

bush," rejected votes for women "in the hand," may be found in the verbatim report of the second annual conference of the Women's Social and Political Union, held Oct. 12, 1907, published (price 4 pence) by the Women's Freedom League (as the constitutional and democratic section was called after a referendum of all the branches), 1 Robert street, Adelphi, London, W. C.

KATHARINE MANSON.

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### A BOSTON ECCENTRICITY.

Boston, Mass., November 29, 1908. — "When I was a freshman at Harvard," said a Minneapolis lawyer to me some weeks ago, "it happened that I was invited to a Thanksgiving dinner by a classmate from the Back Bay section of Boston. After the coffee my Beacon street host escorted me to his den on the third floor, where we indulged in the luxury of a smoke. The cigars were above reproach, but even as a raw Westerner, I was a little surprised to notice that my accomplished classmate spat with a good deal of accuracy into the open fire. Perhaps I was not sophisticated enough to hide my feelings; at any rate, after the fourth or fifth illustration of his dexterity, my host remarked: 'I am taking the liberty of spitting into the grate. But don't you dare to imitate me. What in me is a mere eccentricity of a Bostonian would in you be the vulgarity of a Westerner.'"

I was reminded of this story in reading Charles Francis Adams's letter to Congressman McCall on the subject of our American tariff. He divides protectionists bluntly into two categories—thieves and hogs—and proclaims that he belongs to the former class. How our Bostonian friend would have been shocked had Bryan used this language! The vulgarity of the Westerner would have been revealed. But coming from Mr. Adams, in whose family bluntness is hereditary, the expression is merely the eccentricity of a Bostonian.

BRYANITE.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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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, December 1, 1908.

### Russian Extradition.

A large mass meeting was held at Chicago on the 29th to protest against extradition to Russia for political offenses under cover of accusations of crime. Two Russian revolutionists are now in the custody of the Federal government upon these accusations—one at New York and the other at Chicago. The Chicago meeting was presided over by ex-Mayor Dunne, who spoke in behalf of continu-

ing to treat the United States as an asylum for political refugees. The other speakers were A. M. Simons and Raymond Robins. Letters were read from Louis F. Post and the Rev. Peter J. O'Callaghan, who were unable to attend in person. The meeting, which was held under the auspices of the Political Refugee Defense League, adopted the following resolutions:

Whereas, The right of asylum for political refugees from all countries is one of the proudest traditions of this nation, itself born of revolution; and

Whereas, The Russian government, after having conquered the revolution at home, is now making an effort to reach its political enemies who have found refuge in this country, and seeks to compel our government to surrender two political refugees, Jan Pouden and Christian Rudovitz, by virtue of the Russian-American treaty for the extradition of criminals; and

Whereas, Our judicial procedure is not adapted to dealing with political offenses which are unknown to our theory of law, built as it is upon the ideas of political freedom and the sovereignty of the people, and because it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for any refugee to prove by evidence, competent in a court in this country, the political character of an offense committed thousands of miles away; therefore, be it

Resolved, by the citizens of Chicago, at the Seventh Regiment armory, on the 29th day of November, 1908, in mass meeting assembled, that the right of asylum for political offenders which has been the policy of this government from time immemorial, be religiously preserved, and that the tribunals of this country should exercise the greatest care in passing upon all cases of extradition, and only grant the writ of extradition when they are satisfied that the alleged crime is wholly of a non-political nature.

It was ordered that copies of the resolutions be sent to the President, the President-elect, the State Department, and to both Senators and all the Representatives in Congress from Illinois.

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### The Emperor Franz Josef Relinquishing the Reins.

Franz Josef, Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary, now seventy-eight years old, celebrates this week the sixtieth anniversary of his accession to the throne of Austria (p. 276). Enfeebled with advancing years, the reins of government have been slipping from the old Emperor's able hands, and for months his nephew, the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, son of his deceased brother, Karl Ludwig, is said to have been the practical ruler of the dual monarchy. Had the conservative, tactful, peace-loving Franz Josef been still in the saddle it is not believed that Austria would have taken advantage of the late constitutional revolution in Turkey to claim the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina which she was administering under the treaty of Berlin (pp. 708, 758). And had he not had still the appearance of being in control it is likely that these aggressions would

have met with greater opposition, both from his subjects and from the rest of Europe. At the jubilee celebrations his purely administrative relation to the government in the future, is to be announced. In all but official title the heir apparent will hereafter act as regent.

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#### Regulation of Railroad Rates.

The jurisdiction of Federal courts over State regulation of railroad rates (vol. x, pp. 1020, 1227, 1231; vol. xi, p. 613) was passed upon on the 30th by the Supreme Court of the United States. The Virginia commission had made an order fixing two cents a mile as the fare for railroad transportation within that State. Thereupon the Virginia railroads procured an injunction from the Circuit Court of the United States in Virginia. The commission objected to the jurisdiction of this court, and were overruled by the court itself. Then the question of jurisdiction came before the Supreme Court of the United States, which, in its decision of the 30th, held that the highest court of Virginia must sustain the action of the commission before the Federal courts can acquire jurisdiction.

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## NEWS NOTES

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—The Atlantic-Pacific fleet of sixteen warships (p. 782) left Manila on the 1st for Colombo, Ceylon—the beginning of their long voyage home.

—The Shah of Persia is said to have repented of his revocation of the Persian constitution (p. 831), and to have had his revocation proclamations torn down and destroyed.

—President Castro of Venezuela (p. 542) sailed for France on the 25th for the purpose of going to Berlin to submit to a surgical operation. Vice-President Vicente Gomez will be acting President during his absence.

—Jacob Bellhart, founder and leader of the fruit of the spirit movement, a religio-communist ideal, who was grossly misrepresented three or four years ago by the sensational newspapers of Chicago, died on the 24th.

—At the parliamentary elections in New Zealand (p. 560), on the 17th, George Fowlds, the Minister of Education and leading single taxer of that country (vol. ix, p. 1153), was re-elected to his seat in Parliament by an increased majority of over 800.

—The revolt reported last week from Haiti (p. 831), has assumed formidable proportions. The revolutionists under General Simon seem to be winning in their encounters with the government's troops under the orders of the old president, General Nord Alexis.

—The liquor-licensing measure adopted by the British House of Commons (pp. 444, 561, 712), was defeated on the 27th in the House of Lords by a vote of 272 to 96. This measure is understood to have

the support of the temperance element and to be opposed by the large liquor interests.

—By a gas explosion in the Marianna mines of the Pittsburg-Buffalo Coal Company, forty miles from Pittsburg, on the 28th, at least 135 miners lost their lives. All modern inventions and improvements had been used in laying out and safeguarding the mines, and the disaster is regarded as discouraging as well as deplorable. The opening of a gas pocket, or gas leakage into the mines, are the theories advanced.

—Count Andrassy's curious suffrage bill now before the Hungarian Chamber of Deputies (p. 802), was the subject of protest at an indignation meeting held by more than 1,500 Slovaks of Chicago on the 29th. Resolutions denouncing provisions of the bill that would give to one individual of the privileged class three votes and to ten poor workingmen together only one vote, were passed. They will be forwarded to the Hungarian parliament.

—Three serious marine disasters have been reported during the past week. The British steamship Sardinia burned in the harbor of Malta on the 25th; more than one hundred persons, very many of them Arab pilgrims, lost their lives. An American passenger steamer, the Finance, collided with a freighter in a fog off Sandy Hook on the 26th, and went down in ten minutes. Owing to the expedition with which the small boats of the two steamers were handled only four lives were lost. By the wreck on the 26th of the Japanese steamer Ponting, carrying laborers in Philippine waters, about a hundred lives were lost.

—The Anti-Imperialist League (p. 392) held its tenth annual meeting (vol. x, p. 1019) in Boston on the 30th. The followings officers were elected: President, Moorfield Storey; treasurer, David Greene Haskins, Jr.; secretary, Erving Winslow; an executive committee of fourteen, and vice-presidents from every State in the Union, including Dean Henry Wade Rogers, General Nelson A. Miles, Miss Jane Addams, Professor Frederick Starr, Professor William James, Andrew Carnegie, Samuel L. Clemens, the Rev. C. H. Parkhurst, Bishop W. N. McVickar, Professor Jacques Loeb, and W. D. Howells. Appeals for immediate independence were read from Senor Osmena, Speaker of the Philippine Assembly, and Senor Ocampo, resident commissioner of the Philippines.

—Knowledge of the consummation of an agreement between Japan and the United States, amounting virtually to a working treaty, but not permanently binding on either country, has become public during the past week. The agreement lies in an exchange of notes by the foreign departments of the respective nations, and will receive no further ratifications. The points agreed upon, according to the Chicago Tribune, are the following: "Encouragement and free development of commerce. Aggressive designs disclaimed. Integrity of each government's territorial possessions. Independence and integrity of China guaranteed. Equal rights of all nations in Chinese trade to be respected. Immediate co-operation toward preserving status quo when events threaten trouble."