

the nobility, plutocracy, stock jobbers and promoters generally line up against the land clauses is an object lesson."

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#### A Capitalists' War.

The Spanish war in Morocco, which has been so unpopular in Spain as to provoke revolution (pp. 730, 753, 780), is, as we have already reported (p. 730), a promoters' war. Mail advices enlarge upon this. The Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury of the 31st says:

The fighting that has taken place is in the Riff country behind Melilla. In this mountainous district there are iron and lead mines, and two companies, one wholly Spanish and the other French with a Spanish chairman, have secured concessions to work mines there, and have laid down a short railway and incurred other expenditure in pursuit of their enterprise. Unfortunately for them, their concessions have been obtained from a local tribesman named El Roghi, who does not appear to have had any authority to enter into such transactions. Who or what El Roghi is appears to be a mystery. One thing certain is that he has failed to protect the enterprising concessionaires against the indignant Moorish population, who resented their presence in the country, and four Spanish navvies were killed. A sort of war has followed. It is not a war between Spain and Morocco, for the Sultan of Morocco himself is hostile to El Roghi. The Spanish expedition aims simply at protecting the rights of the two companies that have been pushing their way into the mineral district. There are not, so far as present information goes, any national interests to be vindicated by Spain, but only those of two commercial undertakings, one of which is not Spanish, but French. Thus far the fighting has evidently gone very seriously against the Spanish forces. The killed and wounded are numbered by thousands, and the heavy loss of officers suggests that the troops have not had much heart in the fighting. Many of the killed are from Barcelona, and the whole city is in revolt against the "war," as well it may be. When Lord Rosebery prophesied that the democracy might in future play an important part in restraining nations from entering into wars, he did so in the belief that the enormous cost of armaments would bring about a revolt against militarism in general. But here we have a democracy in revolt against the Spanish government, not because of financial cost, but because lives are being sacrificed in hostilities for which there is no national or justifiable call.

With the weakening of his influence through belief that he had sold the Riff region to the Spaniards, El Roghi was reported on the 17th to have suffered defeat at the hands of the Sultan of Morocco, against whom he was in revolt; and on the 18th he was reported to have been captured. According to the courier who brought the news to Tangier the Sultan had announced that he himself would complete the chastisement the Riffians were inflicting on the Spanish. Dispatches from Madrid indicate that the fighting in Morocco continues to be severe. The bitter complaints at the time of the

outbreaks at Barcelona and Madrid, that the rich could escape conscription by the payment of \$300 (p. 753), are to be met by changes in the conscription law, according to the Prime Minister, Mr. Maura. In an interview he is quoted as saying: "We are changing the conscription law so that it cannot in future be said the rich escape responsibility of serving their country in the field. A duke or marquis in the future will take his place in the ranks alongside a workman. The only privilege he will be allowed is to live outside the barracks."

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Twenty-five of the revolutionary prisoners in the Montjuich fortress at Barcelona, were shot on the 12th. Revolutionary agitation continues in and near Barcelona. The gendarmes lost five men in a fierce fight with revolutionaries in a suburb of Barcelona on the 13th. In connection with the movement to stamp out revolutionary tendencies the Government has closed ninety-four lay schools and teaching centers.

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#### The Powers Coerce Crete.

Great Britain, Russia, France and Italy, the guarantors of Turkish suzerainty over Crete (p. 801), have sent two warships each to overawe the little island which has been seeking a transference of allegiance to Greece. The warships anchored in the harbor of Canea on the 17th. Marines were landed on the 18th, and the Greek flag which had been raised three weeks previously over the fort of Canea, was shot down. On the 19th the inhabitants of Canea, under arms, again raised the Greek flag, in the presence of a squad of militia who were powerless to prevent it. But later the government hauled the flag down. The Powers demand that a written guarantee be given that the Greek flag will not be again hoisted after the departure of the international squadron.

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#### China's Advance Toward Constitutionalism.

It may be remembered that three years ago rumors of approaching constitutionalism came from China (vol. ix, p. 511), followed by announcements of Imperial edicts looking to the establishment of a constitutional form of government in a period set at ten years (vol. ix, pp. 537, 777, 1066; vol. x, p. 537; vol. xi, pp. 540, 708). Advance seems to have outstripped the ten years' program, for a dispatch from Peking under date of the 23rd states that the government has given orders that it be supplied with estimates for the construction of an Imperial assembly hall, to occupy the site of the ancient hall of examinations. The rules to govern the first National Assembly of China also are being drafted.