

MAKESHIFT IRISH BILL

An Administrative Council on Mr. Chamberlain's Plan.

London, May 8.

An administrative council is not a substitute for a legislative machine. Mr. Birrell's Irish bill does not create a Parliament with an executive responsible to it, and consequently it does not satisfy the Nationalists, although they may take it as an opportunist makeshift and wait for a larger measure on Gladstonian lines. It is, as Mr. Redmond with cynical frankness pointed out in the opening debate, a reproduction of Mr. Chamberlain's national elective council scheme, which was proposed as a substitute for Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule policy. It represented twenty years ago Unionist concession at the maximum as formulated at Birmingham by the statesman who deserted Mr. Gladstone and defeated him. Nine years ago the Unionist government in the plenitude of its power reverted to the plan in legislation for the establishment of county councils in Ireland. The Liberal Ministry now revives Mr. Chamberlain's scheme, and does it with more justice, by proposing an elective council, with a fraction of nominated members, which will conduct by means of committees the work of eight departments of administration. Mr. Birrell's bill still falls short of Mr. Chamberlain's plans because other branches of administration are excluded, but £250,000 is added to what is now expended by the eight departments, so that the council will control an annual outlay of £2,700,000 in addition to local grants amounting to £1,450,000. As this measure is offered, not as an alternative for Home Rule, but as a partial instalment which will open the way for the ultimate solution, the Nationalists may not oppose it, but may accept it and do what they can to broaden it by removing the Lord Lieutenant's veto power and the undemocratic element of nominated members. There will be so little enthusiasm for an administrative council on municipal rather than national lines that the passage of the measure through the Commons can hardly be expected unless there be an autumn session.

The Nationalists have one decisive advantage in their struggle for Home Rule. They know precisely what they want and persevere in demanding it with inflexible determination. Since Mr. Gladstone was a convert to Mr. Parnell's cause, and advocated a separate legislature as an act of justice to Ireland, they have been powerfully reinforced in their stand for their principles. Mr. Balfour might have defeated them if he had remained in office a year longer and gone to the country on a redistribution bill based on population and depriving Ireland of thirty seats in Parliament. That strenuous course would have supported the Ulster argument against Home Rule grounded on population. When three of the four provinces are described by the Nationalists as unanimous for Home Rule there is no effective answer to the demand, but when the Ulster Unionist asserts that one-third of the population is in the North, and that in the course of twenty years it will be enlarged to one-half, there is a strong prima facie case against a policy to which Ulster is opposed. By reducing Irish representation at Westminster and emphasizing the argument from population Mr. Balfour might have rallied the Unionists and permanently blocked the Home Rule cause. He lacked the courage required for fighting the Nationalists strenuously, and had already been compromising with them in the land act and in the negotiations conducted by Sir Antony Macdonnell. The Liberals themselves were not in a position to make a firm stand against a policy which Mr. Gladstone had advocated. If there has been a temporary compromise to save the faces of Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Asquith and Mr. Haldane, the majority of the Cabinet are convinced Gladstonians, and take little interest in the revival of Mr. Chamberlain's plan as an opportunist measure.

Mr. Birrell, however, has supplied the Nationalists with an argument almost as effective as Mr. Gladstone's championship of their cause. This is his frank confession of the inefficiency of English administrative methods. He has drawn a sketch of irresponsible bureaucracy which cannot be regarded as a caricature. After a century under the Union, Ireland is in a state of administrative chaos, with the gloomy Castle out of touch with public opinion and national life, and with forty or fifty departments and boards, either independent in authority or responsible to Parliament, the Lord Lieutenant, the Chief Secretary or to local bodies. It is administration without organic unity and creative power, and it is neither efficient nor economical nor representative. A cumbersome and wasteful bureaucracy has been established after decades of compromise, makeshifts and experimental legislation, and, as Mr. Birrell admits, it is not a system which is likely to train the Irish people in habits of self-respect and economy. His official list of the departments and bureaus now in operation for the government of a population smaller than that of metropolitan London is a convincing proof of administrative failure. When the English have shown so little capacity and efficiency in providing a system of government under real and responsible control, the Nationalists are justified in demanding a national measure of Home Rule.

Mr. Birrell's argument for thorough reform of an anomalous system is unanswerable. What is doubtful is the utility of the mechanism which he supplies. The administrative council which he suggests may tend to make confusion worse confounded. It will be another source of authority where there are already too many centres of power, and while it will be restricted to the supervision of eight departments, agriculture, public works, congested districts and education being included among them, it will not be a thoroughly democratic body, since a considerable contingent will be nominated by the Castle, nor will it have absolute control over officials, finances or local government, since veto power of the Lord Lieutenant is reserved. Government by large committees is a method which works well in English municipalities and district councils; but it is at least an open question whether Ireland can be satisfactorily governed in that way. Mr. Redmond, in what was the clearest and most logical speech of the opening debate, expressed his suspicion that the new machine, when set up, would break down, not because the men operating it were unfit for self-government, but because the financial conditions were unjust and the system itself unworkable. That was not an intimation that the Nationalists would oppose the measure, but it was a warning that the Irish party despised so feebly a device as this administrative council and were convinced that their own system of Home Rule was indispensable. Indeed, it seems likely that the Ministry, in attempting to placate its own Whigs by producing something that cannot be described as Gladstonian Home Rule or anything like it, have devised a measure which will not satisfy anybody. Ulster will be defiant and irreconcilable; the Nationalists critical and lukewarm; and the Radicals and Labor men contemptuous and indifferent.

N. F. COL. GORGAS BACK FROM CANAL ZONE. Arriving here yesterday on the Panama Colon steamer Colon, from Cristobal, were Colonel W. C. Gorgas, in charge of the sanitary department of the Isthmian Canal; Colonel C. M. Perkins, U. S. Army, former commander of troops in the canal zone, and C. C. McCulloch, general inspector. Colonel Gorgas went at once to Washington.

weak attention is directed solely to reports from plantations where the new season has opened more or less unfavorably. A late wet spring makes the crop expensive because of replanting, but actual reduction in yield is by no means a certainty, although another record crop is no longer expected. These farming elements have dominated the exchanges, and the same weather conditions and crop prospects controlled general business. A few bright days started retail sales of lightweight wearing apparel, but it will take several weeks of high temperature throughout the country to reduce stocks to a point where wholesalers and jobbers can hope for supplementary orders or payment for initial purchases. Thus far spring mercantile collections have been most irregular.

Under Chicago's new charter the members of the City Council will receive salaries of \$3,500 a year. This is the highest sum paid to aldermen anywhere in the world. But those who believe in reform by means of increasing salaries should take notice that Chicago improved its aldermen first and then raised their pay.

The prospect that the bill for the creation of a rural parkway along the Bronx River will speedily be enacted is highly gratifying. The proposed work is one which The Tribune has long and earnestly advocated, and we believe its execution will prove profitable to the city and to the neighboring communities at the north, while also demonstrating to the world that this public knows a good thing when it sees it and public knows to preserve it from destruction. It would be still more gratifying if, concurrently with the creation of this parkway, the Bronx sewer scheme could be so modified as to give the Westchester County communities the relief which they sorely need without imposing a hardship upon others and without setting the mischievous precedent of diverting drainage from one natural drainage basin to another.

A New York State Progressive Democratic League is about to be organized. It is unfortunately not stated in which direction—toward safety and sanity or toward insanity and insanity—progress is to be attempted.

PERSONAL.

The Press Humorists' Association is talking of erecting an expensive monument to Bill Nye. It is suggested that each member contribute one day's income for that purpose.

Several changes in the faculty of Bryn Mawr College have been announced. Professor Charles McLean, head of the department of history since 1888, has resigned to accept a professorship at Johns Hopkins University. He will be succeeded by Robert Matteson Johnston, who has been since 1904 lecturer in modern history at Harvard University. In the department of political science Professor Henry Raymond Mussey, who went to Bryn Mawr two years ago from New York University, has resigned to accept a professorship in the University of Pennsylvania. His place will be taken by Professor William G. Sumner, research assistant of the Carnegie Institute, 1906-7.

A writer in "Smith's Weekly" tells some stories of Lord Avebury, who recently celebrated his seventy-third birthday. Lord Avebury has a particularly fine intellect. He once succeeded in training a wasp, which he had caught in the Pyrenees, as a house fly, a feat which is reported to have been a great success.

The letter of the Rev. Dr. Daniel Steele to the New England Methodist Conference this year did not begin with "Fathers and Brethren" but with "Brethren and Sons." He explained the innovation. "No one of you is old enough to be called a father," he said. "I have addressed you as sons because the majority of you are young enough to be my sons. Even the president of our conference, the venerable senior bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, I recognize as a former pupil in the freshman class of the Wesleyan University, and I have addressed him as 'brother' in the mathematics, to send to the blackboard fifty-seven years ago."

Professor L. O. Howard, chief entomologist of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, is at present in the Crimea visiting the Russian entomologist, M. Mchulsky. He is making a study of the parasites that prey on the wild silkworm, which have become a menace to American horticulture, and he has applied to the American Embassy for permission to export various breeds of parasites from Russia.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

A new industry has been started in Australia in connection with rabbits. Nearly half a gallon of oil possessing valuable lubricating qualities has been obtained by a rabbit hunter at Gungahlin, New South Wales, from seventy-three pounds of skins, without lessening the commercial value of the pelts.

Person (who has been visiting the school, to son of local group)—I'm sorry to hear you spell badly, Johnnie. Now, tell me, S-a-d-d-l-e. What is that? (No answer.) You should know that. That is it your father puts on a horse every day. Johnnie—A bob each way, sir.—Punch.

In the rear of the Philadelphia Library is a beautifully planted plot of ground, which is overlooked by a porch at the rear of the building, to which access is through the French windows of the library building. In the wall by the side of this porch is the inscribed cornerstone, which bears tribute to the young statesman who founded the library, at the suggestion of Benjamin Franklin. Near by is the broken stone that once formed the inscribed part of the pedestal of Franklin's statue. Few visitors to the library appear to be aware of the existence of this spot or of its interesting features.

Mrs. Brindle—Now, Mary, I want you to be careful. This is some very old table linen—been in the family for more than two hundred years, and it's awfully precious. You don't want to worry. I won't tell a soul, and it looks as good as new, anyway.—Illustrated Bits.

In an article on the Apaches—the highwaymen of Paris—an English correspondent tells of an attack on an Englishman in the streets of the French capital. Two of the ruffians fell upon the victim, but with a sudden kick he was able to get away. Good account of himself until the arrival of the police, who happened to be only forty yards away. One of the policemen was immediately placed hors de combat by a savage kick from the Apache, but the other stoutly grappled with his man. A night watchman and a constable went to the assistance of the police, and both footpads were carried off to the police station. However, before the Englishman's hand was seriously wounded in his endeavor to wrest a file from his assailants. The file was a particularly murderous instrument; it had been cut away to a fine point. The other man carried a pair of scissors. "You know the object of that?" the Englishman asked an interviewer. "If the Apache has a pair of large scissors in his pocket, he can take any man he likes, and he can back this up as he often does, by producing a card showing that he is a member of a tailors' union."

Peedrian—What a horrible wine you have in voice cultivated. Tramp—It's not I want money for, boss. I'm 'inkin' uv havin' me voice irrigated.—Chicago News.

It is a moot question whether birds suddenly recover from fright or sham death to effect their escape when captured. A man living in one of the old Persia Row, London, is the possessor of a makes a raid on Hyde Park, which is not infrequently a fat prize. The other day one of the birds met puss climbing leisurely upstairs with a sparrow in his mouth. He was making the peculiar muffled "mow-wow" that meant "here's fun." The bird's hind dangled limply, its eyes were half shut, one leg was trailing, and feathers were being matted from the house and the cat happened to come downstairs at the time, and the maid drew his attention to puss and the bird. The cat laid the sparrow at their feet with pride. It suddenly shot up and flew straight out of an open window. It had evidently not been hurt by the cat, which was so angry that it tried to jump out of the window, too.

Patience—What was the peculiar feature of Patrice—No, I don't think I do. "Why, they couldn't read the handwriting, don't you remember?" "Tramp—It's not I want money for, boss. I'm 'inkin' uv havin' me voice irrigated.—Chicago News.

King's relation to the state if it shall become a Belgian colony. The proposal, made by the King's partisans, is that after annexation the King shall continue to be the absolute personal ruler of the Congo that he is to-day. Indeed, it is doubted whether the King would have offered annexation on any other terms. But that would create an anomalous situation, not devoid of embarrassment and even of menace to Belgium itself. For in Belgium the King is a constitutional monarch, with powers very much restricted. It would be extraordinary for him at the same time to be in one of Belgium's colonial possessions an absolute despot, and there are those who fear, not without logical ground, that the result of such an arrangement would be some infringement upon the constitutional liberties of Belgium.

Nor would such a system promise any amelioration of present conditions in the Congo. The King would be as absolute as ever. It is proposed that after annexation there shall be a colonial council, whose members shall be appointed personally by the King and removable only by him. The Colonial Minister would not be required to reply to parliamentary interpellations, and the Congo budget would not be subject to the control or even the scrutiny of the Belgian parliament. That under such an arrangement the conduct of Congo affairs would be less unsatisfactory to the world than it is now is scarcely to be expected. Indeed, it does not seem probable that the Belgians themselves will assent to annexation on such terms. It could not be pleasing to them to assume all political and financial responsibility for a great territory and still give their King absolute personal rule over it. They will probably insist that if the Congo is made a Belgian colony its ruler shall be subject to at least some of the restrictions of the Belgian constitution. In that case, with the rule of the state vested in the Belgian parliament, there would probably be a speedy ending of the administrative abuses which have prevailed.

MONEY AND BUSINESS.

Little interest is exhibited in the security market, speculative traders awaiting an impetus that is slow to appear, while the investing public finds more profitable occupation for its funds elsewhere. In view of the indifferent demand and the rise in wheat, the average loss of less than \$1 a share for the sixty most active railway securities last week is evidence that stocks are in strong hands, and there is no alarm regarding the future. Had there existed an extensive long account of a strictly speculative nature the stories of ruin on the farms could hardly have failed to precipitate violent liquidation. This has been the unflinching experience of the past, even when unaccompanied by the financial and legislative factors now existing. Another adverse incident of the week was the premature announcement regarding the findings of the Interstate Commerce Commission in the investigation of the Harriman system. It subsequently developed that the report was merely the recommendations of counsel, and it by no means follows that they will be adopted; but the market bore the shock with only fractional responses in most instances, although it was believed on the Stock Exchange that the final report had been made in that form. While prices of many stocks now offer most attractive bargains, it is also true that a further reaction may occur before a definite upward movement begins, especially as the supply of securities will increase whenever monetary conditions encourage borrowing by the railways. This ratio of supply to demand must determine the ultimate level of quotations, regardless of the surface ripples produced by manipulation.

Two financial factors are attracting attention, but neither will be felt immediately, and there is opportunity for much discussion as to whether any stringency will result. The attitude of the new Secretary of the Treasury regarding withdrawal of deposits with the banks, especially in connection with the redemption of bonds maturing in July, receives most attention because it would probably eliminate the small surplus now held by the local associated banks. As Secretary Cortelyou has shown a disposition to help the banks in every way authorized by law, and as the remaining weeks of the fiscal year promise materially to augment present Treasury cash holdings, there seems ample assurance that the drain on the banks will be minimized. Furthermore, it is obvious that when the bonds are paid off the money will not be hoarded by the present holders, but will be deposited in the banks. International complications are less clear, the recent rise in foreign exchange and rates abroad making it conceivable that gold may be exported in the usual triangular method in case any further effort is made by Paris to strengthen the reserve. This menace was diminished last week by the gold secured in London by the Bank of France and the release of gold earmarked for India that will now go into the Bank of England. The rise in sterling was due to a demand for remittance against securities sold here by Europe and the seasonable tourists' transfers, but as an offset there is the customary issue of finance bills to provide funds for movement of the crops. These loans are generally made about this season to mature in the fall, when exports of farm staples supply exchange for settlement. How much bearing the adverse spring weather will have on future shipments of grain and cotton cannot now be determined, but a decrease in quantity will probably be offset by higher prices.

Whether the wheat crop has been reduced 25 per cent or not is a matter of uncertainty, but the price of the July option at Chicago has risen that amount since the month of May began, and pool operations may carry the movement much further, especially if the public gives its support. A long season of stagnant or declining securities prepared outsiders, especially capitalists of moderate size and speculative provincials, for just the grain situation that has appeared, and it is probable that manipulators who could not unload railway stocks on the public at any price have distributed much wheat at over a dollar a bushel. Latest returns from the winter wheat states indicate that damage has occurred, but the ruin is by no means widespread, and a few weeks of warm weather would save much of the crop that is backward. Spring wheat seeding is late in the Northwest, but work is making rapid progress, and in all sections the acreage will be increased as far as possible now that prices are so attractive. Had this advance been delayed a month it would have had little influence on the size of the crop, but there is still time to plant spring wheat, and it will be done much more than was originally intended. While this country can make up the liveness of spring, the situation is much more serious in Manitoba and some other foreign countries, where early frosts preclude the possibility of securing a good crop unless it is well under way by now. This supporting factor from abroad promises to sustain prices above normal, and should neutralize the effect of any domestic shortage in the total value of the crop, while incidentally providing a most satisfactory market for the stocks of old wheat on the farms, which are still heavy if the official report of March 15 was even approximately correct. At that time producers still held over 200,000,000 bushels, and since that date receipts at primary markets have been only 45,000,000 bushels.

Cotton trading has also attained abnormal dimensions, speculative operations attracting much outside interest, and prices are now well above the position a year ago, despite much heavier stocks. The amount that came into sight last week was about 20 per cent less than the movement in the corresponding week of 1906, but since September 1 receipts have been 2,500,000 bales larger than in the previous year. While the statistical position of the old crop is

BELGIUM AND THE CONGO.

Sir Edward Grey is doubtless quite right in saying that the British government will wait to see what Belgium decides to do about the annexation of the Congo before it determines what attitude to assume toward the matter. That is the reasonable course for all countries interested to take. Having tactfully acquiesced in a diametric reversal of the principle upon which the Congo State was founded, it is only fitting for the powers to ascertain just what the effects of the new system will be before they approve or disapprove it. So Belgium will be permitted to act in the matter without extraneous pressure, provided she does act and acts with reasonable promptness. The controversy over the Congo has become too great a scandal to be tolerated forever. It must be ended, and there must be a radical change in the system of government of that state, which even its warmest defenders admit to be seriously at fault. The Congo annexation measure which is now being considered by the Belgian parliament and which is pre-eminently the question of the day in that country turns chiefly upon the point of the

but not at Suez nor either east or west of that magic meridian. What would be necessary for the freeing of the canal, then, would be for some government or governments to buy out the shareholders' interests and present the waterway as a free gift to the commercial world. Naturally, if any government were to do that it would have to be the British. That is because, while Great Britain is only a minority shareholder in the canal—that she is even that thanks are due to Benjamin Disraeli and Frederick Greenwood—British commerce is by far the greatest in the traffic of the canal. Nearly two-thirds of all the commerce which passes through the canal is British. Wherefore if French capital built the canal British commerce has made it profitable and has paid the dividends. So it is suggested that the British government might find it worth while for the promotion of commerce to free British shipping from tolls by paying them itself. That would undoubtedly be a great boon to British shipping. But that it will be granted may well be doubted. A government which in time of peace is compelled to maintain the Income tax at war time rates, and which is planning a scheme of old age pensions, is scarcely prepared to assume so enormous an expense for the sake of an industry which is in as flourishing a state as British commerce. The \$12,000,000 a year or more which would be needed for that purpose would materially affect the British budget. And, of course, Germany and other competing nations would immediately follow the example, and thus deprive British shipping of the special advantage.

It may be doubted, then, whether it will be practicable to "remove" the canal tolls altogether until the concession for the canal expires, sixty-one years hence. Further reduction, however, is probable. Indeed, it may be regarded as certain with the increase of commerce. In 1870 the tonnage was only 436,000, and the rate was \$2.60 a ton. In 1905 it was 13,134,106, and the rate was \$1.55 a ton. And trade with the East is "advancing by leaps and bounds." The example is not to be disregarded by ourselves in the promotion of our Panama Canal. How the latter will compare with Suez as a highway of trade and travel is problematic. Some have thought it will much surpass Suez in volume of commerce, while others, with equal assurance, take the opposite view. But at least the disappointment of prophecies of failure at Suez may be heard as a warning for a like disappointment of like prophecies at Panama, and the record of marvellous success at Suez may give ground for confident expectation of success at Panama, with ever increasing traffic and decreasing tolls.

THE COUNTY RECORDS.

Mayor McClellan has vetoed the bill passed by the Legislature providing for the storage of the records of the County Clerk's office in the Hall of Records, on the ground that it is mandatory and superfluous. Generally speaking, it is doubtless a good rule to discourage legislative interference with municipal affairs, particularly in cases where city officials are simply ordered to do something already within their authority and power. In this case the Mayor expresses a belief that the necessary step will be taken, now that public attention has been sharply called to the neglect. If he is right, the main purpose will have been served, but if the discussion results in nothing but further inaction, the Mayor may have good reason to regret his veto.

FREEDOM OF DIALOGUE.

The impotence of the laws is again being flaunted in our faces, this time by the managers of the Washington navy yard. It seems that a youth of mechanical turn, living in the neighborhood of the navy yard, has set up a wireless telegraph apparatus on the paternal premises and whistles away the tedious hours of boyhood by butting in upon the official wireless conversation carried on between navy officials and battleships on the high seas. The witty school-boy pretends to be far away on some mid-Atlantic vessel or at a remote naval station, and he greatly perturbs the clear stream of official conversation by his irrelevant remarks interjected at moments of wireless stilt. So great has been the annoyance thus caused that the navy yard folks appealed for relief to the Washington police, but in vain; the latter have refused to come to the rescue, first because the conversation speller is the son of a policeman, and secondly because there are no laws forbidding citizens to break in upon a conversation.

This second excuse brings us face to face with a serious flaw in the legal code. The freedom of speech which has long been a boast of orators and Billingsgate ladies has become an empty phrase, because the laws guaranteeing it apply only to single individuals. So long as a person is content to set the atmosphere in vibration with his remarks, the strong hand of the state keeps the path clear for his output. But, with strange blindness to the deepest needs of mankind, the government refuses this same protection to two or more conversationalists. Should the young miscreant who has rigged up a pole on his father's roof try to prevent a government official from talking wirelessly the minions of the law would descend upon him with sudden violence; but as he merely throws in a remark here and there between the parts of a dialogue, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution are baffled.

Is it not a curious oversight that freedom of dialogue has never been granted to a long suffering world whose whole history has been grievously checked by the intrusion of uninvited remarks from uninvited talkers? For generations the young sons of the family have been allowed to dislocate important conversations between their seniors by queries and jokes, while old bores have not been prevented from pitching bricks into the stream of conversation and rolling it sadly. But of what value is freedom of speech without freedom of dialogue? Why should we prize the privilege of monologue so highly when we cannot use the monologue to convince somebody of something? Why do we make interruption of conversation a misdemeanor only in parliamentary law, leaving the great mass of unparliamentary conversationalists to the mercy of every intruder? There can be no doubt that human progress has been retarded by this imperfection in our laws. The navy yard officials might rid themselves of their young nuisance by an appeal to the gods of the shingle. But nothing short of legislative enactment can supplant with universal high protection the free trade of words.

CANAL TOLLS AT SUEZ.

The irony of commerce is typified at Suez. Years ago practical merchants and economists were sure the great canal could never be made to pay profits; if even operating expenses. Yet it has been necessary more than once materially to reduce the rate of tolls and thus to reduce the receipts of the canal in order to keep the yearly net profits within the maximum of 25 per cent permitted by the charter. The latest such reduction was made, we believe, in 1905, the net profits of the preceding year having amounted to 26.2 per cent, and the latest reduction before that had been in 1903. The latest reduction was of perhaps a franc a ton will have to be made a few years hence in order to keep within the limit is confidently expected. Of course, low as it is in comparison with the original rates, the present tariff of 7 francs 75 centimes a ton is a considerable charge upon commerce, and only a few weeks ago the Australian government expressed a wish that it might be reduced, a desire which met with little encouragement from the home government. But now the interesting statement is made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that he will be glad to co-operate with any practical proposals "for removing or reducing" the tolls. He does not say, of course, that he expects to remove or to reduce them, or that he knows of any practical proposals to that end. But Mr. Asquith, particularly hard-headed man of practical affairs that he is, would not have made such a statement unless he regarded reduction and even removal of the tolls as within the limits of possibility. There is, of course, this paramount consideration to be dealt with—that the canal is the property of a company of shareholders, in which French interests predominate. Nothing can well be done without the assent of the shareholders, and while they must, of course, keep their dividends within the prescribed limit, they cannot be expected voluntarily to renounce all further profits and to throw the canal open freely to the traffic of the world, and in addition to maintain it in good condition, and in addition that sort of thing might be done on the canals of Aitruia, or even those of Mars,

and indeed as eminently desirable, to consider the questions of local sewerage and general filtration in the most practical way. There is simply no use in saying to the people of the Croton region that they must not let their sewage escape into the soil unless some other way of disposing of it is provided. The only rational way is by means of local sewer systems, and these ought to be constructed in every community in the Croton region at the earliest possible date. As for filtration, it is all but universally agreed that we must come to it in addition to all else that may be done for the protection of the water supply, and seeing how long it will take at best to construct an adequate filtration plant it would certainly seem to be the part of wisdom to begin planning for it now in earnest.

A UTILITIES BILL OVERSIGHT.

In making the draft of the public service commissions bill which passed the Assembly the fact seems to have been lost sight of that the city of New York has quite as much concern as any other part of the state in the regulation of the trunk lines running out of this city. Entire jurisdiction of rates, equipment and service which the New York Central may give out of this city, or the Pennsylvania may give when its tunnel under the city is completed, is vested by the bill in the commission of the Second District, which is to be in practical operation the general state commission, while the First District commission has local functions. Yet from this Second District commission all residents of this city are excluded.

The Tribune cordially favors the Governor's policy in dealing with this question and would not wish to see the measure endangered or delayed by any unnecessary amendments, but it believes the existing provision must have been put in the bill without due consideration and kept in by oversight. Certainly this great city, containing half the people of the state, has such interest in the general transportation problem as it relates to the trunk lines whose terminals are here as to entitle it to some representation on what is to its intents and purposes the public service commission of general jurisdiction having control of its commercial welfare. While it seemed likely that the Senate would accept the Assembly bill without change, we did not think it wise to advise any delay for what is, after all, a minor amendment; but now that some changes are being made and the bill must go back to the Assembly anyway, we suggest the desirability of avoiding any future complaint that at that port in time of peace the regulation of its own railroad outfits.

AN AGRICULTURAL MISSION.

An interesting account is given elsewhere in this issue of The Tribune of what we may call an agricultural mission which has been organized by Representative Hobson in the 6th Congressional District of Alabama. The nine counties of that district are almost exclusively agricultural, and are much varied in soil and other characteristics, but are all alike in need of improvement, of popular instruction and of introduction of modern methods and scientific ideas. Mr. Hobson's scheme was to secure from the various bureaus of the Agricultural Department a number of experts, who should go thither as agricultural missionaries, to make practical addresses to the people, to instruct them and to stimulate them toward a general industrial uplifting. The Department of Agriculture quickly recognized the value of the scheme and responded by assigning a number of its best men to the work, to talk to the people on soils, on trees, on cotton, on roads and on all the major topics of agricultural interest.

That the people hear them not only gladly, but with intense eagerness and interest, is gratifying, but not surprising. The people of that region realize their deficiencies and needs perhaps more adequately than those of some more pretentious regions. So they flock to hear the men from Washington with the enthusiasm of boys attending a circus, but also with studious attention which promises much for the results of the mission. It may be and probably is true that not a word is said which might not be read in some department reports or other publications. But it is equally true that ten—perhaps a hundred—persons will listen to the speaker and get good from what he says where one word or could get the same good from reading a book. The novelty of having a man from the government at Washington come down there to talk to them at the crossroads school-house excites popular interest, and the speaker is able to put himself in touch with his audience in a way that would be quite impossible in a printed report.

The good which is thus being done is simply inestimable. The addresses of those agricultural missionaries will be talked over and discussed a thousand times, at home, at the village store, on the road and wherever any of their hearers meet, and will thus prove to be seed bearing fruit a hundredfold more valuable than do the packages of actual seeds distributed by Congressmen. It is doubtless a question to what extent the example of that one district could be followed. The Agricultural Department cannot send a corps of popular lecturers into every county in the Union. Nor indeed would it be desirable to do so. There are many districts which do not need such ministrations. But there are also many besides the 6th Alabama which do sorely need it, and it is to be believed that the supplying of it would be one of the most profitable activities in which the Department of Agriculture could engage.

CROTON SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

While, as we have said, it is gratifying and encouraging to see our neighbor "The New York Times" so zealously following The Tribune in the campaign which this Journal started and for some time conducted single handed for the redemption of the Croton water supply from dangerous pollution, we regret to be compelled to doubt the wisdom of some of its contentions, especially that plans for filtration and for the severing of the Croton region are not now worth considering, and that the true course is for the city authorities to appeal to the courts for abatement of the nuisances existing on alien lands. It may be that such appeal to the courts would be the best to be effected. It may be that there would be no danger of the arrest of Dr. Darlington's agents as trespassers. But it must be borne in mind that the burden of proof would rest with this city, and it is not clear to our mind that an inspector from this city could go into another municipality, and upon some private citizen's land, and ascertain to what extent the contents of his cesspool were seeping underground into Kisco Brook, without coming pretty near to what might be considered a trespass. And then if complaint is made and substantiated to the effect that some cesspool is thus leaking into the Croton and the owner of the place promises to remedy it, and a little later declares that he has done so, how can the city's inspector ascertain whether he has or not, and in the latter case prove that he has not, without additional trespass?

We must adhere, therefore, to our belief that in such cases the State Health Board is the proper authority, and this belief is supported by much current testimony. The State Health Commissioner himself reports that when cases of pollution of potable water are brought to his attention he issues "peremptory orders" for immediate correction of the evil. Of course, he would make no such order unless he had a right to issue such orders, and unless he had the power to make them effective. Now, we learn that Dr. Darlington's agents have reported that the State Commissioner all cases of pollution which they have been able to detect. We assume, therefore, that "peremptory orders" have been issued in all those cases, and we must regard the inexecutable enforcement of those orders as the reddest and speediest method of abating the nuisance. We must also regard it as well worth while,

Table with 3 columns: Name, Address, and Page. Includes entries for Academy of Music, Alhambra, Astor, Board of Education, etc.

Index to Advertisements.

Table with 3 columns: Page, Column, and Page. Lists various advertisements and their locations.

New-York Daily Tribune.

MONDAY, MAY 20, 1907.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Steamship men, according to a despatch from London, favor the proposed fast dispatch between England and Canada, but are inclined to regard as visionary the all British route to Australia. —Advices from Cuba tell of the excellent work and discipline of the Army of Expedition. —A demonstration in which 15,000 persons took part was held at Pagan to appeal to the government to remedy conditions in the wine trade of the South. —It was reported from Brest that the French Line would make its terminal at that port in the Havre. —The Dublin correspondent of "The Morning Post" says that John Redmond will probably move a resolution hostile to the Irish bill at the Nationalist Convention on Tuesday.

DOMESTIC.—It was learned in Washington that it is not improbable that the President will urge tariff revision in his next message to Congress. —A report of the Commissioners of Industry, made public at Washington, shows, largely through the abuse of transportation facilities, has for thirty-five years maintained a practical monopoly of the petroleum industry, which made public at Washington. —President and Mrs. Roosevelt and Archie Roosevelt attended divine services at Christ Episcopal Church, near Pine Knot, Mrs. Roosevelt's country home in Virginia. —It was said at Washington that David W. Ross, general purchasing agent of the Panama Canal Commission, will resign soon to become president of a large manufacturing concern in Chicago. —A considerable excitement was caused in Atlanta by a lion, which escaped and appeared in streets in the centre of the city. —Most of the Protestant pulpits in Columbus, Ohio, were filled by preachers attending the Presbyterian General Assembly. —Pittsburg women completed the raising of \$300,000 for a Y. W. C. A. building, thereby securing \$200,000 from H. C. Erick as well as \$100,000 from the city. —William H. Mannif, president of the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railway Company, said that he regarded the present activities of President Roosevelt in relation to railroad returns from a national country in general. —The Lowell (Mass.) Textile Council voted to request an increase in wages of 10 per cent in all of the seven great cotton mills of the city.

CITY.—The crew of the shipwrecked Everett Webster arrived with the story of their rescue by a French bark. —Borough President Ahearn appointed Henry S. Thompson Commissioner of Public Works, to succeed William Dalton. —E. J. Martin, president of the Board of Education, in the choice. —General Kuroki gave a luncheon at the Hotel Astor at which the Japan Society of New York was launched. —It became known here that Japanese agents would probably purchase \$5,000,000 worth of rails for the South Manchuria Railway. —It was learned that immigrants had been charged as much as \$300 for passage to the United States and other nearby places by Jewish ticket agents. —Ex-Senator McLaughlin, who is here to fight in the suit against the Cotton Exchange, said the South was extremely interested in the case. —A man who had been charged with making a murderous assault on a policeman in Williamsburg. —Charles Frederick Cutler, president of the New York Telephone Company, was named as a candidate for the position of Mayor. —Much to the chagrin of its members, a sexton placed on sale, in the lobby of the church, photographs of the new pastor of the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, the Rev. Dr. C. A. Aked.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Partly cloudy. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 77 degrees; lowest, 62.

We desire to remind our readers who are about to leave the city that THE TRIBUNE will be sent by mail to any address in this country or abroad, and address changed as often as desired. Subscriptions may be given to your regular dealer before leaving, or, if more convenient, hand them in at THE TRIBUNE Office. See opposite page for subscription rates.

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