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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, SEPT. 21, 1906.

THE WASHINGTON REPUBLICANS.

The language employed by the Republican State Convention of Washington in urging the renomination of Mr. Roosevelt is more complimentary to the President than to his party. The resolutions clearly imply two things, neither of which a loyal Republican ought to be willing to admit. The first is that Mr. Roosevelt's "great economical ideas" and beneficial projects are backed by himself alone and not by his party. The preamble says in so many words that they "were inaugurated by the personal efforts of President Roosevelt," while the following sentence adds that the election of any other man to the Presidency will seriously interfere with their consummation. If these ideas and projects are the possession of the Republican party, their consummation ought not and does not depend upon any individual. There is surely sufficient power of initiative in the party itself to carry through whatever policy it thoroughly approves. Suppose Mr. Roosevelt should unhappily be removed from the scene of earthly affairs before the next Presidential election. The supposition is not agreeable, but it is one of those possibilities which wise statesmen cannot shrink from contemplating. Must we believe that in such a contingency Mr. Roosevelt's plans would be dropped because they are his own exclusively, and not his party's also?

The second implication is that the Republican party contains no man with the ability to take up the work which Mr. Roosevelt has begun. This can hardly be the case. It may very well be true that none of the men who have thus far entered the race for the Presidency measure up to Mr. Roosevelt's standard; but who shall say what treasures of ability and integrity lie hidden in the innumerable ranks of the party? It would not be pleasant to think that the Republican party is not producing today as excellent material for high executive office as it ever did. One may indeed prefer to hope that the party contains many Roosevelts as yet unknown to fame, but whom the exigency of the times will call from their obscurity. It is neither agreeable nor necessary to believe that the hope of the Nation depends upon the life and political fortune of any individual. Nobody knows what may happen in the course of the next two years, but, so far as is now apparent, Mr. Roosevelt owes no "patriotic duty to his country" which calls upon him to break his reiterated pledge and stand for another nomination. His duty to the country as President has been fully and nobly performed. There are other spheres where he can serve fitly and efficiently after his present term expires.

From these resolutions of dubious wisdom the student of Washington politics may turn with unmingled satisfaction to the remarks of Mr. Jones upon the project to secure direct primaries. The resolution in the platform demands direct nominations from United States Senators down to county and municipal officials. Mr. Jones agrees with this in principle, but he contends that the state convention ought not to be given up. He is unquestionably in the right about this matter. The state convention is essential to party life. A party without principles is a mere maw hungry for offices; and principles cannot be formulated and adopted without some periodical assemblage charged with that duty.

Direct primaries do not, however, preclude state conventions, or even county conventions, for that matter. There is nothing unlawful in Oregon, where direct primaries are now the settled policy of the state, in a meeting of party representatives for consultation and the adoption of a platform. It may be assumed that no legislation will ever attempt to forbid this necessary practice. The only purpose of the direct primary laws is to take the selection of candidates from the bosses and turn it over to the people, where it belongs. They are not intended either to destroy political parties or to deprive them of authoritative principles. They will undoubtedly increase somewhat the prestige of the courageous candidate who takes his political life in his hands and appeals to the electorate on an independent platform, but this is not necessarily regrettable. Individuality is no less desirable in politics than in business.

The principle of the direct primary was approved by the convention and embodied in the platform according to Mr. Jones' wish. Senator Piles seems to have been less persuasive upon the tariff. In his speech he proclaimed himself an uncompromising standpatter and urged his party to fight "present revision of the tariff with might and main." All that the convention would do was to declare in favor of protection. Of course revision is not inconsistent with protection. Many good Republicans believe that without timely revision the entire protective policy will be endangered. Mr. Piles thinks that revision would imperil the lumber industry of Washington. He seems not to be aware that the present tariff, which sets a premium on the headlong destruction of forests is a danger much more serious. In a few years there will be no lumber industry to protect. The same process that destroyed this business in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan is running its blundering course in Washington. The tariff on lumber conduces not to the permanent welfare of the state, but to the rapid enrichment of the trusts.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE.

A gambler will risk not only his own money, but also whatever property of others he can lay hands upon. He is the most untrustworthy of men, for as there is no limit to his faith in his luck, so also there is no limit to what he will steal to stake upon his luck. He never fails to believe that in a little while he can replace all and thus make good the loss of money and save his good name. Hence he not only brings ruin upon himself, but also upon whoever trusts him. The wonder is that so many gamblers creep into positions of trust. They seem to possess some power of fascination which lulls suspicion. Employers engage them without adequate inquiry into their character and record, and only when they resort to some such device as Van Auker is said to have chosen to cover his deficit does prudence appear upon the scene.

If Van Auker really robbed the bank at Rainier, his plan was so clumsily contrived that detection was almost certain. No judicious robber would bind a cashier with ropes when chloroform is so much simpler and more effective. A man can bind himself to deceive the very elect, but he is not likely to dose himself with chloroform. Moreover, thieves who had taken the trouble and run the risk which those at Rainier underwent would not leave gold lying in plain sight, nor would they hesitate to take all the greenbacks they could find. Greenbacks are as easy to pass as gold. Nobody looks at the number of a bill, and it may be guessed that the bank at Rainier had no list of the numbers. At any rate, thieves never hesitate to take them when they have the chance. If Van Auker did not himself rob the bank, the thieves took every precaution to create the belief that he did; while his habits of gambling are terribly against him. If he is guilty his fate must be a warning to both employers and employed. If he is innocent, it is still a warning, since a man is inevitably believed to be as bad as his habits.

INTERSTATE DEVELOPMENT WORK.

The interstate meeting of the citizens of Oregon, Washington and Idaho who are interested in development work in the Pacific Northwest will be held at Spokane next week. It will be by far the most important meeting of this nature that ever assembled in the Northwest, and Oregon will be well represented. Mr. Wilcox, president of the league, being a Portland man, and this city being one of the first to take up the work of systematized exploitation of our great natural resources, it is especially to be desired that the delegation from here be large and representative. The three states which will be represented at this convention all have much in common. None of the great irrigation schemes projected for the Pacific Northwest, and none of the waterway improvement projects, can be successfully consummated without conferring benefits not alone on the immediate locality of the work, but also on the entire Pacific Northwest.

Portland cannot grow while the remainder of the country around remains stationary, and the same factors which make for the prosperity of Spokane are also aiding the growth and development of all cities and towns in the surrounding country. The State of Idaho has long been urging Columbia River improvements, and recently Washington has joined in the demand for the opening of the great highway through the three states. This question is one of the most important that has been taken up in connection with the work of the league, and at the Spokane convention will probably be given the fullest attention. The truth of the saying that in union there is strength will be amply illustrated, if there is a continuation of the good feeling and desire to help each other that has characterized all smaller development work conventions in the Northwest.

WORLD'S WHEAT SITUATION.

The Chicago wheat market, after many weeks of inactivity, has in the past four days scored a gain of nearly 4 cents per bushel, and has maintained its strength for a greater length of time than at any previous period this season. It is a hazardous undertaking to predict the future course of the market on any commodity, the price of which is governed by such world-wide conditions as control of wheat. At the same time, the statistical position of the cereal is undergoing changes which seem to warrant belief that the bottom of the market for this season has already been sounded. Compared with the figures for the past four years, the American visible supply still presents a formidable appearance, but the increase last week, in spite of the big crop and free movement, was smaller than on a corresponding date last year. World's shipments last week were 1,000,000 buehels less than on the corresponding week one year ago, and quantities on passage showed a decrease of more than 5,000,000 bushels as compared with last year.

The figures on these last-mentioned items of course lose some of their force when we consider the crop that lies behind these shipments and quantities on passage. The American crop estimates have been pared down slightly since their early appearance, and conservative estimates now do not place the total much in excess of 50,000,000 bushels more than the crop of 1905. Viewed strictly from a domestic standpoint, this amount might be sufficient to give the statistical position a topheavy appearance; but, when the movement foreign is considered, this weakness disappears. For the first eleven weeks of the current season American exports have been 30,625,000 bushels, compared with 11,783,000 bushels for the same period last year. These figures show an increased movement, which, if maintained for but little more than half of the season, will take care of the additional 50,000,000 bushels that seem to be in sight. The greater part of the strength in the American markets this week is due to the strength in the foreign markets. Nearly all of the shipments made from this country have been cheap wheat dumped on the market by the early sellers, who seemed willing to take any price which the foreigners would offer.

That other countries have not been such free sellers is shown by a decrease of 10,000,000 bushels in the exports from the principal countries for the first eleven weeks of the season, as compared with the same period last season. Russia alone is 17,000,000 bushels short of last year's shipments for the period mentioned, and Argentine shipments to September 15 are 10,000,000 bushels less than they were for the opening weeks of the season a year ago. These factors in the market, however, are not serious in comparison with the Russian situation. The crop report of that country shows a shortage of 112,000,000 bushels as compared with that of last year, and there is a further shortage of nearly 200,000,000 bushels in other grains. The French crop is not good and the German crop is estimated at only about 8,000,000 bushels in excess of that of last year. The Australian crop prospects are fine, and it is still too early to place much reliance on the Argentine reports.

Incidentally it might be stated that crop conditions in the latter country will shortly begin to be much more powerful factors in prices than anything else which enters into the establishment of values in this country. The size of the Argentine crop can be fairly accurately determined by the turn of the year, and, if it should prove to be a large one, the European buyers will purchase sparingly unless they can secure stocks at low figures pending arrival of new-crop Argentine wheat. Stocks in Europe are not abnormally large, but in this age of steam it is no longer necessary for them to be large, for, if the price justifies, immense quantities can be rushed in on short notice. The Pacific Coast, as it always has been, is handicapped by distance, and, with ocean freight rates at low ebb, it is probable that a good share of any pronounced advance in Europe would be absorbed by the shipowners.

THE PERSONAL PROPERTY PROBLEM.

The Assessors of Oregon are supposed to be wrestling mightily with the personal property tax problem. A tradition of half a century—the practice of half a century, more specifically speaking—was swept away by a recent decision of the Supreme Court, which placed the exemption of personal property to the value of $300 among things unconstitutional. This is all very well, providing the holdings of the man of wealth are assessed as strictly according to their value as are the household appliances and equipment of labor and thrift and the tools with which the mechanic plies his vocation. We are assured that a conscientious effort is being made by the Assessor of Multnomah County to uncover these holdings and place them upon the list of assessable property without discrimination, fear or favor.

An example of the way an important matter of this kind has long been managed in Chicago is furnished in the case of the late Marshall Field. Mr. Field was commonly regarded as a business man of the best type. His success in acquiring wealth in the ordinary business of general merchandising verified this estimate of his business ability. For some years prior to his death he paid personal property taxes on a valuation of $2,500,000. Not long ago the trustees of his vast estate filed a schedule showing that he held taxable personal property of a value of $17,500,000. The discrepancy between this sum and that of the sworn statement of Mr. Field himself was so startling as to court inquiry. This inquiry disclosed the fact that he had agreed with the board of Assessors of Crook County to pay personal property tax on $2,500,000, declaring, in the event of a refusal to accept this valuation, that he would change his residence. With this threat hanging over them, the tax commissioners accepted the offering of the rich man, and Marshall Field was let off with the payment of one-seventh of his personal property tax.

The adage that half a loaf is better than no bread has long been commended to prudence as worthy of indorsement. Evidently the tax commissioners of Chicago thought one-seventh was better than nothing when it came to a share in a loaf of such mammoth proportions. Marshall Field was the heaviest taxpayer in Chicago, and his contribution, even under his own arbitrary ruling of what he would and what he would not pay, was worth considering. The point, however, is that he did not pay what the law said he should, but only what he himself deemed equitable.

The president of an important civic body, himself an able lawyer, called attention to this fact when the trustees of the Field estate filed the schedule of decedent's personal property, citing it as "anarchism." The term does not apply, but the absurdity of the claim of equitable assessment as made under the personal property tax law is clearly shown by this conspicuous example.

The people of nearly every American community, of every urban community of any importance, have faced this matter year after year. In Chicago, a city typical of the enterprise of the great West, the miracle of growth has been presented in every other department except that of the valuation of personal property. Year after year a substantial increase in wealth and population has been proudly proclaimed, while the gross amount of personal property has scarcely increased. The same has been true in this city. We are assured, however, that the Assessor's books this year will make an equitable showing in personal property valuations. The trappings of the homes of wealth will be assessed pro rata with the modest furnishings of the homes of labor. The boarding-house mistress will not have to pay more according to her material equipment for her business than will the eminent lawyer for the books that are an important part of his stock in trade. The regal furnishings of the private office of the banker, or that of the president of a powerful insurance company, will stand side by side in the equity of impartial assessment with those of the cheaply furnished office of the purveyor of small wares. If these promises are fulfilled, then indeed will the assessment rolls of Multnomah County and of the City of Portland for this year of grace be a new book of revelations.

There are degrees of even parental anguish. The mother who goes to a neighboring city to claim for burial the mangled body of her son, killed in the attempt to "swing himself on the rods," represents a bitter phase of such anguish; but this is mild by comparison with that of the father who is forced to plead insanity for a wayward daughter, lost to virtue and arraigned upon the charge of murder, the victim being her own brother. The pity of the pitiful is the just meed which such grief and humiliation bring in the first instance, while the mercy of the merciful may well be extended to the disnatured criminal in the latter case, if thereby it would bring relief to those who sorrow over her downfall. Maude Creffield and Esther Mitchell living will never bring anything but shame and sorrow to those who love them and feel responsible for their acts; dead they would soon be forgotten by the public and remembered only with sorrow, void of censure and apprehension, by their kindred. This is not, of course, an argument from a legal standpoint for the execution of the woman who killed George Mitchell and for the other woman, who urged the murderess to do the deed. From a psychological standpoint, however, and indeed from one of simple humanity, it is worthy of consideration.

San Francisco advices state that the loss through damages to the ship and to the sugar cargo of the steamer Twickenham, which recently grounded on Puget Sound, will reach $100,000. Now comes the report that the steamer City of Seattle, another Puget Sound-bound craft, is on the rocks at Trial Island and in a perilous position if a gale should spring up. It is not yet a year since the steamship Valencia was lost while trying to enter the Straits of Fuca. These disasters, together with a number of minor importance, again call attention to the dangers of navigation in the waters leading to the Puget Sound ports. The expense incurred by the underwriters on Columbia River shipping for the past few years has been light indeed in comparison with that suffered in the northern ports.

Mr. Gould and Mr. Goodwin, of Los Angeles, who are charged with irregularities in Oregon land dealings, have gone to the United States Supreme Court with their protest against having their cases removed to Oregon. It is no consolation to them that the only convictions so far in Oregon were of Oregon offenders. Perhaps they think that an Oregon jury wouldn't discriminate. But it would. It would find the guilty guilty and the innocent not guilty. Though perhaps the Los Angeles gentlemen are quite sure of that.

The Salem Statesman doesn't think much of Puter's forthcoming book. "It will not take," says the Statesman. "The American people will not place much confidence in the statements of a self-confessed thief, procurer and perjurer." But twelve men in a jury-box did believe what Puter said, and all he said, probably. So did everybody believe that heard his story. However, Puter's book may not have to be true in order to be either readable or salable. The unvarnished tale doesn't necessarily attract the most attention.

As we understand the logic of the Washington Republicans, it is that, whereas, President Roosevelt doesn't want a renomination, therefore resolved, that we want him. Why not appoint a committee made up of all the old-time Washington political Has-Beens and the Would-Bes to go down to Oyster Bay and convince the President of the error of his ways and get him to join the third-term club? There would be interesting doings.

A San Francisco dispatch announces that among other vessels damaged in the Hongkong typhoon was the steamer Coptic. As the Coptic flies the Harriman house flag, it was, of course, natural that she should have suffered by the typhoon if she was within a few thousand miles of the scene of trouble. The Harriman ship which can keep out of trouble since Mr. Schwerin took charge of the fleet would prove somewhat of a curiosity.

It will be difficult for Mr. Hearst to avoid the suspicion that Mr. Mack, of Buffalo, was enthusiastically for him for Governor as long as he hadn't a chance. But now Mack's for Adom, whoever he is. Probably from one of Buffalo's first families, though that isn't the way his great ancestor spelled it.

The White Star and Cunard lines both added an immense ship to their fleets yesterday, when the Mauretania and the Adriatic were launched. One of these leviathans is 800 feet long and the other over 700 feet long. The thousand-foot ship is rapidly approaching.

When it was learned that Cashier Van Auker was a gambler, the mystery of the Rainier Bank robbery was cleared. The young man who thinks he can gamble soon discovers that the public and his employers put him in the same class with the thief.

The only difference between Mark Twain and Artemus Ward and Josh Billings on the great subject of simplified spelling is that Ward and Billings practiced what they preached. But where are they now?

By hedging on the Government ownership question and saying it is only his personal opinion, etc., etc., Mr. Bryan does much to upset the old-time notion that it is the business of a great party leader to lead.

Now that Anna Loubet is safely off for her native land, we can turn our attention to Sammy's legs. What has become of the money that was subscribed to buy a pair for the poor little newsboy?

If President Palma has to be elected all over again, he will resign, so he says. With that kind of an opening, Mr. Taft ought to be able to settle the Cuban trouble in about two minutes.

Mrs. Watson's recognizance appears to be just as good as her late bondsmen's $20,000. The court was willing to take her word for better or worse.

Even the old stalwart James K. Jones shies at Government ownership and advises Bryan to drop it. If he doesn't, something else will drop.

When it comes to Fourth street the Southern Pacific discreetly declines to "say when." Meanwhile it has all five fingers around the franchise bottle.

Just at this moment a few pertinent remarks by General Weyler on Cuba and Cubans-I-have-met would be in order.

But it wasn't the fleas that made Milwaukee famous. It was something else made out of hops.

The New York papers are discussing "How to Tell a Man from Chicago." Tell him what?

Speaking of Cuba, now we know how Spain felt.

We have never had finer after-the-State-Fair weather.

WHAT THE HEARST MOVEMENT IS

A Just and Impartial View of the Independent Leaguers.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican (Ind.-Dem).

In trying to do simple justice to the Hearst movement, regardless of the personality of its leader, it is necessary first of all to say that the Carnegie Hall convention, both in its appearance and its acts, turned into a vapid absurdity the oft-repeated charge that the Hearst movement rested upon nothing but Mr. Hearst's dollars. Whatever may be the character of his supporters at Democratic primaries, no one can successfully challenge the sincerity, independence and respectability of his followers of the so-called Independence League. The proof of this is in the fact that Hearst himself could not control them. It is necessary for their opponents to admit that they embrace a genuine reform element which detests all the old machinery of the regular parties and despises the bosses. This element, which includes a strong infusion of former Republican voters, differs from reformers of the Jerome type in being very radical on issues pertaining to the relations between corporations and the city or state. It is a great pity, for some reasons, that men with the reform spirit should be divided, for what might they not do in promoting political and civic virtue were they to strike as a single homogeneous force?

The Carnegie Hall convention was, of course, impressive in the ordinary spectacular sense, but its strongest appeal for the respect of the public consisted in its determination not to be transformed by Mr. Hearst's "general staff" into a mere agency for bringing about the leader's acceptance by the Democratic State Convention at Buffalo as the regular Democratic candidate for Governor. The plan of the personal political managers of Mr. Hearst all along has been to win this Democratic nomination. A tireless, well-organized canvass has been conducted throughout the state for control of the Democracy and the results up to the present time are revealed in the number of Democratic primaries Hearst has carried and the number of delegates to the Buffalo convention he has corraled. As a necessary part of this scheme, it was proposed by the Hearst managers to have the Independence League, after nominating Mr. Hearst for Governor, leave a blank ticket which could be used as a basis for a trade with the Democratic party. Mr. Hearst's Buffalo lieutenants within the Democracy, Messrs. Conners and Mack, sent a written appeal to the Carnegie Hall convention to pursue this course and there is no possible doubt that Hearst himself would have welcomed such action. At this critical point the convention as a body demonstrated its own sincerity and its essential independence of the political manipulators who are, in fact, on the Hearst pay roll. A full state ticket was placed in the field and a defiance of both the old political parties was trumpeted through the commonwealth.

If the personality of Hearst could be dissociated from the movement which bears his name it would be found to appeal powerfully to all independent citizens who nurse radical views regarding franchise-holding corporations and the general issue best described in the somewhat hackneyed phrase, "predatory wealth." It is easy to convince one's self, indeed, that many of the independent Democrats and reformers of the sort recently gathered in the Albany conference could adjust their views of public questions so far as to join forces with the Hearst movement, were it only minus Hearst. For both wings of the reform body, which overlaps Republican and Democratic parties alike, make war on the corrupt machines and pelf-tainted bosses of the regular organizations. And while the one wing goes much farther than the other in attacking corporations and in urging municipal ownership projects, still there is a common ground of opinion in hostility to corporate abuses and desire to enforce the laws against public plunderers.

One is confronted, however, by the fact that in no quarter is the Hearst movement so bitterly opposed as it is among those who may, perhaps, be characterized as conservative reformers—men who earnestly desire pure politics, a democracy without graft, a thoroughly clean and efficient civil service, a government of, for and by the people. Eliminating such causes of difference as semisocialistic proposals regarding public utilities, it seems that only the personality of Hearst causes the severe condemnation which conservative reformers visit upon the movement which now goes by Hearst's name. That there is little in that individual's personality, character and career to inspire confidence among conservative reformers is too clear for controversy. His journalism has often been atrocious and his personal influence demoralizing, while his political convictions have for years seemed to be governed by the newspaper theory of "the largest circulation." The grossness of his advertising methods affronts and disgusts the sober-minded, and his lavish use of money for his political roustabouts fills the good citizen's mind with concern. Mr. Hearst is himself enough to repel many persons who have sympathy with the objects identified with the Independence League, and, on this account alone, the league must be regarded as unfortunate in its acknowledged leader.

The readiness of the sincere and unselfish radicals to follow Hearst remains to be explained. In their ranks many are to be found, no doubt, who are disturbed by the defects in his character and the vulgar garishness of his appeal to the people. How do they reconcile themselves to his leadership? We must conclude that the simplest answer is the soundest—that they accepted Hearst because he was at hand, and with his newspapers and his money was able to make their protest articulate in the land. If they now display enthusiasm for him, it must be because they are genuinely grateful for the practical aid he has rendered their cause, without much caring to analyze his motives or probe his virtue. That the followers have a surer instinct than the leader as to the real function of their movement, and a more unselfish concern in the public weal, is already demonstrated in their rejection of the leader's transparent scheme to capture the Democratic party and turn them into a mere feeder of his ambition to be Governor. In their hands, the Hearst movement would remain a popular protest, and the beginning, possibly, of a propaganda that might be made to serve ultimately a most excellent end.

MEAT LABELS TO TEL TRUTH

Wilson's Rules Forbid Calling Pork Beef and Libels on Lard.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—Further rulings in connection with the enforcement of the meat inspection law after October 1 next were made public today by the Secretary of Agriculture and give an idea of what consumers are to expect hereafter when purchasing meat products, particularly canned goods. Anything savoring of a false or deceptive name will not be tolerated and no picture, design or device which gives any false indications of origin or quality will be permitted on any label, as for example the picture of a pig appearing on a label placed on beef products, or the picture of a chicken upon the label of a veal or pork product.

Georgraphical names are allowed to be used only with the words "cut," "type," "brand" or "style," as the case may be, except upon foods produced or manufactured in the place, state, territory or country named. For instance, "Virginia ham" must be marked "Virginia style ham"; "English brawn" must be "English style brawn"; "Westphalia ham" must be "Westphalia style ham." The word "ham," without a prefix indicating the species of animal is considered by the department to be a pork ham, but trimmings removed from the ham and used in the preparation of potted meats or sausage, or when used alone, may be known as "potted ham" or "ham sausage."

Frankfurter sausage no longer can be known as such, but must be called "Frankfurter style sausage."

The rules clearly define what constitutes pure lard, but prescribe that a substance composed of lard, stearin or other animal fat and vegetable oil may be labeled "lard compound."

Among the restrictions are the following:

"Picnic hams" cannot be called "hams," but may be called "picnics" or "picnic shoulders"; "little pig sausage" may be called "little pork sausage" or "pigmy sausage"; extract of beef must be actually made from beef, and veal loaf cannot be called such unless the meat used is veal only.

The same rules apply to other canned products, and manufacturers are warned that the rulings do not exempt them from the enforcement of the laws.

WANTS MEAT INSPECTION.

London Calls for Action and Wilson Says Go Ahead.

LONDON, Sept. 20.—The city corporation, at a meeting held today, resolved to exert pressure on the president of the Local Government Board, J. Burns, for the introduction of a bill for compulsory inspection at the time of slaughter of all animals intended for the food of man, as well as the official stamping by the inspectors of all meat found to be without disease. This bill is to provide further that all foreign killed meat brought in be required to comply with the same standard as home-made meats.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—Secretary James Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, today, when shown the London dispatch regarding the action of the city corporation in pledging itself to urge a bill for the compulsory inspection of carcasses at the time of slaughter, said it was a step in the right direction. He felt sure that any standard set by the British government could be fully met by American packers and he therefore had no fears that the exportation of meats and meat products from this country to England would be diminished by such a law.

Denies It Is Subject to Law.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—The first case involving the application to foreign products of the new meat inspection law came up today before the Department of Justice, when counsel for a company of Switzerland argued before Assistant Attorney-General Robb to show why its product should not be subjected to the operations of the law. Counsel stated that the product, which is a bouillon made at Kempttal, is in every sense a completed product when it is shipped from Switzerland to the United States and is subjected to no additional treatment after importing. Therefore counsel asked the Secretary of Agriculture for a letter stating that the article was not subject to the meat inspection act. Mr. Robb has taken the application under consideration. The decision will be of the greatest importance to a vast importing interest in Europe.

REGINALD A SEA PRIZE.

American Schooner Has No Papers and Is Taken by the Kestrel.

VICTORIA, B. C., Sept. 20.—The Canadian fishing protection cruiser Kestrel arrived at Comox this afternoon with the American fishing schooner Reginald in tow as a prize, seized for alleged fishing and hunting in Northern British Columbia waters. The Reginald had three men on board and no clearance papers. Those on board were unable to give a satisfactory account of themselves and the schooner was seized.

The vessel, which is a small schooner of 10 tons, was provisioned for a long cruise.

Kuropatkin's History of War.

ST. PETERSBURG, Sept. 20.—General Kuropatkin has completed his book reviewing the Russo-Japanese War. The work is in several volumes and has been submitted to the General Staff. It may not be permitted general circulation.

GIVEN FREEDOM OF FAITH

Czar Issues New Law Carrying Out Past-Due Promise.

ST. PETERSBURG, Sept. 20.—The Associated Press has been informed by a member of the cabinet that within a few days laws of religious freedom, removing practically every restriction and disability under which the dissident faiths in Russia have labored, will be promulgated. The first, including measures for the distribution of land, already has been published.

The new laws are in effect an amplification and confirmation of the emperor's ukase of April 4, 1905, which, although it establishes a large measure of toleration and enabled thousands of dissenters to leave the Orthodox church and enroll themselves under the faith of their choices, never became fully effective. This was partly owing to the failure of the elaborate supplementary legislation needed, but chiefly to the arbitrary interpretation of the emperor's ukase by the principal authorities, who construed it as they saw fit. In some cases the workings of the ukase were almost entirely nullified.

Under the new laws, which will be published while no parliament is sitting, the various sects, unless they engage in criminal or immoral practices, may receive upon application the sanction of the government. This will confer upon their clergy practically the same status as is now enjoyed by Orthodox priests. They will have equal rights with the Orthodox church in the matter of erecting school and church buildings and the receiving of proselytes. "In fact," an Orthodox priest said to the Associated Press, "they will be more free than the Orthodox church, which is the state church and subject to a mass of state regulations."

The cabinet will next take up the project of law enlarging the rights of Jews, which has just been elaborated by a commission. This measure has been somewhat restricted, the administration believing that full equality in the present state of public opinion in Russia can and should be given only by parliament.

The administration, after several months' consideration, has determined against granting compensation for the foreign property destroyed during the Moscow revolt. The claims arising from this cause amounted to $25,000,000.

The deputation of Jews that visited M. Stolypin and referred to the predictions of an anti-Jewish attack at Warsaw, which are being circulated in the Russian and foreign press, was informed by the premier that, according to reports from General Skallon, there was not the slightest reasons to expect excesses or disorders. Nevertheless, he ordered that all necessary measures be taken to prevent an outbreak.

The premier expressed the hope and said he was confident that Siedlce would end the history of anti-Jewish disorders. While refusing, in the absence of complete information, to discuss the doings of the soldiers, the premier said he had no desire to shield them. Their exhausted condition, he continued, coupled with nervousness resulting from frequent attacks on patrols, was accountable for breaches in discipline.

HOLD CONGRESS IN FINLAND

Democrats Will Prepare Campaign and Drop Viborg Manifesto.

ST. PETERSBURG, Sept. 20.—A call for a national convention of the Constitutional Democratic party to elaborate a programme of tactics for the coming parliamentary elections has been issued by the central committee, which has been in nightly session here for some time. The congress will be held in Finland October 6, the committee having been informed that the government, realizing that repressive measures can only serve to strengthen the party, has abandoned its intention of suppressing the congress and is willing to permit of its meeting anywhere except in St. Petersburg.

The Viborg manifesto probably will be kept in the background at the convention, the party leaders now being convinced that its issuance was a tactical mistake due to the insistence of the radical wing.

Neither the non-payment of taxes nor the refusal of military service, a member of the committee admitted, is a practical measure at present.

REDS WILL TAKE LIFE FOR LIFE

Furious Manifesto Caused by Execution of Girl Assassin.

ST. PETERSBURG, Sept. 20. — In revenge for the execution of Zenadie Konoplanikovo, the assassin of General Min, the Social Revolutionists are sending broadcast a violent manifesto directed against Emperor Nicholas and vowing to removing one or another of "the props of the cowardly, murderous autocracy." The manifesto ends as follows:

"The die has been cast. One thing remains: Annihilate mercilessly all enemies of the people. There must be life for life, death for death, cent for cent. With the illuminating memory of Konoplanikovo to guide them, all true Russians must strike terror to the hearts of the executioners."

Peasants in Grip of Famine.

ST. PETERSBURG, Sept. 20.—The official report just issued gives but little ground for expectation that the famine which has already a grip on many provinces in Russia will be less this Winter. Although the Winter wheat harvest was above the average, Spring wheat proved a disappointment.

The Zemstvo coffers are empty through the failure of the peasants to pay taxes, and all the work of relieving the famine falls upon the central government.

THE POLITICAL BILL SYKES

—From the Washington Post.