
NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, February 9, 1909.

An Attack Upon the Russian Secret Police System.

The Douma (p. 133) reconvened on the 2d after the holiday recess, and immediately the Constitutional Democrats and the Socialists interpellated the Minister of the Interior in regard to the two recent extraordinary exposures in connection with the secret police system—the first relating to the revolutionist leader Azef, of whom it seems to have been proved that while in the forefront of the Socialist Revolutionary party he was drawing \$25,000 a year as a police spy (p. 86); and the second relating to Lupukine, who while director of police in the Department of the Interior, gave information and aid to the Revolutionists (p. 129). Azef is now a fugitive, in fear of his life from both revolutionists and police; and Lupukine is under indictment for high treason. Associated Press dispatches thus summarize the interpellations:

Mr. Pergament, a noted lawyer, presented the interpellation of the Constitutional Democrats. He declared that the "agents provocateurs" are now the greatest power in Russia, and denounced the system of sending out men to instigate crime as destructive to all confidence and security. He accused the government of being in the same category as the revolutionary organizations and equally responsible for the murders of Grand Dukes Sergius and Von Plehve. Other members made similar accusations, the Laborite Bulat declaring that high Russian personages were murdered out of the state funds, and that it was the ancestors of the Octoberists who killed Paul I. and Peter III. The Socialists in their interpellation cited documents to prove that Azef, in his double rôle, participated in all the important terrorist acts committed since 1902. They hint that Azef had personal relations with Mr. Durnovo, then Minister of the Interior, who, according to reports, insisted upon a personal interview with Azef as a condition of furnishing the funds necessary for the work; the assassinations of the Grand Duke Sergius, Von Plehve, Siplaguine and Bogdanovich and the attempts upon Stolypin; Durnovo, Dubassoff and Treppoff are specifically mentioned, with details of Azef's alleged complicity. Continuing, the interpellation asks the Minister of the Interior whether he knew that Azef, as a police agent, organized the fighting branch of the Socialists and participated in these plots, and whether the relations between Azef and Rachofsky were not an isolated fact, but part of a

systematic policy of provocation; and if so, what measures he proposes to take to punish Azef, Rachofsky and the other police officers engaged in this criminal provocation, and to protect citizens from the work of the secret police. It is set forth that the system now in operation is employed to a great extent to provoke reaction and to justify the prolongation of martial law and other extraordinary measures.

In spite of the astonishing freedom of the interpellations and the unprecedented boldness of their charges, they were received quietly by the Douma, accepted, and referred to a committee, to report in about ten days, when Premier Stolypin is expected to reply to them.

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Japanese Exclusion.

The anti-Japanese movement on the Pacific coast and in the Rocky Mountain region (vol. ix, pp. 1185, 1215; vol. x, pp. 323, 342) is gaining momentum and creating apprehensions at Washington of a war with Japan. Several days ago President Roosevelt urged the Governor of California, by telegraph, to prevent the passage of an anti-Japanese bill (p. 85) then pending in the legislature, lest it produce a rupture in diplomatic relations. Passage of the bill was therefore delayed until the President's explanation by mail had been received. Meanwhile, the legislature of Nevada urged California to disregard the President's appeal. When the bill, which was known as Drew's anti-alien bill, came before the lower house of the California legislature on the 3d, it was defeated by a vote of 48 to 28; but on the 4th Grove L. Johnson's bill segregating the Japanese in the public schools of the State was passed in the same house by 48 to 26. A bill prohibiting Japanese from being directors in corporations was defeated on the same day and in the same house by 45 to 15; but one authorizing municipalities to segregate their Japanese inhabitants, somewhat as the Jews are segregated in Russian towns and cities, was defeated by a tie vote—37 to 37. Regarding the passage of the bill excluding Japanese from the public schools, President Roosevelt telegraphed the Governor of California on the 4th saying:

What is there in the rumor that the California legislature has passed a bill excluding Japanese children from the public schools? This is the most offensive bill of all, and in my judgment is clearly unconstitutional, and we shall at once have to test it in the courts. Can it not be stopped in the legislature or by veto?

Governor Gillett, in a special message on the 5th, urged reconsideration of the vote passing the Johnson bill.

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On the 5th the lower house of the Nevada legislature passed a bill prohibiting Asiatics, includ-

ing Japanese, from owning land in the State or mortgages thereon.

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A similar though more drastic measure than either the Nevada or the California bills, was introduced in the Oregon legislature on the 5th by Senator Bailey. It is a joint resolution asking for the exclusion and prohibition of the settlement and naturalization of Chinese, Japanese, Hindus and all other Oriental races.

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Novel Proposal by the Oil Trust.

A sensational development of the proceedings in Missouri against the Standard Oil trust was reported on the 2d. In the nature of a response to the decision of the Supreme Court of the State ordering judgment of ouster (p. 14), the trust made a formal proposal to the court on the 1st for judgment in lieu of ouster. It is to this effect: The trust offers to puts its Missouri business under the supervision of the court through the organization of a Missouri corporation to take over all the Missouri property of the trust and to succeed to all its business in the State; all of the stock of the new company, less enough to qualify directors, to be issued to, and for four years to stand in the name of, two persons as trustees, one selected by the State and the other by the trust, and both selections to be approved by the court; these trustees to act as officers of the court, subject to its control and direction, to vote the stock and supervise the affairs of the company so as to see that it conducts the same fairly, justly and lawfully, and that proper treatment is accorded to the public as well as to the property and its real owners; if the trustees cannot agree as to any action to be taken or pursued, the controversy to be submitted to the judges of the court, or some one named by them as arbitrator, and the decision of the judges or their arbitrator to be final. No decision on this novel proposal has yet been announced. But it is reported that while it has completely puzzled the State officers, there is a disposition to believe that the novelty of the scheme would make it worth while to try.

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The "Recall" of the Mayor of Los Angeles.

That the Municipal League of Los Angeles has undertaken to apply the law of the "recall" to the mayor of their city, Arthur C. Harper, has been already reported (p. 107). This is the second time the recall has been used in Los Angeles, the first occasion being the removal of a ward councilman (vol. x, p. 578). The Municipal League, which is composed of four hundred and fifty citizens and taxpayers of Los Angeles who are intent upon securing the best possible government for the city, charge the mayor with making unfit appointments in payment of political debts; with breaking promises; and with maintaining a

wide-open town on the basis of immunity to violators of the law, in return for purchase by them of the stock of various corporations in which he and members of his police commission are large holders. The petition for his recall was determined upon on Jan. 20. By Feb. 2, 7,000 of the necessary 8,000 signatures had been obtained without difficulty (25 per cent of the votes cast for that office at the last election). The petition is to be presented on the 16th, and the election will probably take place early in April. At the election Mayor Harper may be a candidate, but the League is confident that he has no chance for re-election. The candidate of the Municipal League and representative members of the Chamber of Commerce, the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association and the City Club, is William D. Stephens, a former president of the Chamber of Commerce.

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The Berkeley Charter.

The new charter for Berkeley, across the bay from San Francisco (p. 28), was adopted on the 29th by a vote of 4 to 1. This charter carries the initiative, the referendum and the recall, and for the first time in this country substitutes second elections for primaries—the first election being treated as a primary for candidates who do not poll a majority, and as final for candidates who do poll a majority of the votes cast.

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The Traction Situation in Cleveland.

The only action of the City Council of Cleveland regarding traction questions (p. 132) at its regular meeting on the 1st, consisted in the temporary disposition of several resolutions, only one of which is of general interest. This resolution, offered by Councilman Pearce, directed the City Solicitor to prepare a new 3-cent franchise. It declared that the success of 3-cent fares had been demonstrated to the extent of paying a large profit on the capital employed, including a large amount of "dead horse debts" of the old monopoly company. The new franchise it proposed was one at 3-cent fare with universal transfers, to be offered to the Cleveland Railway Company when the high fare franchises expire, and if refused to be then offered to the old low fare company. After Mayor Johnson had explained that a report on the progress made by the Judge Tayler committee would be offered at a special meeting the next morning, the Pearce resolution was sent to the railway committee by a vote of 20 to 10.

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The special, or public, meeting of the Council, referred to by Mayor Johnson at the regular meeting, as noted above, convened on the morning of