demand for the suffrage. On the 23rd of October, in the lobby of the House, when denied attention, they cried over and over: "Liberty!" and "Votes for Women!" Driven out of the House they continued their demonstration in the streets, and were finally arrested, charged with using language calculated to lead to a breach of the peace. As they refused to give assurances that they would keep the peace for six months, eleven of them were sent to prison for two months, at first receiving the treatment, including the dress, accorded to felons. In response to a question in the House, from Keir Hardie, on October 31, Mr. Herbert Gladstone announced that after that date the women would be treated as first class misdemeanants. Two of them have since been released on account of ill health. Among these women are university graduates, and members of boards of guardians, school boards, and so on; also Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, daughter of Richard Cobden, of whom an American friend says: "Why, she is one of the gentlest and sweetest women in the world, and has one of the most beautiful homes in England." The situation seems to have aroused an increasing indignation. Bernard Shaw and George Meredith are among the writers of protesting letters to the Times.

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France Struggles Again with Her Church and State Problem.

The taking of inventories of church property as belonging to the state, under the church and state separation law, was resumed on the 20th (vol. viii, pp. 748, 764). The work was discontinued last Spring after 65,000 inventories had been made, owing to resistance and disorders. In resuming the undertaking the government has intended to proceed with tact and discretion, and under broad interpretations of the law (p. 587), but the procedure seems to have met with as fierce resistance as before from both the Roman Catholic clergy and their congregations. Everywhere conflicts took place between the people and the troops, resulting in the wounding of participants on both sides. Sulphur fumes were used in two places to repulse the soldiery, and barbed wire with chairs as a barricade in another place. Doors were battered down, and firemen's ladders were resorted to, in others. In some cases the troops were repulsed and the inventories deferred.