

the money to buy out the means of production and distribution is through a tax upon the value of the land; and that, on the other hand, we must begin by taking the land, else all our efforts will result only in additional presents to the landlord.

We have a few thick headed, thick-skinned brothers who do not see that there is fighting enough to be done with those who are against us; it is not necessary to fight with those who are on our side. As far as their lights show them, even those persons who seem to be against us are doing the best that they know how, and as their Father can forgive them, so can we, for what seems to us to be their shortcomings.

BOLTON HALL.

## 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, March 2, 1909.

### Another Traction Decision in Cleveland.

The Federal court at Cleveland, through Judge Knappen of Michigan, sitting in place of Judge Tayler, made a decision on the 27th in connection with the traction receivership (p. 204), which puts at rest another of the claims of the old monopoly company to constructive extensions of franchises. The decision related to the Woodland and West Side lines, on which a 3-cent fare franchise was granted a year ago, upon the theory that the old 5-cent fare franchise expired February 10, 1908. But the old interests insisted that the 5-cent fare franchise had been extended by construction to July 1, 1914, or at the least until January 26, 1910. In consequence of this claim the receivers asked the court to determine whether they could charge 5 cents fare under the contention of the old interests, or were restricted to 3 cents under Mayor Johnson's contention. The decision completely disposes of all the contentions of the old interests as to the constructive extension of franchises. It holds that the 5-cent fare franchises on the lines in question expired February 10, 1908, and that the receivers have no authority to charge higher fare on those streets than the 3-cent rate granted by the council to the low fare company.

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### Creation of the Calaveras National Forest.

Among the last acts of Mr. Roosevelt as President is his approval of the bill for creating the Calaveras National Forest, of California. This reserve includes the famous Big Tree grove. By

arrangement which the bill authorizes, the owner of that grove—Robert B. Whiteside, a rich lumber-land owner of Minnesota—agrees to an exchange of the timber in two groves for stumpage on government forest land. Efforts to accomplish some such result have been promoted for nine years or more, especially by the California Club of Women, but until this year no satisfactory arrangement could be made with the owner.

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The land to be acquired under the bill, which is now a law, includes about 960 acres in what is known as the North Calaveras Grove in Calaveras County, and 3,040 acres in the South Grove in Tuolumne County. The North Grove contains 93, and the South Grove 1,380 giant sequoias. Any tree under eighteen feet in circumference, or six feet through, is not considered in the count. The North Grove contains ten trees of a diameter of twenty-five feet or over, and more than seventy of fifteen to twenty-five feet. The bark runs from six inches to two feet in thickness. Most of these trees have been named. "The Father of the Forests," now down, is estimated by Hittel, in his "Resources of California," to have had a height of 450 feet and a diameter at the ground of more than forty feet when it was standing. "Massachusetts" contains 118,000 board feet of lumber; "Governor Stoneman" contains 108,000 board feet; the "Mother of the Forest," burned in the forest fire which licked its way into a part of the grove last summer, contained 105,000 board feet. Each of those trees is equal in lumber to the product grown ordinarily on fifteen or twenty acres of timber land. Among the names of other large trees in the two groves are "Waterloo," "Pennsylvania," "James King," "Old Bachelor," "Pride of the Forest," "Daniel Webster," "Sir John Franklin," "Empire State," "U. S. Grant," "W. T. Sherman," "J. P. McPherson," "Abraham Lincoln," "Connecticut," "Ohio," "Grover Cleveland," "Mrs. Grover Cleveland," "Dr. Nelson," "General Custer," "Dr. J. W. Dawson," "General Hancock," "Knight of the Forest," "Two Sentinels," and "Old Dowd." Besides the giant sequoias, there are hundreds of sugar pines and yellow pines ranging up to 275 feet in height and 10 feet in diameter. There are also many white firs and incense cedars in both tracts.

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### President Roosevelt and British Government in India.

British government in India (p. 207) having been applauded by President Roosevelt in a recent speech at the Metropolitan Methodist Church in Washington, the Society for the Advancement of India, with headquarters at 42 Broadway, New York city, has sent him an open letter, which the society now publishes in full, criticizing his ill-informed statements.

In refutation of the President's assertion that British rule in India is a "colossal success," the letter declares that, on the contrary, it is a despotism worse than that of Russia, and in support of its declaration it submits authorities and says in part that—

the people of India have no voice whatever in the management of their own affairs. The small number of Indians on government councils are, with rare exceptions, appointed by the government. Their functions are merely advisory. They have no power in the management of Indian affairs. Not a tax can be changed, not a rupee of the people's own money appropriated for any purpose, however urgent, without the consent of British officials. Even the new "reforms" proposed by Lord Morley will effect no essential change. Lord Morley himself declares: "If it could be said that this chapter of reforms led directly or necessarily up to a parliamentary system for India, I, for one, would have nothing to do with it." Even freedom of speech and of assembly are permitted only under the severest limitations and the most galling espionage, and freedom of the press has been taken away. Fully one hundred editors are serving terms of from three to ten years in prison, many of them without trial, in not a few cases without even having been informed of the nature of their offense. The crime almost invariably charged is "sedition." In India the mere discussion of reforms is punished by open or secret imprisonment. There is no Indian home that is not liable at any hour of the day or night to be forcibly entered and searched at the instigation of spying police. There is no Indian gentleman, however high his standing or unimpeachable his character, who may not at any moment be arrested and hurried away to an unknown prison. Nine such arrests and incarcerations took place recently in a single week. Even distinguished Englishmen visiting India have their mail tampered with and are shadowed by the police if they are so much as suspected of any sympathy with the Indian people. All telegraphic and other news from India is closely censored in the English interest. What is learned by the world is for the most part only the English view. But one in Mr. Roosevelt's position should have adequately informed himself before undertaking to speak on a subject affecting the interests of some three hundred millions of people. Adequate information is available. The English Labor party is taking up the wrongs of India, determined that they shall no longer be ignored. Distinguished and able Englishmen, many of them members of Parliament who have also had long service in India, are, in increasing numbers, espousing the cause of India, resolved that the truth shall be known.

Sir Henry Cotton, M. P., is quoted: "Indian administration as carried on to-day is a system of pure absolutism from the Viceroy downwards, as autocratic as that of the Czar of Russia." The idea that the Indian people have any real share in the government of their own country, he pronounces "absolutely illusory." The letter insists that to assert, as President Roosevelt did, that In-

dia is incapable of governing herself, is to fly in the face of history:

India governed herself for thousands of years. In the history of India, we find empires as illustrious and well ordered as any in Europe. The same objections were made by the supporters of Lord North's government regarding the American colonies—that "if left to their own direction they would speedily fall into mutual strife, anarchy and ruin." In like manner when Japan began her modern career it was generally predicted that she could not carry on a government under modern conditions. At the time England first entered India, three hundred years ago, the old Mogul Empire was breaking up, new political and military adjustments were forming and the country was in a state of unusual turmoil, which gave the English their opportunity. But this was a temporary condition, and would have passed as similar periods in other countries have passed. For two thousand years India has been far more peaceful than Europe. There is no record of Indian wars worse than the Thirty Years War in Germany, and none that compare at all in loss of life with the wars of Napoleon; neither does Indian history show anything that in anarchy and violence equals the reign of terror in France." As to disturbances between Hindus and Mohammedans, these have lived side by side without conflict for hundreds of years at a time, under both Hindu and Mohammedan rulers, and there has at no time been any greater hostility between them than between Roman Catholics and Protestants in Europe.

The letter goes on to flatly contradict President Roosevelt's claim that England does not draw a penny from India for English purposes:

Englishmen in India often speak of themselves as birds of passage. Edmund Burke called them "birds of passage and of prey." Avenues through which tribute is drained are (1) rich pensions received by retired English officials; (2) salaries of English officials in India, the highest paid in the world; (3) business profits sent to England by Englishmen in India—Englishmen who are charged with having deliberately destroyed Indian enterprises for the purpose of supplanting them; (4) large remittances to England by the Indian government for military stores, equipment and arms used in India "partly for purposes of defense against possible foes, but much more to hold the Indian people themselves surely in subjection;" (5) interest on English investments made in India "most of them not desired by India or for her benefit"—merely "forms of exploitation." The annual tribute thus paid by India to England is rated at from \$125,000,000 to \$150,000,000. According to her ability to pay India is taxed by her foreign rulers more than twice as heavily as England and more heavily than any country in the world. The tax on salt alone has reached 2,000 per cent of its cost price. The terrible famines in India are not caused by any lack of food, but by an abject poverty brought about by British rule.

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#### British "Suffragette" Movement.

Another march upon Parliament was made by "suffragettes" (p. 207) on the 24th. A procession