

The Spread of Cholera.

The epidemic of Asiatic cholera in St. Petersburg, reported last week (p. 589), has reached alarming proportions. The number of deaths daily reported officially as occurring in twenty-four hours, runs up to between four and five hundred. At first confined to the slums, it has now reached the more comfortable classes. Because of the recourse of the panic-stricken to liquor, its sale everywhere in the city was prohibited on the 20th. The municipal schools have been closed, and the schoolhouses are used as hospitals for ordinary patients, freeing the regular hospitals for cholera use, to which have been added temporary hospitals, some of which are already full. The types of the disease have increased in virulence, and on the 19th the percentage of mortality was given as 50 per cent. An outbreak of typhoid fever has added to the horrors of the situation.

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Other Russian cities and provinces report hundreds of cases. Moscow, at present immune, quarantines against the rest of the country. Germany, Austria and Sweden are arranging or have declared quarantines against Russia.

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In Manila, at first exempt when cholera was reported from the Philippines (p. 541), the number of cases reported for each day has risen, and receded, and risen again, up to the report of the 21st, which was fifty-eight new cases and nineteen deaths for the previous twenty-four hours. A special meeting of the Philippine Commission has been called to consider the situation.

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Word reached Lisbon on the 15th from the Azores, which belong to the kingdom of Portugal, that the inability of the local authorities to cope with the plague which is raging there, and the absence of succor provided for on paper by the Portuguese government, but not furnished owing to its insolvency, had brought on serious rioting in the islands, where there is terrible suffering.

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The Land Question in Scotland.

A land question is now in agitation on the islands of Vatersay and Barra, at the southern extremity of the Hebrides. Though primitive in form, it may assume Imperial importance before the end. It was brought to general attention by the imprisonment last summer at Edinburgh of ten inhabitants of Vatersay who were ejected by the agents of the owner of the island, Lady Gordon Cathcart, with the object of depopulating the place. Intense feeling was excited among the people of that little island, and the United Commit-

tees for the Taxation of Land Values in Great Britain, appointed Edward McHugh of Liverpool to take charge of bringing to the attention of Parliament the whole controversy, with all that it implies with reference to the natural right of the inhabitants of the planet to live upon it.

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Mr. McHugh first solicited the support of the Scottish League for the Taxation of Land Values, and late in August a meeting was held at the headquarters of this league in Glasgow, at which representatives were present from the crofting districts and from the leading industrial centers in England, Ireland and Scotland. The meeting resolved to inaugurate a speaking campaign, and on the initiative of highland land reformers it was resolved to open the campaign in Vatersay and Barra. Accordingly an open meeting was held in Barra on the 1st, which was presided over by the Very Rev. Monsignor Browne, and J. G. Swift MacNeill, member of Parliament for South Donegal, and Edward McHugh. The meeting, which lasted three hours and received the most radical land reform sentiments with enthusiasm, formed a permanent organization on the basis of resolutions declaring:

The land of Scotland was made by God, the Father of all, who is no respecter of persons, for the equal use and enjoyment of all the people whom He brings into life upon it; that no measure of reform is a settlement of the land question which does not fully restore fair, equitable, and God-given rights in the land; that as the profit of the earth is for all, justice requires that the economic rent or value of land ought to be devoted to purposes of common benefit, and that an end should be put to the legalized immorality and wickedness of compelling laboring men and laboring women and their children to live in hovels and in city slums, and suffer want in the midst of plenty, and frequently untimely death in order that idlers may live in luxury; that it is a grotesque absurdity to allow the House of Lords to obstruct the will of the people, and the government should exercise their constitutional right to make the land valuation (Scotland) bill an integral part of the budget, thus making it impossible for landlords to continue plundering the results of public and private industry.

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In the same connection ex-Bailie Peter Burt and James Busby, of Glasgow, have been to the island of Skye in behalf of the Scottish League for the Taxation of Land Values, for the purpose of organizing support of the Liberal ministry in its land reform policy. As a result of their visit a Scottish conference on the subject is to be held in Inverness.

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Municipal Ownership in Holland.

The tenth anniversary of municipal ownership and operation of the gas service in Amsterdam,