

place since 1873, Senator Sherman declared that this was due to the increase in the supply of silver. The fact that coined silver dollars remain at par with gold Senator Sherman attributed to their limited supply. Under free coinage, he declared, the supply of silver dollars would be unlimited. Silver dollars would soon fill the channels of circulation, and the gold dollar would be hoarded or sold at a premium of about ninety per cent. The sufferers from these changes, said Senator Sherman, would be the creditors (including savings-bank depositors and pensioners) and the laborers. The laborers, he said, would be the greatest sufferers. Only by means of a long and costly fight could the laborers compel their employers to pay them as large a share of the product of industry as now. Senator Sherman closed by appealing to his audience to preserve the credit of the country and maintain our present silver and gold at par with each other "until a conference among the nations can prescribe common standards of value."

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The National Executive Committee of the National (or gold) Democratic party has issued an address "to the Democrats of the United States." It begins with a eulogy of the historic past of the one party that has survived since the establishment of our Government. This party, it says, has always stood for the principle of individual liberty as against "paternal" interference on the part of the Government. This historic principle has been repudiated by the recent National Convention in Chicago, and those who believe in this principle are forced to repudiate the action of this Convention. The platform adopted at Chicago is arraigned because it suggests interference with the independence of the judiciary, because it condemns the present civil service laws, but especially because it proposes "to degrade the coin of the United States by means of free, unlimited, and independent coinage of silver by our Government, and by the exercise of the power of the Nation to compel the acceptance of depreciated coins at their nominal value, thereby working an injustice to creditors, defrauding the laborer of a large part of his earnings and savings, robbing pension soldiers of their pensions, contracting the currency by the expulsion of gold coin from circulation, injuring if not destroying domestic trade and foreign commerce." The address declares that the policy proposed would not restore bimetallism, but would establish silver monometallism. It declares that the relative fall in the value of silver since 1873 was not due to legislation, but to better machinery and increased production. It declares that to adopt the free-coinage policy was to invite a panic, and it calls upon all Democrats who hold to the ancient faith of the party to stand steadfast in its defense. The address is signed by ex-Congressman Bynum, of Indiana, ex-Congressman Tracey, of New York, ex-Mayor Hopkins, of Chicago, and several others.

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In Connecticut the silver members of the Democratic State Central Committee have begun an aggressive fight to control the State Convention four weeks hence. The majority of the State Committee indorsed the action of the Connecticut delegation to Chicago, who refused to take part in the proceedings of the Convention after the adoption of the free-silver platform. The minority has issued a public protest urging that the State Convention shall reconstruct the Central Committee and place it in charge of men loyal to the Chicago ticket and platform. In Pennsylvania, where another Democratic State Convention

is likewise to be held, the gold Democrats holding official positions have generally resigned their places. Among those who have resigned are Chairman Wright, of the State Central Committee, and Mr. Singerly (the proprietor of the Philadelphia "Record"), one of the Presidential electors. In the Democratic primaries in Delaware the silver men seem to have been victorious. In one or two places it is reported that the silver delegates elected to the State Convention are single-taxers. In Illinois the Democrats and Populists seem to have arranged for fusion upon the electoral ticket, the State ticket, and also upon candidates for Congress and the Legislature in most of the districts. In North Carolina the Populist State Convention followed the leadership of Senator Butler in every detail, and nominated Republicans for one or two important State offices. In Georgia the Populist campaign has developed unexpected strength. One Democratic daily paper, the Atlanta "Commercial," has come out in the support of Mr. Watson instead of Mr. Sewall. By fusing with the Prohibitionists the People's party seems to have gained an accession of strength altogether out of proportion to the Prohibition party vote. The State election takes place in October, and the one issue, according to a correspondent of the New York "Sun," is the licensing of bar-rooms or their suppression. The entire Populist party, says this correspondent, is for prohibition, and so are nearly all the members of the Methodist and Baptist Churches. In Republican politics the most interesting of current events is the fight in this State between the supporters of Warner Miller and the supporters of Mr. Platt. Apparently the latter will have an overwhelming majority in the approaching State Convention. Mr. Miller, it will be remembered, was the leader of the McKinley delegates at Chicago, and his followers are aggrieved by the apparent recognition of Mr. Platt by the National Committee. Whatever the result of this conflict upon the State ticket, the party will give united support to the National ticket.

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Parliament was prorogued until October 31 by the Queen on Friday of last week. The Queen's speech referred to the Soudan expedition and the victory at Firket; to the anxiety caused the nations by the state of Crete and to England's attempt to suggest a system of government just to Christians and Mohammedans; to the serious rebellion in Matabeleland; and to other international affairs. Much more interest than was caused by the Queen's formal speech was aroused by Mr. Balfour's announcement, in reply to a question by Sir William Harcourt, that the latest proposal from Mr. Olney as to the Venezuelan question was believed by the English Foreign Office to open the way to an equitable settlement, and that early and satisfactory results were hoped for. It is stated at Washington that Mr. Olney's proposals referred to by Mr. Balfour maintain the position that all the facts of the boundary controversy should be placed before the proposed Arbitration Commission, not excepting those about the occupation by British subjects of disputed territory. It is also urged that Lord Salisbury's proposal of a Commission of four members should be amended by adding one or more members to prevent the possibility of an inconclusive report. If these conditions are accepted, Mr. Olney will truly have won a great diplomatic victory, and the two countries may really hope for a decisive and just end to this boundary dispute, which has been magnified to undeserved importance by circumstance. The last act of Parliament in the way of legislation was the final passage of the Irish Land Bill in a maimed and unsatisfactory form;

the House of Lords, however, agreed to the removal of some of the worst restrictions it had put upon the bill.



Discussion in England concerning the failure to pass the Education Bill has glanced from Mr. Balfour and his alleged deficiencies to causes more potent and persistent than the influence of any individual. The Education Bill failed to pass, it now seems, not only by reason of the widespread opposition excited by it, but because of the growing incapacity of the House of Commons to overtake arrears of business. The well-worn metaphor of the weary Titan, whose burdens exceed even gigantic powers, has been painfully illustrated by the recent difficulties of British legislation. English writers on the subject—and of late they have become numerous and impatient—profess to believe that the Imperial Parliament, theoretically sovereign, is nearing legislative impotence. The House of Commons has been compared to a drag-net which takes in matters small and great alike. Items of a petty and local nature take up the time which should be devoted to measures of widest application. The bore and the poser are favored by rules of debate and forms of procedure originally drawn to protect freedom of speech, but now conducive to its abuse. An average citizen of the United States would smile at the incongruity of placing a bill for the incorporation of a gas company and a great educational measure on the same legislative programme; it would astonish him to see the relatively insignificant motions which crowd the Commons' order-paper, and referring to matters which ought to be attended to by a Municipal Council. Parliamentary business of late has not been obstructed by factional ill will, and the elimination of that factor leaves the real difficulty more salient than ever. The remedies proposed include more regular hours for the dispatch of business, an increase in the number of committees, and a further application of *clôture*. But these are only extensions of existing remedies, and do not touch the root of the evil. The more urgent this question becomes, the more clearly is it seen that the creation of subordinate legislatures with local powers is the best device for freeing the Imperial Parliament so as to give it an imperial scope. The illustrious House, whose deliberations must now measure up to the survey of a world-wide Empire, was founded by Simon de Montfort to meet the needs of a Kingdom relatively insignificant and thinly populated; and the constitutional framework of that House has remained essentially the same to this day. The necessity of a change on broad lines may not be welcome to conservative tradition, but it has an immovable basis in Anglo-Saxon common sense.



Perhaps a more important British Parliamentary Committee has never been appointed than that which will investigate the Jameson raid and the affairs of the South African Company. There are fifteen members, including the Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Sir William Harcourt, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Sir Richard Webster, and the Hon. Edward Blake, ex-leader of the Canadian Liberal party. The Committee's deliberations and their result will have a far-reaching influence upon the British possessions and policy in Africa. It is highly probable that the Company's charter will be annulled, and that Mr. Cecil Rhodes will be summoned to give an account of his connection with the raid. It is generally admitted that Mr. Rhodes knew of Jameson's plans, and that he must share the reproach of moral obliquity which attaches to the whole discreditable transaction. English opinions state that his name may be stricken from

the list of the Privy Council. It is expected that the inquiry will not only include an investigation into the Company's administration of Rhodesia, but will concern itself equally with the general conduct of British affairs in South Africa. It will be impossible to avoid the question of the present and future relations between the Transvaal and the British possessions. This is the chief difficulty. The proceedings and report of the Committee will be awaited with keen interest by the authorities of the Transvaal, and the utmost tact and wisdom will be necessary to formulate recommendations which will meet with their acceptance. President Kruger and his people believe in the autonomy of their country with all the fervor of religious conviction, and British plans for a United South Africa must make the largest allowance for this. The need of it will be all the more necessary should the recommendations of the Committee be shaped into legislation.



While nothing definite has been agreed upon as to the treatment by the Powers of the Cretan troubles, there is a growing sentiment in favor of the autonomy of Crete. Answers to questions put in the English House of Commons were made last week by Mr. Curzon and Mr. Balfour, who declared in unmistakable language that Great Britain would take no step toward upholding the Porte in its rule of Crete. It was affirmed also that Great Britain had no desire to annex Crete, and that no other nations favored that plan; that the British Government was trying to keep the balance between the parties to the struggle; that "the Turkish question was inextricably bound up in European politics. No Power could possibly rush in and try alone to settle it." Germany has been mollified by these statements, and now seems inclined to favor the plan of autonomy, which is warmly advocated in Greece. Meanwhile the Sultan, if late dispatches are to be believed, has positively declined to make any concessions to the Cretans, and has rejected the petitions of the Christian inhabitants of the island for political rights and personal safety. Reports of the sacking of villages and monasteries continue to be published. As was the case with Armenia, the only possibility of coercing the Porte to reasonable conduct lies in Russian action; and, as before, Russia is not inclined to act—at least openly and in concert with other Powers. In point of fact, Russia is much more closely interested in the Macedonian rebellion. Macedonia has long been regarded as a danger-spot in the Eastern question. The peculiar peril lies in the fact that if Macedonia be allowed to free itself from Turkish power, Greece and Bulgaria have conflicting claims to absorb it; while if Austria should be allowed to intervene, the eve of a general partition of Turkey would be recognized, as Russia would demand Constantinople as an offset to Austria's possession of Salonica. Russia moves slowly, and is not ready to precipitate a general disturbance among European nations; hence her eager interest in preventing the Macedonian crisis from becoming alarming. The whole situation is complicated, and may be rendered more so by the resignation last week of the Bulgarian Cabinet. The assigned reason was the failure of a treaty of commerce between Bulgaria and Austro-Hungary, which was opposed by the Russian influence and supported by the Ministers.



German conservatism, political and social, is reckoning with the woman question, which may fairly be said to have gained an experimental recognition in that country. While less advanced than in France, and far less so than in the United States and England, there are indications of an