

assessment to be paid for out of the increased borrowing capacity." Our success in defeating the Robinson bill should give a new stimulus to intelligently directed agitation on matters of immediate public interest where vital democratic principles are involved.

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The Lake Mohonk Conference Sees Blood.

The 14th of the conferences held annually at Lake Mohonk, N. Y., to consider international arbitration and other humanitarian subjects, held its sessions last week, closing on the 22nd. Speaking on the 21st, General Horatio C. King, of Brooklyn, said that, if only because of internal conditions, it would be utterly impossible to disarm or reduce the army or navy of the United States today. At the closing session on the 22nd Rear Admiral French E. Chadwick startled his audience by asserting that "There is no use in crying 'Peace' when there is no peace. The world moves from plane to plane chiefly by convulsions. We are now rapidly approaching another convulsive period. There is certain before long to be a new readjustment. Shall this be bloody or peaceful? The army and navy are the great arms of conservatism. When you can arrange revolutions by academic discussion, you may perhaps do without them, but as yet I can see no signs of such an outcome." And Baron Kogoro Takahira, Japanese Ambassador to the United States, declared that a careful study of international disputes shows that they arise almost as much, if not more, from the internal conditions of the country affected as they do from the conflict of outside interests.

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Liberia Appeals to the United States.

Liberia, the little state created on the southwest corner of equatorial Africa by Negroes who had been released from slavery in America, is suffering from inability to cope with the growing spheres of influence exerted in its neighborhood and over its borders by England and France. A series of boundary disputes with both of them has been settled by yielding in every case to the strong nations. Worse yet, the difficulty of maintaining order among the native tribes of the country is coupled with responsibility for the disorder as it reaches out of bounds, and now England has delivered an ultimatum to the effect that Liberia must either maintain better government or submit to intervention. A Liberian delegation is now in this country, bearing an appeal to the United States to give advice, and, if possible, still more substantial aid to the black Republic in its distress.

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Woman Suffrage in the English Liberal Program.

To a delegation of radical members of the House of Commons, the new Prime Minister, Mr.

Asquith (p. 157), declared on the 20th, that the government intended, before the close of the present Parliament, to introduce a comprehensive measure of electoral reform. He said he was not himself an advocate of woman suffrage, not having yet been convinced of its desirability, but he had an open mind on the subject, and if an amendment was introduced to the projected reform bill favoring woman suffrage on democratic lines, the government would not oppose it. He said also that he recognized that the woman's suffrage movement had gained a great impetus of late years, but no change of the kind proposed could be carried through with effect unless it had the women of the country as well as the electors behind it. A later dispatch, to the Chicago Tribune, asserts that—

A definite deal has been made between the Liberal leaders and the moderate suffragists whereby the government will endeavor to make votes for women the principal issue of the next general election. This move, which is intensely repugnant to Premier Asquith personally, has been forced on him by the political exigencies of the situation. The by-elections demonstrated pretty clearly that the Liberals cannot hope to carry the country on the free trade issue alone or even principally. The suffragist movement has gained such strength among the Liberal masses that the radical party is doomed to defeat unless it can gain the co-operation of the women who, even without votes, are a greater political force in England than in any country of the world. The reform bill which the government will introduce at the close of the session will be designed solely for electioneering purposes. There is not the slightest doubt that a sweeping woman suffrage provision will be inserted by a big majority. The attitude of the Unionists on the question is not yet defined. There are many woman suffragists in that party. Also they may seek to embarrass the government by proposing to grant suffrage to single women and those in possession of property qualifications in their own right. The effect of this undoubtedly would be to increase the strength of the Unionists among the new electorate. It was in anticipation of this that Asquith insisted that suffrage for women, if granted, must be along democratic lines. One thing now certain is that the great question of universal adult suffrage for both sexes will be brought to an issue in this country in the near future.

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The by-election to Parliament (p. 158) in the Sterling district in Scotland, to replace the membership of the late Premier, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman (p. 109), resulted in the election of Sir Henry's secretary, Arthur Ponsonby, by the greatly increased majority of 1,361.

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Teacher: "Wait a moment, Johnny. What do you understand by that word 'deficit'?"

"It's what you've got when you haven't got as much as if you just hadn't nothin'."—The Methodist Recorder.