

doctrine, which, according to this politician, embraces South as well as North America. For one thing, these obnoxious Germans have the temerity to use their own language, and maintain German customs, within American Republics. If Senator Lodge objects to any except the "American language," when would he expect the descendants of Spain to set about the task of forgetting their native language? If the Germans were in a position to force their language on any body in South or Central America, there would be ground for objection, but surely a man in any part of the world ought to be at liberty to use the language which he sucked in with his mother's milk. American consuls in South and Central America will enquire what there is, if there is anything, in Senator Lodge's grievance.

Germany, with a force of 1,000 men, has seized 3,000 square miles of territory in the Congo Free State, claimed by the Belgians. The German force on the spot sent an ultimatum, so long ago as towards the end of February, demanding the withdrawal of the Belgians, from the east side of the Rusizi river, which demand was not complied with, and another was sent April 1st, when the Belgian officer withdrew and the German force burnt the station.

At an interview with newspaper publishers, the Postmaster-General agreed to reduce the postage on newspapers from half a cent to a quarter of a cent per lb. The duty on paper remains as it was. The dread of a paper famine arising from the Hull fire has not been realized.

THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

The Australian Commonwealth bill, now before the British Parliament, proposes to erect a new confederation, largely on the lines of the Canadian, but in the language of its introducer, Mr. Chamberlain, more closely resembling the constitution of the United States than any other. In all points but one, the new constitution is the work of the colonies which it is intended to unite; the one exception is the so-called Imperial veto, which the Australians do not want, and which the British Government thinks it essential to retain. Though Mr. Chamberlain calls it an Imperial veto, the question really involves the right of appeal from the colonies to the court of last resort in England. The only thing clear about this difference is that the Australians do not want such appeal; Mr. Chamberlain explains that "the [Imperial] Government could not assent to clause 74, [as it comes from Australia], relating to the Court of Appeal, because it meant the abolition of the Imperial veto, would be prejudicial to the unity of the Empire, and might lead to a conflict of authority between the proposed new high court and the Privy Council." It remains to be seen whether Australia will accept the proposed amendment of her scheme of constitution. It is something to know that this is the only point of difference between the Imperial Government and Australia; and surely when the agreement extends to the whole scheme of constitution, with this exception, it is reasonable to suppose that some means of agreement will be found.

The retention of the power of appealing to the final Court of Appeal in England, Mr. Chamberlain calls by

the most objectionable name that could be found, veto, though with reasonable people that will not make much difference, yet it would have been better not to use the term; besides, it is really a misnomer. The reason given by Mr. Chamberlain is better than his nomenclature: "That measures [passed by the Legislature of the Australian Commonwealth], which might involve the Imperial Government in most serious responsibilities, should be interpreted by a tribunal in which all the parties had full confidence." The bill is no doubt an important step in the organization of the British Empire; but the links which it is proposed to add to the connection can scarcely be said to be strong. The proposal is, when legislative authority for the act is obtained, to appoint for seven years one representative for each of these parts of the Empire, Canada, South Africa, Australia, and India, to be members of the Privy Council, acting as Lords of Appeal. After the seven years' term expires, they will cease to act as Lords of Appeal, but will continue to sit in the House of Lords. They will be paid out of the Imperial treasury, for life, the salaries of Lords of Appeal, £6,000 a year, each. In the colonies, the Democratic element only is strong; granting seats in the House of Lords to colonials may fail to give that strength to the Imperial fabric on which Mr. Chamberlain seems to count. But if this should happen, the measure, as a whole, will answer its purpose of developing the Empire.

In making the Australian Senate elective by the inferior legislatures, the example of electing the United States Senate is followed. This step is taken just when Americans are looking about for some new mode of electing their Senate; when the example which Australia is following is about being pronounced a failure; not that it was never a success, but the corrupting influence of wealth seems to forbid that it should continue to give the results desired. The scandals connected with legislation in the Senate have a cause that can be distinctly traced. About a quarter of a century ago, Mr. Caldwell, of Kansas, resigned his seat in the Senate, under a charge of bribery. Since then the evil of buying seats in the Senate has increased with the increase of unscrupulous wealth; though there are still States which select Senators for other reasons than their wealth. There is, of course, no means of knowing what proportion of the Senators are elected by bribery; but one notorious case was decided the other day, against Senator Clark, the copper king of Montana, whose seat was unanimously vacated, on the report of the committee on privileges and elections. The sum which he paid in bribes was between \$400,000 and \$500,000. But the more expert bribers to sneer at Clark as a poor bungler, whose crime was in failing to cover up his tracks, not in the bribery. Mr. Quay's organ, at the moment when his seat in the Senate was questioned, not on same ground, undertook to give instructions in the fine art of buying a Senatorship. The purchaser was not to go about the job as if he were engaged in a legitimate transaction; he must assume a virtue, though he had it not. When, in the election of American Senators such a pass has been reached, it does seem an anachronism for Australia to found her Senate on a system under which such things can be done. The Australians have probably been without adequate information of the recent working of Senatorial elections in the United States. Democracy in its first impulse is