

represented. This is the crowning glory of this movement, demonstrating as it does its sincerity and the willingness of the Negro to spend and be spent for the general welfare. Finally, it is the judgment of many of the directors that we should urge directly the election of Mr. Bryan. A great number of those who have identified themselves with us declare their purpose to oppose Mr. Taft to the end, but to vote for some independent candidate. Very many express themselves as unwilling to vote for any candidate for President. Some state that they will not vote at all, but will stay away from the polls. All of these methods are wise, they serve the principle for which we are working—the defeat of Mr. Taft, and a change in the 61st Congress.

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#### National Politics in Kansas.

Both parties of Kansas—Democratic and Republican—met in State conventions on the 25th. Nominations having already been made at direct primaries, the conventions merely organized their committees and adopted platforms. In both platforms the Bryan plan of insuring bank deposits was adopted.

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#### State Election in Vermont.

The election in Vermont, which has been looked forward to as indicative of results at the national election in November (p. 517), was held on the 1st. Republicans and Democrats were agreed upon 25,000 Republican majority as the zero point, any greater majority being regarded as indicative of a Republican tendency at the national elections, and any lower one as indicative of a Democratic tendency. The result is not yet fully reported, but returns so far received point to a Republican majority of about 28,000.

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#### New York Traction Failures.

Two weeks ago the fact developed in the Federal Court at New York that the Metropolitan Street Railway Company, in the hands of receivers, had been operated from September 25, 1907, to June 30, 1908, at a loss averaging \$8,140,000 a year. This bad exhibit was emphasized by New York dispatches of the 30th, showing that in the year 1907 dividends on the stocks of eight of the most prominent traction companies whose securities are traded in on the New York Stock Exchange were passed and had not been resumed. The total amount then in default, figuring on the former rates of dividend, not all of which are cumulative, was \$11,051,363. Of this amount, \$3,582,372 would have gone to holding companies.

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#### Tolstoy's Birthday.

In commemoration of Tolstoy's eightieth birthday (p. 506) the following cable message was sent him from American admirers, whose sig-

natures were secured and their message sent by Daniel Kiefer of Cincinnati, on the 27th:

Leo Tolstoy, Yasnaya Polyana, Russia: Greetings from American friends to humanity's greatest teacher, defender of universal brotherhood, foe of all tyranny, whose advocacy of the principles of Henry George is laying the foundations of economic freedom and hastening the day of justice and peace.

The message was signed from the different cities as follows:

Cincinnati.—Frank Gorman, Alfred Henderson, Fenton Lawson, Gotthard Deutsch, Herbert S. Bigelow, J. M. Eilers, Boris Bogen, Thomas Hunt, C. S. Walker, O. C. Rasch, Stanley Bowdler, A. A. Landesco, Edward Stang, Glenn Adams, P. V. N. Meyers, Charles F. McLean, Ralph Reed, Louis Hoeck, Charles G. Merrell, Daniel Kiefer and George W. Harris.

Cleveland.—Tom L. Johnson, Peter Witt and Thomas Schmidt.

Chicago.—Louis F. Post, Alice Thacher Post, Joseph Danziger, Angeline Loesch and Edward F. Dunne.

St. Louis.—Frank Williams.

New York.—Robert Baker, George L. Rusby and Henry George, jr.

Philadelphia.—Samuel Danziger, Frank Stephens and C. F. Shandrew.

Elkhart, Ind.—G. A. Briggs.

Hymer, Kans.—George Hughes.

Parkersburg, W. Va.—W. I. Boreman.

Louisville, Ky.—Susan Look Avery.

Toronto, Canada.—C. A. Lingham.

Boston, Mass.—Louis Prang.

Johnstown, Pa.—Warren Worth Bailey.

Washington, D. C.—Jennie L. Munroe.

Beaver, Pa.—Charles Eckert.

La Porte, Ind.—Edward Rumely.

Troy, Ohic.—A. F. Broomhall.

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Tolstoy has been the recipient also of the following birthday address from the United Single Tax Leagues of Australia:

Revered Master:—On behalf of the disciples and followers of Henry George throughout the Commonwealth of Australia (known under the name of Single Taxers), we desire to join in the world-wide tribute of love and reverence which will be laid at your feet on the day on which you will attain the venerable age of eighty years.

History reveals but few men to whom God has granted such genius as distinguishes you; still fewer men who have devoted that genius to such noble ends. As the great moral force of the historical period through which we are passing, you tower over kings and potentates, and will continue to shape the fate of the nations when they and their work will be forgotten. Your love of your fellow men, your championship of all who are oppressed, has kindled an answering love in millions of hearts whose lives have gained color and whose aspirations have become higher through your example and teaching.

When we learned that you also had embraced the economic teaching of our dear, departed master,

Henry George, our hearts gained new courage in the advocacy of the ideals for which we strive; new confidence in the coming of the Kingdom of Righteousness in which justice will be the regulator of the communal relations of men, as love will be the regulator of their private relations.

Not only to us, but to all those who earnestly strive in their several ways to make the world better for those who come after them, your life and your teaching has been a source of inspiration, and such it will remain for all time to come. When in due season you are gathered to your fathers that inspiration and the memory of you will continue priceless possessions of mankind. That this day may yet be distant, that more years of joyful devotion to the highest interests of your fellow men may be granted to you, is the heartfelt desire of all Australian Single Taxers, as of all your world-wide admirers.

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#### Advance Toward Constitutional Government in China.

It will be remembered that two years ago rumors of approaching constitutionalism came from China (vol. ix, p. 511), followed by announcement of an Imperial edict looking to the establishment of a constitutional form of government (vol. ix, p. 537). This was followed by successive preparatory steps (vol. ix, pp. 777, 1066; vol. x, p. 948). Now an edict has been issued, on the 30th, according to a dispatch from Peking, which sets forth in detail the stages that will be reached each year in the conversion of the form of government in China to the foreign system; and which assures the people, in the name of the Emperor, that a constitution will be granted nine years hence. This announcement has undoubtedly been hastened by a formidable movement in the provinces looking to the securing of a constitution, as further reported by the dispatch. Provincial delegations have come up to Peking to inquire into the matter, with arguments drawn from the recent constitutional revolutions in Persia and Turkey (pp. 471, 495), and declaring that China must not be behind the other nations.

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#### The Burden of India.

A state of wide and deep unrest has been reported from India for two years or more. Convictions for sedition have reached to well-known and popular men, like Lala Lajpat Rai (vol. x, p. 948), and during the last weeks the English and Indian papers have reported the trial and conviction on very slender charges of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, of whom it has been said that he is "beyond question the most powerful and astute of living Indians." It may be remembered that after the meeting of the National Congress of India last Christmas, the Extremists organized under Mr. Tilak and Ajit Singh (vol. x, p. 1019). Mr. Tilak has now suffered sentence of deportation to the Andaman Islands for six years. In-

dian sympathizers regard the sentence as monstrous. In writing to the London Times of July 27, in regard to it, Mr. Hyndman said:

I am quite sure that any unprejudiced Englishman, reading the evidence which you have adduced from the journals edited by Mr. Tilak, will come to the conclusion that if articles of that character are to earn the writer six years' transportation to the Andaman Islands then we may just as well at once state plainly that no free criticism of our rule is to be permitted in India at all. I defy any one to point to a sentence in Mr. Tilak's articles which incites to bomb throwing or violence; and I can not understand how Englishmen, who have always supported peoples struggling for freedom in other countries and are doing so today in regard to Russians and Turks, can resort to such measures of repression as those which Lord Morley and Lord Minto, both nominally Liberals, are applying in India.

Of the danger of the whole situation Mr. Hyndman said further:

Even from the point of view of policy, is it wise for our government to take the course which it is taking? By suppressing free speech and free criticism in the newspapers, we are inevitably encouraging and fostering secret conspiracy. It is foolish to imagine that 200,000 Europeans and Eurasians can permanently control the 300,000,000 of India, should even 10 per cent of that vast population be seriously disaffected to our rule. It is childish also to suppose that we can keep track of such conspiracy when it is clear that these recent outbursts all over Hindustan have taken our government completely by surprise.

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A strong side light from the native Indian's point of view in regard to his lack of freedom of speech (vol. x, p. 757) and his pressing personal danger if he be suspected of even free thought, is thrown by the following extract from a private letter written in the month of July by a gentleman of India to a friend in the United States:

I am sorry I have not been able to keep you posted of the affairs in India for the past months, but it could not be helped. Although I don't write for the press here, still the government have got scent of my doings, and consequently I am very minutely watched. It will surprise you to learn that detectives follow me day and night.

What to write and what not to write, I don't know. Matters have been going on from bad to worse day after day, and the country in spite of all its appeals is being grossly misruled. Yes, "grossly" is the word. The "sedition" scare has imbedded itself in the brain of every Britisher. Not only that, such great fuss is made over minute matters that it savours more of a typical farce than any system of administration. Mountains are made of mole hills, and thus the administrative council for India is trying to show to the world at large how effectively they are keeping down a rebellious nation. The crisis has not been yet reached. A few Bengalee fanatics have taken recourse to bombs and gunpowder, and this