

Cabinets, and finally as President from 1887 on, he has invariably opposed extravagance, opposed sensationalism, opposed factionalism, opposed personal and political dishonesty. Year by year it became more evident that he was a man to trust. If he did not have the fiery genius of a Gambetta or the subtle diplomacy of a Thiers, he had a calm, strong steadfastness of his own which rallied around him the cool and sane thinkers who believed in the Republic and saw beyond the petty political squabbles of a day into the needs and possibilities of the future. The attempt to connect him with the Panama scandal was a wretched failure; beginning with the boldest charges of personal corruption, it ended in a feeble complaint that he had not dealt severely enough with the guilty. No public man in France in our time goes to the verdict of posterity with a cleaner personal record than Carnot. He stood, moreover, for truly national principles—for unity, stability, and peace. The French Republic owes more to this her fourth President than she is as yet ready to acknowledge. History, as it clarifies the course of really important events from the trifling and specious incidents of the day, will constantly accord him a higher place among those who have directed and strengthened the life of the nation.



The special Conference called by the National Liberal Federation to express the sentiment of the Liberal party with regard to the House of Lords met at Leeds on Wednesday of last week, Albert Hall in that city being crowded by about two thousand delegates and spectators. In his opening speech as Chairman, Mr. Spence Watson declared that the attitude of the House of Lords was unbearable; that the question must now be taken up and fought out to the end; that dangerous schemes ought not to be taken up, but that clear, practical, and united action ought to be agreed upon by the Conference. After considerable discussion, three resolutions were adopted by the Conference, declaring in substance: that the power now exercised by the House of Lords to mutilate and reject measures passed upon by the House of Commons has been systematically used to defeat reforms, and is inconsistent with free popular government; that the Liberal Ministry be called upon to introduce a measure for the abolition of the veto power now held by the House of Lords, by providing that whenever a bill passed by the Commons shall be altered or rejected by the Lords, the same bill may be reaffirmed by the Commons, with or without such alteration, and, subject only to the Royal assent, become thereupon a law; and that the meeting assured the Government the resolute support of the party in any steps that may be deemed necessary to enforce the passage of this great constitutional reform. Mr. Labouchere attempted to secure a resolution declaring that the House of Lords is a useless and dangerous body and ought to be abolished. This resolution, which was put in the form of a substitute for Mr. Watson's resolution, was rejected by a large majority. The sentiment of the meeting has the greater weight because of its moderation, and although it is impossible at this moment to form any just estimate of the immediate importance of the Conference and its declarations, it is certainly notice to the House of Lords that the day of its power to veto popular legislation is fast drawing to a close. The present agitation may not bear definite fruit, but it is a significant and decisive step when it is carried so far as to receive the recognition of a great party and to be embodied in a group of resolutions at once so moderate and so outspoken.



The Hungarian Premier, Dr. Wekerle, has scored a

great victory. On Thursday of last week the Civil Marriage Bill passed the House of Magnates by a majority of four, a result due to the direct interference of the Emperor. Readers of *The Outlook* will remember that the Civil Marriage Bill passed the Hungarian Lower House the first time by a majority of 173, was rejected by the Magnates by a majority of 21, and repassed the House of Representatives by a majority of 166. When the bill came a second time before the House of Magnates, Dr. Wekerle, the Premier, insisted upon the creation of enough new Magnates by the Emperor to insure the passage of the bill through that body. On the Emperor's refusal he resigned, the last day in May. The Emperor then endeavored to form another Cabinet, under the leadership of the Ban of Croatia, who stipulated, however, that Dr. Wekerle's entire programme should be carried out. The Emperor then called Dr. Wekerle in, but insisted peremptorily on the exclusion from the Cabinet of the Minister of Justice, Szilagyi, who had been one of the foremost leaders in the agitation for the Civil Marriage Bill. Dr. Wekerle insisted, however, upon the retention of Szilagyi, and upon the adoption by the Upper House of the bill. Francis Joseph refused to create new Magnates, but the end seems to have been secured by the abstaining from voting in the Upper House of a considerable number of the opponents of the bill, which probably means that the Emperor used his personal influence with a number of members. From every point of view Dr. Wekerle has scored a great victory, for he has not only secured the reform which the Hungarian people have at heart, but has retained a Minister who was obnoxious to the Emperor, and has compelled the House of Magnates to pass a measure against which a majority of them were bitterly opposed. In Hungary as elsewhere, under almost every form of government the people rule.



There appears to be good reason for believing that a widespread Nihilist conspiracy has recently been unearthed in Russia—a conspiracy which had many centers, and which assumed the proportions of a revolutionary movement. Naturally, the police suppress the details, and the dimensions of the conspiracy are gathered only from such information as has become current in the European press. The failure of such a movement will tend to confirm the Czar in his autocratic tendencies. Taken in connection with the recent Imperial ukase, which subordinated all official appointments to a committee of inspection directly under the hand of the Czar, it looks as if Russia might expect a more stringent rule in the near future instead of a more liberalizing one.—From Servia come reports of wholesale arrests of Radicals concerned in the recent plot against the reigning family. It is suspected, however, that the plot is mainly a pretext for getting out of the way some of the leading opponents to the new policy which the King has adopted. The immediate outbreak which was feared has not occurred, but it is not likely that M. Stambuloff will rest quietly in the obscurity to which the young King has consigned him.—The sentences of the leaders of the recent outbreak in Sicily show the determination of the Government to deal with social disorders with a strong hand. The leader of that outbreak, Signor de Felice, has been condemned by the court martial to eighteen years of solitary confinement. The evidence upon which he was convicted is reported to have been of the most questionable character. Meanwhile there is talk of putting him forward as a candidate at the coming municipal elections. This will afford the people an oppor-

tunity of expressing their opinion on the action of the Government and the sentence of the Court.

In the recent Korean revolt the rebels were actuated by hatred of foreigners and of their growing commerce. These narrow nationalists, dwelling mostly in the eastern mountains, are thoroughly Chinese in their obstinate isolation, although the natives in general represent a cross between the Japanese and the Mongolo-Tartars. Hence the lives of all foreigners were in danger. Our own war-ship, the *Baltimore*, was ordered from Nagasaki to Chemulpo, the port of Seoul, the Korean capital. The landing of a large force of Japanese soldiers to protect the Japanese residents in Korea has apparently been the real cause of the collapse of the rebellion, but it has also greatly strained the relations between China and Japan. For many years the rulers of the Flowery Kingdom have looked with undisguised jealousy upon any foreign influence in Korea, as likely to detach that country from its slight vassalage. The right to send troops to Korea has often been exercised by both China and Japan; but when the troops of both countries meet on that coveted ground, it is difficult to avoid hostilities. The troops of both countries are now on Korean soil, and a conflict of words has already begun. China has demanded that the Japanese forces be at once withdrawn, now that the rebellion is throttled. Japan declines, recognizing the right of Korea only to make such a request. No less significant acknowledgments of independence are to be found in both the address and reply at President Cleveland's reception of the Korean Minister last week Friday. Nevertheless, our own treaty, dating from 1882 (sixteen years after Japan had gained permanent commercial footing in Korea), practically recognizes an independent sovereignty. The Northern Bear, however, has long hoped to gain more than a commercial footing, and would gladly find in the harbor of Port Lazaref a far finer Pacific terminus for the trans-Siberian railway than can possibly be had at Vladivostok. To this end Russian intrigue quietly avails itself of Chinese harassment, Korean rebellions, or Japanese ambition. China has even offered to abandon her claim to the Pamir territory if Russia will but let Korea alone. It is hardly likely, however, that this tempting Pamir bait will long keep Russia from her cherished plan of establishing a naval station in Korea. All the world would justly regard this as the *avant-garde* of a protectorate.

The Anti-Option Bill which passed the House of Representatives last week is a compromise measure. The Washburn-Hatch bill of last year, it will be remembered, made a sharp distinction between legitimate and illegitimate dealings in futures. Where the seller either owned or had acquired the right to own the article sold, no tax whatever was placed upon his disposal of it. But where the seller neither owned nor had acquired the right to own the article sold, a prohibitive tax was placed upon his sales of imaginary produce. Inasmuch as the buying and selling of unowned produce is not only the cause of all corners, but the means by which nearly all of the gambling in produce is carried on, The Outlook warmly advocated this bill. It was killed, it will be remembered, because a trivial amendment, accepted by its friends in the Senate, required the reconurrence of the House at the very end of the session, when Mr. Hatch was unable to secure consideration for the bill except under conditions requiring a two-thirds majority for its passage. The election was then over, and enough Representatives turned against it to defeat it. Had

it passed, it would certainly have received President Harrison's signature. With the accession of President Cleveland the modification of the bill seemed necessary in order to prevent a veto. The Democratic platform declared that the only legitimate purpose of taxes was the raising of revenue, and the tax proposed in the Washburn-Hatch bill—like the Federal tax on State bank notes—had no other object than the prohibition of the transactions nominally taxed. Mr. Hatch therefore modified the measure so as to make the tax imposed yield revenue. A license fee of \$12 was imposed upon dealers in options; a trivial tax of about five cents per \$1,000 was imposed upon all sales for future delivery, while a further tax of about \$5 per \$100 was imposed in case no delivery followed the sale. By the purchase of warehouse certificates, a speculator who has sold unowned produce may effect a delivery and escape the substantial tax last named. These modifications in large measure placated the interests which fought so bitterly last year's measure, and the majority of 150 to 87, by which the bill passed the House, may promise its ultimate enactment. Nevertheless, the fact that the bill merely levies a trivial tax upon the great mass of purely gambling transactions has rendered lukewarm most of its supporters. We are glad to note that before its passage the bill was amended so as to exempt altogether from taxation sales for future delivery when made by the owners of the products or their agents. This distinction between useful and harmful sales for future delivery ought in every event to be preserved.

The Senate proceeded rapidly last week with the disposition of the free list. Senator Allen, of Nebraska, moved to strike "paintings and statuary" from this list, on the ground that costly art should not be made free while cheap art (lithographs, etc.) was taxed 25 per cent. About one-third of the Senate—chiefly Republicans and Populists—supported the motion, but the remaining two-thirds decided not to offset one wrong by another. Quicksilver was placed on the dutiable list at 7 per cent. (instead of 10 as now), and "sawed boards, planks, deals, and other lumber, rough or dressed," were added to the free list. A motion was made that a duty on salt be restored, and it was defended on the ground that salt was, despite the duty, "cheaper than sand." The motion was defeated, however, and salt remains free.

The disposal of the free list brought the income tax before the Senate. The committee in charge proposed the amendments, so widely demanded, exempting from this tax building and loan associations, savings banks not conducted for the profit of stockholders, and mutual insurance companies. At a later session the committee further proposed to exempt from the tax on corporations the sums paid in interest to bondholders, and also to reduce the limit of individual exemption from \$4,000 to \$3,000. This last change gave much satisfaction to Senator Hill, of New York, who had attacked the House bill as a class measure leveled at the very rich. Senator Sherman also expressed his approval of the change, taking the rational ground that "the line of demarcation should be at the point of income enough to cover the natural living expenses of families in the ordinary condition of society." The proposed change in the assessment of corporations ought to be defeated, as it would tax railroads built by the stockholders far more heavily than those built by the issue of bonds. A just income tax should burden alike the net incomes of corporations, whether these incomes are paid to the owners in the form of interest or in the form of divi-