

about the same time, of a federation of the Central American republics.

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Cook's Claims to Have Reached the North Pole Rejected.

The records and observations submitted to the University of Copenhagen by Dr. Frederick A. Cook (p. 1044), to prove his claim to have reached the North Pole in April, 1908 (p. 872), were declared by the University on the 21st to fail to establish the claim. The Danes, who most kindly received Dr. Cook upon his return to civilization in a Danish ship sailing from Greenland to Denmark, feel deeply the deception apparently practiced upon them.

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Death of the King of the Belgians.

Leopold II of Belgium (p. 1211) died early in the morning of the 17th, at his residence pavilion at Laeken near Brussels, in the seventy-fifth year of his age. He had succeeded his father, Leopold I, on the throne of Belgium at the time of his father's death in 1865.

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In 1830 Belgium broke from the Netherlands with which it had been united since 1815, and created itself into the kingdom of Belgium. A National Congress elected Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, an uncle of Queen Victoria, King of the Belgians, June 4, 1831. According to the constitution of 1831 Belgium is a constitutional, representative and hereditary monarchy. The legislative power is vested in the king, the senate and the chamber of deputies. The order of succession is the direct male line. Having three daughters, but no sons of the royal house, Leopold will be succeeded by his nephew Albert, son of his brother Philippe, who died in 1905.

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The British Elections.

In response to Mr. Asquith's declaration regarding home rule for Ireland in Irish affairs (p. 1208), the central committee of the Irish Nationalist party, at a meeting in Dublin on the 14th, decided to support the Liberal party in the present contest with the House of Lords. John Redmond, the Parliamentary leader of the Irish party, moved the resolution, and it was adopted unanimously by the committee. On the following day, the 15th, the convention of the Irish party at Dublin, John Redmond presiding, unanimously adopted it. At a large meeting at the Mansion House in the evening, Mr. Redmond explained that the Prime Minister was asking the British people for a mandate to deal with Irish self-government in the next Parliament, and therefore the Irish leaders advised their people in Great Britain to vote the Liberal ticket. If home rule did come, he assured the British people, in the name of Ireland, that it

would be received and worked in the same spirit as the concession of freedom to the Transvaal was worked. Their opponents, he said, were no longer millions of the British population but a few hundred gentlemen in the House of Lords. An election manifesto along the lines of Redmond's speech was issued by the United Irish League of Great Britain on the 16th.

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Liberal meetings continue to be interrupted by physical force suffragettes, and personal assaults upon ministers are repeated. The first lord of the admiralty, McKenna, was attacked as he returned from a Liberal party meeting on the 18th, and though he has expressed his belief in woman suffrage, one of the crowd of suffragettes who surrounded him on a railway station platform is reported to have struck him repeatedly over the head and face with a stout india rubber tube, part of the apparatus employed in prison hospitals for forcibly feeding prisoners who refuse to take food and applied to suffragette prisoners. Mr. McKenna received several smart blows that left their mark on his face. On the other hand, Unionist (Chamberlain) meetings are broken up by hostile interruptions by men. At Boms Grove on the 16th, where Austin Chamberlain, ex-chancellor of the exchequer, was addressing his own constituents, he was silenced with constant and noisy interruptions. For twenty minutes he vainly essayed to resume, and then was obliged to desist. Similar heckling, jeering and disorder are reported to be the common experience of Unionist Peers who venture to address meetings.

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In an address to the voters of Birmingham Joseph Chamberlain, who is contesting the constituency for a seat in the Commons, raises the election cry of "Abolition of Cobdenism, not of the House of Lords."

NEWS NOTES

—W. A. Harris, United States Senator from Kansas from 1897 to 1903, died in Chicago on the 20th at the age of 68.

—Edhem Pasha, commander of the Turkish forces in the Graeco-Turkish war of 1897, died at Cairo, Egypt, on the 17th.

—Chang Yin Tang, successor to Wu Tingfang as Chinese minister to the United States (p. 804), arrived in Washington from China, by way of San Francisco, on the 16th.

—Under Presbyterian auspices there was formed in Chicago on the 17th an organization designed to help put "down-and-out" men on their feet, giving them temporary lodging and employment in an industrial institution and assisting them to regain their