

money they shall not go to the legislature, but shall ask the people for it by Initiative petition. That will make them independent of the legislature.

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Now, why such a publication at public expense?

In order that the people may have correct information about their own affairs, information that they do not get, and apparently cannot get, through the newspapers.

The newspapers have said but little about the bill, but it is significant that the proposed law was recently severely condemned by a committee of the State Bar Association, appointed by the president of the Association. The president is the chief counsel and a director of the street railroad monopoly of Portland, and as chairman of the committee that reported on the bill he appointed another corporation attorney. The same committee condemned the home rule tax amendment proposed through Initiative petition by the Oregon State Federation of Labor. The amendment will, if adopted by the voters, enable the people to put upon the corporations some of the taxation that they should carry; and the Gazette, if established, will make the people independent of tainted news columns and tainted editorial opinions, of which Oregon has its full share, thanks to Special Privilege, which is now trying to overturn the people's rule in this State.

Every observing man knows how hard it is to get reliable news of government from the newspapers, and every qualified newspaper man knows how hard it is at times to get reliable news for readers. The proposed Oregon Official Gazette would be of great value to every paper, daily as well as weekly, that is conducted as a newspaper rather than as an organ of Special Privilege—as may be inferred by anyone who sees how the census bulletins are used by papers for the writing of news articles and for editorial purposes.

From an experience of more than twenty years in editing daily papers in three States and in trying to get reliable information concerning matters of State and county and city government, I know how valuable the proposed official gazette would be; and if I were editing an Oregon paper I should advocate the establishment of this Gazette because it would help me and benefit the readers of my paper.

The very silence of the Oregon papers in regard to the bill for an official gazette, as well as in regard to other important measures to be voted on, suggests that powerful influences are at work to withhold information from the voters. Even more suggestive is the deliberate misrepresentation on the part of newspapers that are notoriously under the control of the great corporations, which use coercion and money to poison the sources of public information.

W. G. EGGLESTON.

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AUSTRALIAN POLITICS.

Corowa, N. S. W., Australia, July 2, 1910.

The first session of the new Federal Parliament (p. 535), was opened yesterday. Among the measures proposed by the Labor ministry and named in the Governor General's speech, are the following: Legal tender notes redeemable, on demand, in gold;

liberalization of old age pension requirements; progressive taxation of the unimproved value of land, with an exemption of \$25,000; provisions "which it is confidently believed, will, by making fertile land available, speedily induce very large numbers of people of the right kind to settle on the lands of the Commonwealth;" a Constitutional amendment "for the purpose of enabling the Federal Parliament to legislate effectively with regard to corporations, commercial trusts, combinations, and monopolies in relation to trade, manufactures, or production, industrial matters, and navigation," to be submitted "to the electors at a referendum early next year;" provision "for uniform postage rates throughout the Commonwealth;" steps toward leasing "a telegraph line across Canada for a period of five years," and "obtaining the permanent use of a line, as well as of a cable across the Atlantic, thus securing a state-owned service between the United Kingdom and Australia."

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In South Australia, a Labor party government for the State has been formed, with Crawford Vaughn, formerly secretary of the South Australian Single Tax League, as one of the Ministers.

ERNEST BRAY.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

RECKLESS INSENSIBILITY.

Boston, Mass.

It is difficult to write with moderation of President Taft's delivery at Bar Harbor,—though every allowance be made for one who has long enjoyed enormous official salaries, who ruled for years in a colonial palace, who has been provided with special trains, motors, yachts and a summer villa by the sea, and who was surrounded, when he spoke at Bar Harbor, by the rich, and luxurious and the representatives of those great "Interests" with which he is in close connection at all times. His recommendation of "two or three months' vacation" as necessary to relieve the nervous strain of the work of the autumn and spring, exhibited either reckless disregard of facts or cruel insensibility to them.

The President is not President of the rich and great, but of the toiling millions to whom a vacation even of a week would mean starvation!

Two months' vacation for the laborers in the fields under the summer sun! Two months' vacation for the workers in textile factories with their humid atmosphere and the deafening roar of machinery! Two months' vacation in the glass factories, in the coal mines, in the mechanical trades! What a cruel satire is the mere suggestion! How provocative of socialism is this utterance from the public servant who has left his official residence without warrant and who threw himself in good fellowship with the idlers about him, whose life is a life of pleasure and who take their "two or three months' vacation" only from one pleasure to another.

Not to speak of those, the unspeakable class, the

truth is that the long vacations of certain groups of men have grown to be a scandal. Those of the educators have become unreasonable and are undoubtedly to be reduced; and the Protestant clergy have greatly weakened their influence by the excessive and prolonged holidays they have demanded.

Mr. Taft's utterance can not be passed over as immaterial. It is ominously significant of a changed official attitude. Fancy Abraham Lincoln recommending "two or three months' vacation" as a good practice for the American people!

ERVING WINSLOW.

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, August 2, 1910.

An Economic Anti-Clericalism.

On the ground that the interference of the Vatican with the Spanish Government's anti-clerical program (p. 661) is unjustifiable, Premier Canalejas on the 29th recalled the Spanish Ambassador to the Vatican, the Marquis Emilio de Ojeda. The Premier is quoted in the press dispatches as declaring that Spain is struggling for liberty of conscience, saying: "Poor Spain! If we succumb, it will be decadence. The government, which possesses the confidence of the King, will save Spain despite all and against all. The struggle we wage is not anti-religious but anti-clerical. We count upon the army, a majority in Parliament and reason."

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Regarding the critical situation as opportune, the cousin of the King's father, the Infante Don Jaime, son of the late Don Carlos (vol. xii, p. 711), pretender to the throne of Spain, issued on the 29th a manifesto to the Carlists in the Cortes, congratulating them upon their loyalty to the Pope and their defense of the church, and declaring: "I think the day is not far distant when my followers must rally to our flag. I will lead the battle."

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That the whole burning question is at bottom one of economics (p.661), appears again from a statement made in Washington on the 30th, by the Spanish minister to the United States, Mr. Juan Riano. According to a special dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald, Mr. Riano said:

You may make it clear and draw a line around it to emphasize it, that the present trouble is not be-

cause of an anti-clerical feeling on the part of the Premier or any of the people of Spain. The whole thing is a commercial problem, which might come up at any time in any country, and has come up in the Philippines and in France.

Under article 29 of the Concordat of 1851, between Spain and the Holy See, the right was granted to the Societies of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Felipe de Neri and one other society to be approved by the Holy See, but unnamed, to enjoy certain privileges in Spain. Spain allowed these monks to carry on various kinds of businesses without taxation. Since the time of the Concordat, monks of other religious societies have crowded into Spain in overwhelming numbers. Those who were debarred from France and the Philippines, or who chose to depart from either of these countries, came into Spain and they have almost crowded native Spaniards out of business.

These overwhelming numbers of monks have conducted schools, bookbinderies and manufactories of other sorts on a large and growing scale, operating without the disadvantage of taxation submitted to by the native Spaniard in similar business, and they have nearly driven such native Spaniards out of business.

It therefore became the duty of the Spanish government to offer some protection to Spaniards who sought to do business, and Senor Canalejas called upon the Holy See to reduce the number of monks engaged in trade in Spain. This, it seems, the Holy See could not see its way clear to do, and thus arises the present situation.

There had been no talk of anti-clerical feeling. The people are not against the monks because they are monks, but because these monks are business men doing business without taxation in competition with those who have to pay taxes. The Premier has done everything he can do to straighten the tangle out, without success. The Carlist element, injecting politics into the situation, calls the whole thing a religious question, when religion does not enter into it in any way. Senor Canalejas is as good a Catholic himself as anyone could be.

The London Nation says that "there seems little likelihood that the question will be settled by negotiation. Spain is seized with the audacious ambition of returning to the old tradition that even in her dealings with the church she is a sovereign state."

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How Thoroughly Diaz was Re-Elected.

Complete returns of the recent Presidential elections in Mexico (p. 613) have been given out as follows:

For President—General Diaz, 18,829 electoral votes; Francisco Madero, 221; Teodore Dehesa, 5; General Bernardo Reyes, 3; Jose Ives Limantour, 1.

For Vice President—Ramon Corral, 17,373; Teodore Dehesa, 1,420; Francisco Masquez Gomez, 318; Jose Ives Limantour, 21; General Bernardo Reyes, 9; Enrique C. Creel, 1.

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Deportation from the Philippines.

The Supreme Court of the Philippine Islands