

It was reported from St. Petersburg on the 21st that the Czar had definitely refused to meet the revolution with a grant of universal suffrage. But the new electoral law as gazetted on the 26th proved to be unexpectedly liberal. It was accompanied with a statement explaining that in view of the fact that even some of the Western countries do not possess universal suffrage, the cabinet could not assume the responsibility of decreeing it. It leaves the ultimate decision to the national assembly (p. 327) itself. The election list is to be published presently, and then the date of the elections will be announced. As soon as the government receives notification that half the members are elected the national assembly will be convoked. The extension of the suffrage applies especially to the cities. Besides the workmen in the factories and mills, who are especially provided for, it will include every owner of real estate paying taxes, persons conducting enterprises like shopkeepers paying licenses, persons paying a lodging tax or occupying separate lodgings, and persons in the government service, including railroad men. All limit of rent paid by lodging holders as a voting qualification is removed. The indirect system of electoral colleges is retained. A new feature of the law is that the workmen instead of being allowed a specified number of class representatives have to take their chances in the electoral colleges with the other classes. And instead of the cities having separate representatives, the electoral colleges will be by provincial representation. The workmen will choose an elector for every 10,000 men. The result is illustrated by the case of the province of St. Petersburg, where the electoral college will contain fourteen peasants, eighteen agricultural landlords, fifteen city landlords and twenty-four workmen. By this method while the workmen's electors are the largest class they will only be able to elect representatives in combination. While the grant greatly extends the concessions of last August (p. 327) it does not meet the growing demand for universal suffrage and is expected to prove a great disappointment. The revolutionary organizations no longer want

concessions; they are boldly proclaiming that nothing but the complete overthrow of the autocracy and the establishment of a democratic republic will satisfy them.

A manifesto has been issued by the international socialist bureau at Brussels, addressed to the socialists of the world, which appeals for moral and financial assistance for the socialists of Russia. The bureau, acting on the suggestion of socialists in the United States, sets January 22 as a day for meetings all over the world, at which funds are to be raised for the Russians.

Restoration of the autonomy of Finland.

The attempt to Russianize Finland (p. 511) has been abandoned, and the constitution guaranteed by Alexander I of Russia, early in the 19th century has been restored. The event was consummated at the Finnish Diet on the 23d, when the Russian Governor General, in the name of the Czar, formally gave back their ancient liberties to the people of Finland. The presidents respectively of each of the four estates—the nobles, the clergy, the burghers and the peasants—replied in cordial terms, but each was careful to say that the Czar's manifesto was "accepted as the restoration of the original constitution and the rights of Finland guaranteed by Alexander I."

A revolutionary revival in Santo Domingo.

A revolutionary event in Santo Domingo (vol. vii, p. 731) was reported on the 25th, which is marked by the flight of Carlos F. Morales, who was placed in the presidency about 18 months ago (vol. vii, p. 157) through the intervention of the United States, in settlement of a civil war which had been several months in progress. The reason for President Morales' flight was not understood. The dispatches merely said that he had fled from the capital city followed by a detachment of troops sent in pursuit of him by his cabinet. Dispatches of the 26th told of his having been overtaken with his bodyguard of 60 men near San Cristobal and fired upon.

As appeared from belated dispatches a revolt led by Guayubon,

Dajabon and Sabaneta, had previously broken out against the government, on account of the arrangement with the United States (vol. vii, p. 731) for its possession of the Dominican custom house as trustee for foreign creditors; and on the 26th dispatches from Washington explained Morales' flight as—

a direct result of a change of policy on the part of the Administration which has occurred in the last few weeks and which is attributed rightly or wrongly to the recent visit here of Col. Colton. Before Col. Colton came the instructions to the American minister to Santo Domingo and Rear Admiral Bradford, commander of the formidable force of warships gathered about the island, were to maintain Morales in power. Those instructions took no account of the growing hostility to Morales caused by the presence of a large American naval force and by the injudicious declarations of the Dominican Executive that he could rely upon the United States to keep him in office. In fact, some months ago, when Gen. Ramon Caceras, who to-day is the biggest man in the island and who has held the post of vice president, brought such pressure to bear upon Morales that he threatened to resign, Minister Dawson came to his rescue, declaring the United States would not stand for any such procedure. "Morales has been elected for four years," the American minister is reported to have announced, "and until his term has expired or he legally is removed from office for just cause the American government will recognize no other president but Morales, and should the Dominicans resort to force American marines will be landed to maintain order." At that time this declaration saved Morales. Since Col. Colton's conference with the President and Secretary Root the instructions to Rear Admiral Bradford to land forces to prevent a revolution were countermanded and Commander Southerland was directed not to interfere in the internal affairs of the island and to land marines only to protect American life and property and the customs houses which are under American jurisdiction. Abandoned by the United States, Morales was left a prey to the dominant faction, which hated him most. There was nothing left for him but flight, and he has taken to the bushes. On account of the flight of Morales, Vice President Caceras has been called to the Presidency by the cabinet.

Gigantic franchise consolidation.

A franchise consolidation of gigantic proportions is reported