

of punishment should be shown which would strike terror into the perpetrators of these crimes. A simple sentence of imprisonment for a long term of years does not seem to act as a check.

It is only recently that newspapers of standing in the United States seriously discussed the question whether kidnapping should not be made a capital offence. The crime was becoming so prevalent that no family able to pay a big ransom, felt that their children were safe. The result was that the death penalty was advocated by very humane and conservative people.

To hold up and rob a train cannot be regarded as less iniquitous than kidnapping a child. It is impossible to say what consequences may not flow from such a deed—consequences more serious far, perhaps, than the mere pillage of valuables. The act is one which only the most abandoned and reckless brigands will dare to commit and it may be taken for granted that if such men have not the crime of murder already to their account it is not because they would hesitate to kill. Society would appear to be justified in putting such men out of the way.

But if hesitation were felt at imposing the death penalty, why should not the lash be administered? It may be said that to add to a sentence for life, punishment by the lash would be venting spleen on one already dead to society. But it must be remembered that the penalty meted out to the criminal is intended as warning to others as well as a punishment to the malefactor.

If desperadoes realized that not only the loss of freedom but scourging of a particularly severe kind would be the penalty for this offence where the law secured the offender we might hear less of crimes of this nature. It was the lash that brought garroting to an end in London in the early years of last century, when no other form of punishment proved effective. It might be equally effective in stopping train robbing.

#### ENCOURAGERS OF AGITATION.

In a cable despatch from London received on Saturday it was stated that "a strong feeling has been aroused against a number of the members of the house of commons and others who have encouraged the Indian agitation against the government." It is to be hoped that that feeling will take such definite form that the men who have been guilty of influencing the Indian population against British rule will be compelled to take to cover.

One of those men whose names will at once be associated in the public mind with the agitation which has resulted in the murder in London of Sir Curzon Wyllie, is Kier Hardie and he certainly deserves all the approbrium which can be cast upon him. As a member of the British house of commons he spent some weeks touring India for the express purpose of stirring up a spirit of revolt among the natives. How far the crime of last week is indirectly due to his mischievous campaign it would be impossible to say. That there is a direct connection, however, between the encouragement given by a certain element in Great Britain and the present ferment in India, there can be no doubt.

For a quarter of a century now students of Indian life and character and of the conditions prevailing in that great imperial dependency, have been impressing, or attempting to impress,

millitary duty and wanted the best years of their life. Once more America has enriched Spain by going to war with her, depriving her of her colonies both in the west and in the east, cutting off the necessity for a large military establishment, and letting the young men stay at home to develop the rich resources of their native land.

The Spanish nation is being recreated. Its industries are flourishing in a remarkable way. Agriculture is encouraged by the introduction of new methods. In a short time Spain will be among the granaries of the world. Barcelona is taking \$30,000,000 worth of raw cotton from America every year. This is being woven into fabrics which are being sent over the world.

Spain, which for half a century or more seemed to be a dying nation, floats on the topmost wave of prosperity. She is looking abroad for new markets for her products. Unlike Germany, she has no military aspirations in connection with the development of her foreign trade. In all history there is nothing more paradoxical than the rejuvenation of Spain. She has actually been beaten in war to the end that she might realize the victories of peace.

Alone among the governments of Europe Spain has been showing a surplus ranging from \$10,000,000 to \$22,000,000 a year available for the payment of debts, with the result that her credit stands high at home and abroad. The new Spain of the Old World loses nothing of her ancient glory in the transformation. The pride of her past is intensified by the pride of her present. For Spain is proud of what she has accomplished at home since all that was left of her vast empire abroad was wrested from her.

#### POLITICS IN AUSTRALIA.

For the third time, Alfred Deakin has become Premier of the Commonwealth of Australia. The labor ministry under Andrew Fisher has been defeated by a coalition of the Deakin Protectionists and the Liberals, in accordance with the swing of Australian politics during the past six years. Neither Protectionists, Liberals nor Laborites are strong enough to rule by themselves, and in consequence Australia has experienced a condition sometimes described as one of "triangular anarchy." But though Australian cabinets have lacked stability, anarchy is an unfair description of the state of Australian politics or government. Far from being hopelessly at variance, the three parties are sometimes desperately put to it to discover sufficient issues to differ upon. Protectionism of some kind or other is accepted by all parties; there is no wide difference of opinion on the question of a White Australia; and there is virtual unanimity on the duty of the Commonwealth to contribute to the defence of the empire. In what form such aid should be rendered, opinions differ. The Fisher cabinet advocated the assumption by Australia of the defence of her own coasts, but this policy, approved by one element, would seem to have been swamped in the recent outbreak of the Dreadnought fever. On this issue, and on the question of a progressive federal land tax, the Fisher ministry would seem to have been defeated. Every man and every institution interested in land valued at more than \$1000, says one dispatch, "is intent on putting the Fisher ministry out before the next general elections."

greater number of people in Bengal than in any other section of the country, and Bengal has a special grievance on account of the partition of the province by Lord Curzon in 1905. Therefore the Bengalees have been more prominent in the revolutionary movement, and the situation is most serious in their province. And this in spite of the fact that Bengal, alone of all the provinces of India, has no complaint to make of the onerous taxes imposed by the British government.

It is now a crime for a Bengalee to sing his national anthem, Bande-mataram or Motherland. To shout the name of the song on the street means jail and sure imprisonment. The native newspapers are so watched and hedged about that they hardly dare to express a positive opinion upon any political subject for fear of suppression and punishment for sedition. Public meetings and associations are strictly forbidden and any attempt to hold one would be frustrated by the vigilant police.

But the police are not equal to the task of coping with a boycott that extends all over India. Clubs and unions in every community and in almost every village have been organized in support of the swadeshi movement. This means that they will buy no goods except swadeshi goods—those manufactured in India by Indian labor, or grown on Indian farms by Indian farmers. Although a relatively small percentage of the 250,000,000 people of British India have joined the movement, it has grown to such an extent that English trade with India has suffered immensely. Thus the Indian patriots, for the first time, have the support in parliament of the cotton mills of Lancashire.

This boycott movement has not been confined strictly to the swadeshi clubs, but has led to the discrimination against British-made wares of kinds which India does not produce. German trade in India increased 100 per cent in volume in the 10 years immediately preceding the present era of unrest. In the last four or five years it has been doubled. With the feeling against Germany so strong in England now, this fact is of tremendous importance.

The swadeshi movement is a general patriotic and social agitation. Swadeshi is best translated by the phrase, "India for the Indians." The avowed purpose of swadeshi is the unification of the peoples of India, the cessation of the everlasting feud between Mohammedans and Hindus, and the use of every means short of force to compel England to grant a self-governing constitution to the Indian empire.

Both swadeshi and swadeshi are manifestations of the great Asiatic renaissance which is now remoulding the whole social and political fabric of the mother continent. The cry of "India for the Indians" has been heard from the lips of a few scholars and officials ever since Queen Victoria promised the Indian people a share in their own government in her epochal proclamation of 1858.

But it was not until after Japan, an Asiatic nation, had met and defeated one of the most powerful nations of Europe in the greatest war of modern history, that the cry Swadeshi burst from the throats of the millions. One of the leading men of India, a Bengali Hindu who has held high office under the English and who has been a proponent of Oriental history and languages in the universities of England, said: "The plucky stand made by the Japanese against the advance of the terror of Europe—against the bear of Asia—called forth the deepest admiration of every Asiatic. And when that war resulted in victory for the Japanese, every man in Asia felt that a new and brighter day had dawned, and that the long centuries of bondage had come to an end. It gave every Asiatic a sense of pride and self-reliance which he had not possessed before."

Every Indian one meets unhesitatingly and voluntarily declares that the Japanese victory was one of the chief contributing causes of the independent movement in India. With equal unanimity, every Englishman one meets declares that the Russo-Japanese war had nothing whatever to do with the unrest. The native newspapers printed in English are full of the praises of Japan as the leader of the great movement which will make all Asia free. But the Englishman, except the police inspector, does not read the native press. There are two prominent

is always thinking of home. He looks upon India only as a place from which money may be extracted. He lives with his own people, he knows nothing beyond his club and his sports. He declines to consult the wishes of the Indians, either in governmental administration or in business. Therefore he must now face the problem of a great discontent in the political world, and the rapid rise of two great rivals for his trade.

The Germans and the Japanese are crafty merchants. They have gone to the Indians and have asked what the Indians wanted. They've made and sold goods according to the Indian notions, and they have never made the British mistake of attempting to force English goods of English patterns upon a people who wanted something else. Take the instance of scissors. English scissors are made with the thumb and finger hole of the same size. Indian tailors demanded scissors with a larger aperture for the thumb. The English factory, even upon advice of their agent in India, declined to humor the foolish whim of the absurd barbarian. Whereupon India now buys its scissors from Germany. The British merchant will not change his ideas of business to suit Indian ideas, any more than he will change his woollen underwear and yarn socks to meet the difference between the climates of London and Madras.

The Indian patriots do not wish to secede from the British empire. They know that they would be at the mercy of other great maritime powers were England to withdraw. What they do wish, and what they are demanding, is autonomy. India aspires to be a part of the British empire, not a dependency upon it; a self-governing nation federated with other such nations as Canada, Australia and South Africa in the great British empire. Until that goal is reached, be it a decade or a century, there will be no cessation of the unrest in India. The Morley reform scheme is accepted as a first installment of the great self-government. It will have the effect of quieting the people for a time, but as soon as India believes an opportune moment has arrived to insist upon further concessions, the unrest will manifest itself again.

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#### Odds and Ends

##### The Rat Problem.

The United States department of agriculture, in a recent publication upon the Rat Problem, assures us that this rodent destroys annually \$100,000,000 worth of grain. This statement is so astounding that were it not vouched for by experts in the biological survey, little credence would be given it. These scientific men, however, have made an exhaustive study of the rat and they are quite serious in urging an active campaign to rid the country of this pest.

The most common and destructive member of the rodent family is the Norway rat, which has been carried in ships to the furthest corners of the earth, and has multiplied wherever it has landed. Rats live on most anything that man eats, but they are especially fond of grain. These rodents are also destructive in killing young poultry and stealing eggs, and the pollution of food products causes as much loss as that which they consume.

Their fecundity is remarkable. It is well, therefore, to call public attention to these facts as an incentive to renewed warfare against the pest. Among methods suggested for their extermination is the reduction of their food by the disposal of garbage and the better protection by use of concrete of our food supplies.

##### A New Kind of Postal Card.

The advertising manager of a big business house in this city has invented a postcard, which has been patented in this country and all over Europe and will probably be widely used for advertising and souvenir purposes. It consists of an ordinary postcard with a round hole in the middle about the size of a quarter and a collapsible figure of rice paper pasted on the back. This figure may be any shape desired and may be printed with the likeness of historic buildings or other things it is desired to reproduce. A

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