

This assassination is in keeping both with the ill fortunes of the House of Hapsburg, and the reign of terror in the Balkan Peninsula. Bosnia and Herzegovina were given to Austria by the Berlin treaty of 1878, for administration and military occupation. On October 5, 1908, Austria assumed sovereignty over the two countries. Serbia in particular resented this; and it is thought the present act was due to the bitter feeling of the discontented people toward one of the men instrumental in imposing Austrian sovereignty.

NEWS NOTES

—At the ter-centenary of the foundation of Groningen University, Amsterdam, Holland, on the 20th, Andrew Carnegie was among those who received honorary degrees.

—Announcement was made on June 27 of a gift from John D. Rockefeller to the Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research of \$2,550,000, making the total contributed by him to that institution \$12,550,000.

—Senator A. J. Gronna of North Dakota and Governor Hanna were renominated on the Republican ticket at the State-wide primary on June 24. W. E. Purcell received the Democratic nomination for Senator and F. O. Hellstrom was named for Governor.

—An economic Study Club has been organized in San Antonio, Texas. Mr. E. G. LeSturgeon is President and G. E. Meliff, Secretary. The object of the organization is "the study and discussion of economic, social and political questions of local, State and national importance."

The proposal of two-cent postage between France and the United States is receiving the attention of the French Parliament. This rate now prevails between America and England, and America and Germany, and the five-cent rate to France is considered a handicap to French trade.

—A severe earthquake occurred in southern Sumatra on the 26th, causing much damage to property and a considerable loss of life. Sumatra is the second largest island in the Malay archipelago, being about the size of Spain, and having a population of 3,500,000, of whom 5,000 are whites.

Conservative Republicans of Wisconsin held a State convention on June 23 at Madison and nominated a State ticket headed by Levi H. Bancroft for Senator and Emanuel L. Philipp for Governor. Petitions will be circulated to put this ticket on the primary ballot in opposition to Senator La Follette's following.

—A press dispatch from Athens on June 27 states that United States Minister to Greece, George Fred Williams, has sent his resignation to the State Department at Washington. The reason is assigned that Mr. Williams took this course to relieve the Department of any embarrassment that might result from failure to approve views he has publicly expressed concerning the Albanian situation.

—The old wholesale dry goods concern, the H. B. Claffin Company of New York, failed on June 25.

Assets are reported to be \$34,000,000; liabilities, \$44,000,000. The creditors are mainly banks. The concern has financed many retail dry goods establishments and department stores throughout the country. From 3,000 to 5,000 banks in all parts of the United States are said to be holders of its paper.

—The Associated Advertising Clubs of the World, in session at Toronto, Ontario, June 22-25, took a pronounced stand for higher ethics in advertising. By a unanimous vote the conference adopted a set of resolutions declaring it the duty of newspapers to protect the reader and the honest advertiser as far as possible from deceptive advertisements, and to accept no advertising that is antagonistic to the public welfare.

—F. J. Dixon accompanies the announcement of his candidacy for the Manitoba legislature, from Winnipeg Center, by a declaration of principles that marks the forward state of public opinion in that country. Among the principles for which he stands as an Independent Progressive candidate are direct legislation, home rule, woman suffrage, public ownership of franchise monopolies, and Single Tax. Nor is the Singletax plank hidden away; it stands forth in all the boldness of truth.

—King Peter I of Serbia is announced as having abdicated the throne on the 24th in favor of his second son, Prince Alexander. The king, who is 70 years old and in poor health, is taking the baths at Vrnja in southern Serbia. He ascended the throne on June 15, 1903, after the murder of King Alexander and Queen Draga by forty Servian army officers. The new king was born December 4, 1888, and is said to be very popular. His elder brother George, was compelled to surrender his right to the succession on account of wild escapades.

—The National Chamber of Commerce on June 23 denounced the proposed exemption in the Clayton bill of labor and farm organizations from anti-trust prosecution. It declares that if such exemptions are to be made they should include "any organizations, orders or associations instituted for the purpose of mutual help and not merely fraternal, labor, consumers, agricultural and horticultural associations." It points out that there are associations for mutual help of bankers, lawyers, manufacturers and others, which are unjustly omitted from the exceptions. [See current volume page 560.]

PRESS OPINIONS

Is "American Freedom" a Myth?

Emporia (Kansas) Gazette, June 18.—The dispatches tell of a young Italian who came to America and killed himself when he found that it was not what he was told it was. The young man had a delusion that this was a land of free speech, and free thought. As a matter of fact there is no such thing as free speech, and the only way to enjoy free thought is to say nothing about it. Free speech means that freedom in speech upon certain subjects is granted. In America we have more subjects about which men may think and talk than in any other country in the world; but we have not free speech by any means. Let a Catholic go into

a strong Protestant community and begin to abuse the free schools and the constitution, or let an anti-Catholic agitator go into a Catholic neighborhood and denounce the Pope, and observe how free speech works. Let an anarchist begin to denounce the courts and the government, and he will find free speech is a myth. Let a socialist begin to denounce property rights—as the socialist did out in Pratt, Kan., last week—and he is rolled in the gutter and has no protection of police or courts against the mob. Generally speaking, in most American communities there is free speech about many things—things that are no longer in serious doubt or controversy may be freely discussed. But there is no free speech along lines upon which the community has fixed opinions, such as marriage, property, the constitution, or the system of taxation in vogue.



The Most Important Issue of All.

The Chicago Evening Post, June 26.—Have we reached the place where landlordism is to be a political issue in this country? The Post's Washington correspondent reports a movement on the part of the Progressive contingent in Congress to have an inquiry made into the alleged monopoly of land in several of the States of the Union. It is an interesting development at a time when this nation is seeking to solve a similar problem in a neighbor country. One-seventh of the acreage of California is said to be controlled by two ownerships. In the Miller and Lux estates are 14,500,000 acres. Three men are said to hold 4,200,000 acres in Florida. Half of the land in the State is said to be in the hands of 182 men. A witness before the House Committee on public lands is reported as testifying that he owned 3,000,000 acres in Texas. These are significant and arresting facts. Consider with them the increase of tenant farmers during the decade from 1900 to 1910, amounting to a little over 16 per cent, and the fact that almost exactly one-third of the farm owners in 1910 had mortgaged farms, and you have some of the elements that may constitute a serious problem, given time for unchecked operation. The fact that the actual number of farms in the United States increased in the decade by only 10.5 per cent, while the population of the country increased in the same period by precisely double this percentage, may not be unrelated to the general situation set forth. Throughout history the land question has been a fundamental question. Sooner or later it has arisen to plague statesmen and to provoke strife. It has been the occasion of more than one revolution. Mexico is merely repeating what is written in the annals of many another country.



How to Prevent Competition.

The Saturday Evening Post (Philadelphia) June 27.—A big German bank boasts that it is represented on the directorates of more than two hundred corporations, while a bigger rival figuratively gathers about half of industrial and commercial Germany under its wing. As to the corporate connections of eminent Wall Street bankers, one may refer to the Money Trust report. In Germany and the United States, at least, Big Business has de-

liberately—even eagerly—put itself in hock to big banks. The common explanation is that Big Business constantly needs fresh capital and ties itself up with certain powerful banks in order to get itself financed—that is not the real reason, however. A sound railroad or industrial does not need to stand, hat in hand, in Morgan's anteroom or the anteroom of the Deutsche Bank to get capital. The real reason is to restrain competition. Big Business does not flock to big banks as a source of capital, but as a refuge from competition. Undoubtedly the most important function of such institutions as Morgan & Company and the Deutsche Bank is to keep competition in hand. They are a sort of medieval fair, at which traders can meet and discuss and adjust their differences under bonds to keep the peace, and make plans for their mutual benefit without knifing one another. Mellen's testimony pictures Morgan in a dominating position. An important reason for that position was that Morgan, taking it all round, could do more to suppress competition than anybody else. Naturally, therefore, business turned to him.

RELATED THINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

THE NEW DEMOCRACY.

By Rose H. Phelps Stokes.

I'm with the people—I'm with every man
Who tills the soil, and sows the potent seed,
And gathers harvests for the common good;
Who wields the ax not for himself alone;
Or if for self, yet harms not any man;
Who turns the wheels of industry around
With foot, or hand, or with the active brain,
Supplying every need for every man—
Were but supplies with love distributed
And with a sense of common brotherhood.

I am with those who dream the pregnant dream
Of happy workers in a happy state;
Who dream the dream of true democracy;
Who damn this state which makes for joyless life
Through cruelest curse of mad monopoly.

I'm for the workers of the present state,
Who love to serve, and serve because they love;
Who count the sense of service to the whole
A greater recompense than greed today
Counts all its golden millions ("for the good"—
It likes to say, "they render to the world").

I'm for the joyous workers yet to be!
They who today consider work a curse;
They who today are cursed with overwork;
They who today do starve for lack of work;
They who today live but from others' work—
I'm for the joyous workers yet to be.



First we brutalize them; then club them over the heads for being brutes—so brutalized are we.—Harry W. Olney.