

TROUBLES IN BUENOS AYRES.—Financial troubles in South American Republics are almost certainly followed by revolutions and the overthrow of the existing governments. This is now the case in Buenos Ayres, where a rebellion is in progress, and it is probable that a state of siege will be proclaimed throughout the country. There have been repeated changes of the Ministry, upsetting public confidence, and active hostilities may be precipitated at any moment in the city of Buenos Ayres. While the country is evidently about indulging in a costly and bloody revolution what must be the feelings of the English creditors who are anxiously looking for the payment of overdue interest? No wonder the Barings went to the wall in trying to finance for such unstable countries.

THE SILVER QUESTION IN INDIA.—The Indian Council has lowered the rate of India Council drafts and has thereby caused great weakness in exchange in London. The leading financial papers criticize the reduction adversely, and state that what results will flow from the Council's action it is impossible to tell. It virtually nullifies the step taken on June 26 and logically must, sooner or later, lead to the question whether after all it is not better for the Indian Government to admit the blunder and re-open the mints. If the reports are to be relied upon Mr. Balfour has scored a substantial victory in his criticism of the Government's financial policy in regard to the question, and they have been forced to follow his advice and adopt measures leading up to the resumption of free silver coinage in India.

EXTENSION OF THE INTERCOLONIAL TO DARTMOUTH.—The town of Dartmouth has now decided against the rebuilding of the narrows bridge and in favor of a direct connection with the Intercolonial at Windsor Junction, and there is every reason why the Dominion Government should grant them their wish. A branch into Dartmouth would bring into the market some very fine building property, would tap the trade of the gold mines at Waverley and Montagu, and would form a good starting point for a road up the Musquodoboit Valley. This with the large freight business that would go to Dartmouth over the new connection would soon justify by financial results the wisdom of constructing the branch. The bridge is an unrightly obstruction to navigation, and the remains of it should be pulled down and the blot on the beautiful water scape removed.

RATES OF ASSESSMENT.—The Recorder calls attention to the fact that the rate of taxation per \$100 in Boston is only \$1.28, while in Halifax it is \$1.68, and from it draws the conclusion that taxation in Halifax is much higher than in Boston. It is certainly high enough to be a serious burden on the taxpayers, but that the rate in Halifax is really higher in fact than in Boston is open to doubt, as the Recorder goes on to show that the assessed value of that city has increased some millions of dollars. It may be in this case that by largely increasing the assessed value the rate per hundred has been decreased, while the taxpayer will find the amount of his taxes really increased. Complaints from several sections of the States have been made of systematic increases in assessed values, which, while reducing the rate per hundred really increases the amount of taxes drawn from the now overburdened taxpayers. The wily assessor has many tricks in his trade.

DOCTRINE OF ETERNAL PUNISHMENT DENIED.—Orthodox church circles are being continually thrown into a state of indignation by this or that teacher of the faith recanting on the doctrine of eternal punishment. The last addition to the list is the Rev. Mr. Diehl, minister of the Church of England at Byrom and Hyde Park, who not only declares that there is no scriptural authority for the doctrine of eternal punishment, but that there is nothing in the articles or dogmas of the Episcopal church that teaches eternal punishment. This is a sensational age, and it would appear that it is the love of notoriety rather than conscientious conviction that moves the majority of the clergy to suddenly announce their disbelief in the doctrines of the church. That this is the case with Mr. Diehl there is reason to suppose, as he denounced the doctrine of eternal punishment to both his congregations, who have appealed to the bishop in the matter. A really conscientious man it appears to us would under the circumstances have left the church and thrown up his parish, not remain to spread discord and dissension amongst his parishioners. It is not our province to either affirm or deny the doctrine, but we certainly think that when a clergyman cannot support the doctrines of his church his first step should be to resign his position.

CANADIAN AUSTRALASIAN CABLE.—For some years a number of progressive business and scientific men in Canada have been advocating the laying of a cable connecting Canada and Australia. Mr. Sandford Fleming was one of the principal promoters of the scheme, and the late Mr. F. N. Gisborne, of Ottawa, the distinguished electrician, was an able assistant. On their shoulders the labors of presenting the merits of the enterprise to leading financiers largely fell and have at last been rewarded with success. A late despatch says:—"The laying of the Queensland and Caledonia telegraph cable which will form the first section of the projected cable between Australia and Canada will shortly be commenced and is expected to be finished by the end of August. The laying of the continuation to Vancouver will probably be completed within two years. The late Mr. Gisborne was the originator of the first Atlantic cable, but Cyrus W. Field raised the capital to carry out the work, and selfishly adopted all the honors and a large share of the profits of the enterprise, while Mr. Gisborne was defrauded of both. He died before the second great cable work with which he had been intimately associated was begun, but we trust that in this case his family will receive the benefit of his exertions."

K. D. C. acts as a Cholera preventive, by restoring the Stomach to healthy action.

EQUALIZATION OF TAXATION.—A study of the political situation in the United States will show that the revolt there which led to the complete overthrow of the Republican party at the last election was mainly due to the public awakening to the fact that under the existing order of things taxation was most unfairly distributed. The burden was found to be upon the farmer, the householder, the man of moderate means and the poor laborer, while the millionaires of the country, were almost as far as taxation was concerned in the position of paupers paying little in the way of taxes and really being charges on the country. The large revenue derived from the tariff and the high prices asked by the protected manufacturer for his goods in the end came out of the consumer. Any part of the taxation that fell on the rich was more than made up to them by the system of special protection that prevailed. In state and municipal matters the power of their wealth was also directly felt, and assessors of taxes, too often creatures of their appointment, placed absurdly low valuations on their taxable property, while the small property-holder was assessed to the full limit of the law. The poor are generally blessed with large families and are much greater consumers of necessaries than the rich, therefore a most undue share of taxation was wrung from the hardy toilers of the land. In the case of the farmer the injustice was most apparent and the wonder is that it was tolerated so long and so quietly. His lands heavily taxed, his crops in no way protected, he was forced to pay toll to the protected manufacturers of the farm machinery and implements used by him, on the clothing of himself and family, in fact he was taxed to such an extent that there were no profits in the industry. As a result the pursuit of agriculture, the back bone of the prosperity of the country, has become unattractive and farms are being deserted, their former owners congregating in cities and towns and joining the great army of non-producers. These and many other examples of the injustice of the system of taxation might be given, but it will suffice to say that the people have at length awakened to the fact that the burdens have been most unjustly distributed and have demanded prompt and speedy reforms. The mechanic now sees that protection as practiced does not protect him from the competition of his fellow-mechanic, and that when the supply of labor exceeds the demand his wages must fall. He now realizes that protection stimulates the influx of foreign mechanics and does him real injury. In fact the great truth that protection enriches the few at the expense of the many has been made manifest, and in no uncertain tones the mass of the people have spoken, demanding that the burdens of taxation be more evenly distributed.

THE BERING SEA AWARD.—There still remains much diversity of opinion in regard to the regulations adopted by the arbitrators for the future hunting of fur seals in Bering Sea. Some contend that both Canada and the United States are placed on exactly the same footing, and that the Pribiloff Islands shall be made and kept for the next five years a nursery for seals. In order that the mother seals may have the islands from which to procure food without danger of being destroyed, two precautions are being taken—first, a zone of 20 miles in diameter, a big baby cradle of 60 miles round for the baby seals is drawn around the islands; and second, a close season of three months is prescribed. During the whole term of five years no one, American or Canadian, is permitted at any time to land on the islands to club the seal or to pursue the seal within that zone of 60 miles round. This reading of the effects of the regulations is ridiculed by others, who state that the United States refused to submit the question of seal slaughter on land to the arbitrators, and that a zone of 60 miles could not take in all the islands. They maintain, therefore, that the United States have gained a substantial victory, having the exclusive right to slaughter the seals on land, while within the close season no one can slaughter on the sea within the 60 miles zone. We think it will be found that both parties have gone too far in their surmising. It will be noted that neither the United States or Canadian arbitrators signed the regulations. It is therefore obvious that the regulations were displeasing to both countries. A majority of the arbitrators moved by the appeal to preserve the seal fisheries have agreed on stringent regulations to protect them, which must affect the United States and Canadian sealers much in the same way. They have made these regulations so stringent that seal-hunters of both nationalities will find their business much crippled, and it was the part of policy for the arbitrators from these countries not to sign them. There was a majority in favor of the regulations without their assent, and by not signing they were spared the probability of much harsh criticism on their return to their respective countries. That a majority of the arbitrators have agreed to regulations only beneficial to the U. S. is hardly creditable, and we believe that when the doubt that now surrounds the question has been removed it will be found that substantial justice has been done. It will also be found that the indiscriminate slaughter of seals has been stopped, and those sealers, Canadian or American, who in their greed for present gain would not have hesitated to entirely destroy the seal fisheries will find their occupations gone.

Is it not a little premature to cry out that in the Bering Sea arbitration England has again sacrificed the interests of Canada to please the United States. Whatever may have been the case on former occasions, in the Bering Sea arbitration England has been particularly careful to consult with Canada on every step. She appointed the Premier of Canada one of the arbitrators, and associated with the British Consul two, if not more, distinguished Canadian lawyers, one of them being the Minister of Marine. In every way she has shown a disposition to guard Canadian interests, and we must confess that we can see no grounds for faultfinding with the mother country. The advocates for independence must find some stronger grounds for condemning the Home Government, or we fear their following will be few.

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