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THE sensation caused by the conviction and sentence to death at Pretoria of the members of the Johannesburg Reform Committee (including the American mining engineer Hammond) had not subsided when an even greater sensation was caused by the publication of telegrams found among the effects of the captured invaders. The announcement that the death sentences would be commuted followed almost instantly after they were pronounced, and it was made clear that under the existing law in the Transvaal, and with the confessions of treason on the part of the accused before the court, no other course was open to it than to pronounce the sentences. The captured telegrams were partly in cipher, and were couched in veiled language in which the proposed invasion and revolution were spoken of as the "flotation" of a commercial company. The meaning, however, is generally unmistakable. The importance of the dispatches lies in their directly connecting the officers of the South African Company (generally referred to as the Chartered Company) with the invasion. So conservative a paper as the London "Times" says: "The gravely damaging telegrams must be taken to prove beyond the possibility of doubt that the revolutionary movement was not only approved but was assisted with the cognizance of Cecil Rhodes." Mr. Rhodes and his associates are still to be heard from. It is reported that the directors of the Company have asked Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Beit to resign. With the light now afforded, the true history of the Jameson raid appears to be that there was a genuine and honest movement inside the South African Republic for political reform under the guidance of the National Reform Union; that the Committee, whose members have just been tried, were willing to accept outside aid in enforcing their demands, but had no desire to overthrow the Republic or to convert it into British territory; that, on the other hand, the officers of the Company insisted that the invasion should be made under the British flag and with the half-veiled intent of annexation to the Company's territory; that the Reform Committee refused to accept this condition, and, too late, tried to have Jameson recalled after he had already started on their summons; that in this way the expected simultaneous rising in Johannesburg failed, and with the defeat of Jameson the whole movement collapsed.

No one can read the able presentation of the "Outlanders'" case made in The Outlook of April 4 by Mr. Charles Leonard, President of the Transvaal National Union and a member of the Reform Committee, without admitting that the foreign-born residents of the Transvaal have grave reasons for dissatisfaction with the political and financial restraints put upon them. They have every right to agitate for reform, and might even gain the world's sympathy if they should institute a revolution to obtain political justice. All this, however, is a very different thing from the armed invasion of a country by a body of men acting under the orders

and for the profit of a great commercial monopoly. Mr. Leonard and some of his friends saw this and endeavored to modify the course of events so as to insure the continued existence of the Republic. President Kruger's management of the whole affair has been as astute as his immediate meeting of the invasion was courageous. The Boers may be a century behind the world in many things, but they are neither cowardly nor politically weak. They have put before the world their firm intention to maintain the Republic's independence in internal matters (whatever may become of Great Britain's claim to oversight in their foreign affairs); they have mingled clemency and severity in the treatment of those who have taken arms against them; and they will now leave it to Great Britain to defend, disown, or punish the acts of the Company to which it has under charter confided such extraordinary powers in South Africa.

The Radical Republican Ministry of M. Bourgeois has been succeeded by a Conservative Republican Ministry under the leadership of M. Méline. The new Premier is chiefly identified with the theory of protection, and has sometimes been called the French McKinley on account of his advocacy of the protectionist policy while Minister of Commerce and Agriculture. His colleagues are Moderate Republicans, whose sympathies were rather with the Senate than with the Assembly in the recent turn of affairs, and who are, we believe, entirely free from all connection with the political scandals of the last few years. The new Ministry has started well. Its declaration of policy might well have been postponed until after May first, which, on account of its being Labor Day, is always a source of anxiety on the Continent. Instead, however, of taking this line of delay, M. Méline promptly organized his Ministry and as promptly stated his policy, which in certain respects is in direct antagonism to the policy of his predecessor, and, therefore, to the wishes of the Radical Republicans and the Socialists of all shades. The favorite measure of the Ministry which has just gone out of office was the income tax, and this measure, although already adopted in some of the most conservative countries in the world, was the pet measure of French Radicals of all shades. M. Méline boldly declares his antagonism to this measure and his intention to abandon it. This is a direct challenge to all his adversaries. He also declares, what every observer knows to be the truth, that France is suffering from too much political excitement and from the constant stirring up of parties, and that the constitutional development and growth of the national life are seriously impeded by the perpetual wrangle of factions. He urges, therefore, that Parliament should give up the constant discussion of theories and the constant struggle over personalities, and devote itself to practical legislation. Among these practical matters the new Premier is right in placing fiscal reforms as foremost. If he fulfills his promise of enforcing economy and simplifying administration, he will render France the one service which she needs above all others at this moment. The vote of 231 to 196 by which

the Chamber of Deputies approved of the Premier's declaration is surprisingly large, taking into account the events of the last two weeks, but it is, unfortunately, only an evidence of momentary good feeling. There is no reason to believe that the new Ministry will be longer lived than its predecessor.



Nasr-ed-Din, the Shah of Persia, who was assassinated at Teheran on Friday of last week, had acquired a certain degree of knowledge of civilization through his two visits to Europe and his constant intercourse with the British and Russian diplomats who have eagerly sought opportunities of opening a way in Persia for the commercial and political advance of their respective countries. The late Shah, however, was at best but half amenable to civilization, and was progressive only as compared with his predecessors. His early reign was marked by many acts of cruelty, and he was an arbitrary and tyrannical monarch to the end. A specimen of his methods was shown on the introduction of the telegraph into Persia. His wild subjects showed their disapproval by constantly cutting the wires and breaking the poles; whereupon their ruler caught as many offenders as he could and buried one alive beside each post, as a hint that his will was law. Many are the stories of the extraordinary performances of the Shah and his suite at the time of their visits to London and other European cities, and their royal entertainers no doubt felt hearty relief when the visits were over. The printed account of these visits from the Shah's diary convulsed Europe with its *naïveté* and humor—both conscious and unconscious. On the whole, Nasr-ed-Din was, all things considered, a well-meaning ruler, and under his reign Persia has taken some steps in advance. His assassin was a religious fanatic (a follower of Djemal-ed-Din, who was several years ago exiled for dangerous teachings), who took advantage of the Shah's visit to a shrine to fire a pistol point-blank at his breast. It is possible that political intrigue may have had to do with the assassination, but it is well known that certain fanatical sects have long hated the Shah for curtailing their privileges. The new Shah, Muzafer-ed-Din, has already been proclaimed. He is the second son of Nasr-ed-Din, the first having had for mother a woman of plebeian birth and not being considered eligible to the throne. The new Shah is acceptable, it is understood, to the European powers which have Persian interests. If an internal war should arise out of the claims of his elder brother, serious international questions might arise, as Russia holds a treaty allowing her to occupy some part of northern Persia in case of war from without or within. Russia has also important concessions with regard to the railroad now being constructed to the Persian Gulf, and would, of course, be glad of any excuse to strengthen her position in this part of the country.



The London "Speaker" interprets the anti-Semitic movement in Vienna, which has become so aggressive and powerful within a very short period of time, as indicative not only of the resuscitation of race jealousy and hatred but of a general reaction. The once powerful German-Liberal party in Austria has practically abandoned its principles and become the exponent of the cheapest opportunism. It has especially irritated the poorer people and the working people by its subserviency to the interests of the large capitalists, and this at a time when trade is poor and distress is general. For about five years before its dissolution last October there was a deadlock in the Vienna City Council, which became a mere debating club for the airing of the views of the Opportunists and the

Anti-Semites. The latter were boldly led, well organized, and extremely unscrupulous. They are now in complete possession of the affairs of Vienna; not entirely because the population of that city hates the Jews, but largely because it is suffering from prolonged trade depression, and strikes out blindly in the spirit of revenge. Multitudes of rate-payers are unable to pay their taxes, small trades are being swallowed up by large emporiums, the city has been overbuilt, and other causes have combined to make the present a peculiarly trying time for the people of small means. The Anti-Semite leaders have understood their opportunity. They have pointed out the fact that the Jews are largely in possession of the business of Austria, that they crowd the legal and medical professions, own the banks, manage the newspapers, and, as a rule, control the great manufactories. The Jews are therefore, according to Dr. Lueger and the other Anti-Semite leaders, the cause of all the financial distress, and the result has been a rapid growth of race feeling unparalleled in recent times in its intensity. The reactionary character of the movement is indicated by the fact that Prince Lichtenstein, the most accomplished of Ultramontanists, is one of its leaders, and is undoubtedly using the movement for the purpose of furthering the Clerical aims—aims which, it is hardly necessary to say, are in direct opposition to the Liberal progress of the Austrian Empire.



The celebration of a national millennium could not fail to be impressive among any people, but it gains additional impressiveness in the case of the Hungarians from their romantic history and their picturesque and attractive racial qualities. The celebration, which began on Saturday of last week, will continue until the end of October, will include all sections of the country, all classes of the people, and in one form or another will touch upon and illustrate all points in the national history and the national development. The opening day at Budapest showed that the popular interest in the festival is genuine and widespread. The Emperor Joseph, who is also King of Hungary, was received with the greatest enthusiasm by the people who crowded all the streets through which the processions passed. The opening of the Millennial Exhibition, which will continue until the close of October, was the special feature of the day, and in his address the King pointed out the significance of the Exhibition as illustrative of the historic and industrial life of Hungary. Among other interesting features of the summer will be the laying of the foundation-stone of the new Royal Castle at Buda on June 6; the new Parliament will be inaugurated at that time, and the law referring to the millennium will be promulgated; monuments will be unveiled during the summer at historic points; new law courts will be opened in August; five hundred primary schools will be opened during the first two weeks in September; the Iron Gates Canal will be opened on the 27th of the same month; and the new Museum of Industrial Arts will be thrown open to the public on October 21. A celebration which takes such substantial forms and which revives in so picturesque and impressive a way the history of a thousand years cannot fail to have a far-reaching educational influence. The brave and chivalrous Hungarian people will have the congratulations of all other peoples at this very interesting season.



In the House of Representatives the principal business last week was the discussion of the Bankruptcy Bill. The measure under consideration is substantially the Torrey Bill that has been before the country for so many years.