

receive proper individual attention or are crowded out altogether. Any waste in the present expenditure must be checked, but an equally imperative need lies in the immediate erection of new buildings and in the thorough overhauling of the old ones in which sanitation is deficient. The next reform must be in changing the plan of having Trustees for every ward, whether or not there is need for them. For instance, in the Third Ward there is not a single public school; in the Twelfth there are twenty. The Board of Education is made up of the twenty-one School Commissioners. Furthermore, the Mayor appoints an inspector for each of the eight school districts. These inspectors have no real "reason-of-being," and it is recommended in the bill that they be removed. The power of the Trustees is cut in two, while that of the Board of Education is extended. The present office of City Superintendent is retained, but provision is made for the appointment of a District Superintendent for every section comprising over one hundred thousand inhabitants. These Superintendents would constitute the Board of License for teachers. In short, the proposed law would stop redundancy and concentrate responsibility. It is shameful that the school management of our commercial capital should be outdistanced both in simplicity and excellence by that of every other great city in the Union.

Rome was startled last Saturday by an attempt to assassinate the Premier on his way from his residence to the Chamber of Deputies. As he drew near the Chamber a man rapidly approached his carriage and fired at him twice with a revolver, both shots missing their mark, but one of the bullets embedding itself in the side of the carriage. Signor Crispi maintained the almost stoical composure which is characteristic of him, but when the announcement of his danger and his escape was made in the Chamber there was an outbreak of the wildest delight, all parties joining in congratulating the Premier—congratulations which were echoed by telegrams from all parts of Europe. It was indeed a narrow escape, not only for the head of the Italian Ministry, but for Italy itself; for, whatever may be the Premier's defects, he is at this moment the only man who commands the confidence of the country and of the King, and his disappearance at this critical time might involve the most serious consequences for a country which might easily slip into revolution or civil war. The attempted assassination, coming close on the late Ministerial crisis, has, of course, added materially to the strength of the Cabinet. The crisis was brought about by the attempt on the part of the Chamber to get rid of Signor Sonnino, the Minister of Finance; not because he was personally objectionable, but because of his policy, which involved very radical retrenchments and economies. Signor Crispi attempted to go out with his Minister, but the King refused to accept his resignation, and the crisis ends by the retention of Signor Sonnino in the Ministry, with a simple change of name; for he now becomes the Minister of the Treasury instead of the Minister of Finance. So far as his policy is concerned, it is reported that it remains unchanged except in the abandonment of the extra land tax. Italy just now needs a strong government, because her salvation lies in rigid retrenchment and stern economy. Whether Signor Crispi can maintain the Triple Alliance and enforce retrenchment at the same time remains to be seen.

Muley Hassan, the Sultan of Morocco, whose death was reported in these columns last week, is described as an imposing Oriental, of handsome appearance and great

dignity of bearing, who loved to surround himself with impressive court ceremonials, and who lived in a kind of barbaric splendor, with an authority which was absolute in theory but very sharply restricted in practice. He had many troubles with foreign powers, and more than once had been compelled to recede from his positions and to offer apologies. The last of these occasions was after an attack of the Riff tribes upon the Spanish forces last October; and it is said that the mortification caused by the necessity of humbling himself before Spain had much to do with the bringing on of the disease which produced his death; for the report of his assassination is discredited. When he was ill several years ago, a group of anxious mourners appeared on the coast in the shape of the war-ships of the Great Powers. Now that he is actually dead, these mourners have promptly reappeared; and, to make the situation more complicated, dissensions have already broken out in the family of the late Sultan. As usual in Oriental countries, the source of these dissensions lies in the fact that the Sultan had not one but many families, and the jealousy of the different wives and the different sons promises to produce another of those series of intrigues and outbreaks which are constantly happening in Oriental countries. In such countries the ruler often names his successor. In this case the late Sultan passed over his first-born, the eldest son of his first wife, and selected a younger son, Abdul Aziz, a boy of sixteen, and the child of the Sultan's favorite wife, as his successor.

Under the most favorable circumstances Morocco is a difficult country to govern, made up as it is of several semi-independent provinces populated by a number of races bound together by the loosest of ties. The chief capital of the country is Fez, but the other leading cities—Tangier, Wazan, and Mequinez—are of sufficient importance to be its rivals and to have a jealous regard for their own position. The leading elements among the population are the Arabs, the Berbers, and the Moors, while behind them are to be found several groups of lesser tribes—all jealous of their race and slow to submit to the processes of orderly government. The young prince, Abdul Aziz, has an army of about fifteen thousand men, and may succeed in establishing himself upon the throne without serious opposition from his older brother. If civil war breaks out, foreign intervention will find a pretext for which it has been waiting, and the world may be treated to a new dispute between several of the Great Powers. Morocco is, for several reasons, a valuable province, and Spain, France, and Italy greatly covet its possession, while England is not indifferent. Spain already controls the stretch of country beyond Morocco to Cape Blanco; at the east of Morocco France has her hand on Algeria and the western end of the great Sahara region; while England, owning territory in all parts of Africa, is quite ready to add to her possessions. Altogether the situation is a complicated one, and adds one more to the irritating disputes about territory which are now testing the diplomatic skill and good nature of the Great Powers.

The Constitution promulgated in Hawaii is modeled, as respects names, after our own. The chief executive is called the President, but his powers are exceptional in that he not only appoints the judiciary, but appoints all officials except the members of Congress. Two of the Houses of Congress are named, as in America, Senate and House of Representatives. There is a third House, called the Advisory Council, whose members are elected by the members of the other two, or appointed by the

President. For membership in these legislative bodies there is a property qualification. A Senator must have property worth \$5,000 above all encumbrances, and a net income of \$1,800 a year. These qualifications for officials, however, are not nearly so important as those for voters. Not only must every voter be able to read and write the English or Hawaiian language, but no one can vote for a member of the House of Representatives unless he has at least \$200 worth of property, and no one can vote for a Senator unless he has \$4,000 of property, or an income of \$600. In a country where nearly half of the 90,000 people are native Hawaiians and half-castes, and more than half of the remainder are Chinese and Japanese, while most of the Caucasians even are Portuguese, such qualifications limit the electorate to a small fraction of the people. Such limitations of the suffrage are to be justified only by the unfitness of the people for a republican form of government. This is an entirely rational ground for excluding the mass of the people from a share in their government, though it is perhaps not a consistent ground for the Provisional Government to assume. The Constitution guarantees the freedom of the press, except that it prohibits, as treasonable, all articles favoring the restoration of the monarchy.

When the late Baron Coleridge, Lord Chief Justice of England, who died on Thursday of last week, was in this country ten years ago, he made many friends by reason of his very agreeable manners and his very interesting and rather picturesque character. The son of Sir John Taylor Coleridge, a distinguished lawyer and a nephew of the poet, the late Baron Coleridge was born in Devonshire in 1821, educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford, graduating in 1846, and was called to the bar in the same year. From 1855 to 1866 Baron Coleridge was Recorder of Plymouth, an employment which was an admirable preparation for his later duties on the bench. He became Queen's Counsel in 1861, and four years later entered Parliament as a Liberal, and, on the formation of the Gladstone Ministry in 1868, was chosen Solicitor-General and knighted. His great popular reputation dates from his management of the famous Tichborne case in 1871. Two years later he was made Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and in 1880 he was appointed Chief Justice of England. He was not a great judge, although eminently respectable in that position. His talent was, however, forensic rather than judicial. He was easy, fluent, adroit, and graceful. His manners were those of a man of the world, and his courtesy to opponents, no less than to friends, was a marked characteristic. Baron Coleridge was fond of the society of artists, authors, and actors, and had long been a conspicuous figure in London.

It might almost be said, in mathematical formula, that with calamities the horror felt decreases inversely with the square of the distance. Thus, when a score or so of people are destroyed near by, we feel vastly more distressed than when we read of the destruction of thousands upon thousands in the far East. It may be for this reason that the press of this country has given so little attention to the terrible reports of suffering in China the last few months. The plague, or pestilence, which has been raging for some time in the interior of China, last month reached Canton and Hong Kong, and the number of deaths has constantly increased from that time on. It is reported that up to the end of the first week in June at least sixty thousand people died in Canton alone, and from Hong Kong a newspaper correspondent writes that there is hardly

a house that has not some one dead person, while the fact that over two thousand coffins have been given away indicates only in part the extent of the infection. This hideous pestilence which is now devastating China is described by medical men as being almost precisely like the great London plague of 1665. It is frightfully rapid in its course, and the percentage of those attacked who die is extremely large, being said by some authorities to be as great as eighty per cent. A correspondent of the New York "Herald" reports, but does not vouch for, the theory that the fondness of the Chinese for rats as an article of food is accountable for its spread in the cities, and asserts that it is at least true that the first sign of the plague was the appearance of thousands of rats, swollen and dying, crawling up from the sewers and out of the houses of the city. Of course, in the last analysis, the cause of the plague, like that of almost all death-dealing epidemics, is to be found in recklessness and ignorance about sanitary matters. Hong Kong in particular is packed with the utmost density with human beings, and the ways of living of the lower classes are filthy in the extreme. The same holds true in only a little less revolting degree with Canton. It is hardly probable that this pestilence will spread extensively from its center; at least the history of similar plagues seems to indicate that it is likely to be confined to an area of moderate extent.

We are indebted to the "Review of Reviews" for the first succinct statement we have seen of the recommendations of the British Labor Commission. The reforms indorsed by the entire Commission are as follows:

1. Voluntary Board of Conciliation and Arbitration.
2. A stronger Labor Departmental Board of Trade.
3. An inquiry into the State as employer.
4. No overtime for minors in dressmakers' and other trades.
5. Laundries to come under Factory Acts (56½ hours a week).
6. Legalization of peaceful picketing.
7. Certificates of fitness to be required from owners of all workshops, bakehouses, etc.
8. Sailors' wives to draw half their husbands' pay fortnightly.
9. Advances of money by the State to build laborers' cottages.

The additional reforms urged by three workingmen on the Commission are, briefly, the adoption of the eight-hour day, experimental relief for the unemployed, and old-age pensions. The report agreed upon by the entire Commission is, of course, of the greater immediate importance. That its recommendations should be moderate was a foregone conclusion. A Royal Commission, appointed by a Conservative Government, is not likely to be converted to radicalism by even three years' sittings. We must rather be surprised that its unanimous recommendations went as far as they did. Should even a minority of an American Commission recommend "advances of money by the State to build laborers' cottages," our metropolitan press would ring with the outcry of "Populism" and "Socialism." It is only when made to railroad and canal corporations that such loans are commended by American conservatives.

GENERAL NEWS.—The Hon. William Walter Phelps died at his home in Englewood, N. J., on Sunday morning, at the age of fifty-five. Mr. Phelps served in Congress as a Republican in 1872-4, and again from 1882 to 1888; he was United States Minister to Austria in 1881, and United States Minister to Germany from 1889 to 1893, and in 1889 was a Commissioner at the Berlin Conference on Samoa; he filled with the highest credit these and other political and diplomatic offices. He was a graduate of Yale, a Fellow of its Corporation, and Vice-President of its Alumni Association. Mr. Phelps was a man of high culture