

ing the proposed reforms, and that the Russian note, identical in terms, would soon follow. The terms of the notes were declared by the same dispatch to have been submitted to France, Great Britain, Italy and Germany, and to have been approved in principle by all except Germany. A similar dispatch emanated on the same day from Vienna. It differed only in stating that the Austrian note would be presented on the 19th, and in its more abundant details. The reform proposals, according to the Vienna dispatch, are chiefly of an administrative and financial nature, such as Turkey heretofore has promised. One new feature is the appointment of a governor for Macedonia, not necessarily a Christian, who shall have authority to act without specific instructions from Constantinople in every contingency.

These troubles were made the subject of one part of King Edward's speech from the throne at the reopening of the British parliament. After the adjournment of December 16 (p. 600) parliament reopens on the 17th of the current month, on which occasion the King was accompanied by the Queen and all the officers of state. Referring to the Balkan situation, the King in his speech said:

The condition of the European provinces of Turkey gives cause for serious anxiety. We have used our best efforts to impress upon the Sultan and his ministers the urgent need of practical and well considered measures of reform. The governments of Austria-Hungary and Russia have had under consideration what reforms would be desirable that the powers who were parties to the treaty of Berlin should recommend to the Sultan for immediate adoption. The papers dealing with the subject will be laid before you.

In the House of Lords, after the King's speech, in which the Venezuelan question had been touched upon, the Duke of Devonshire, speaking for the ministry, said that Great Britain accepts the Monroe doctrine unreservedly, and defended the action of the ministry in coercing Venezuela on the ground that not to have done so would have tended to prejudice every civilized power against the Monroe doctrine. In the House of Commons Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Liberal leader, spoke in criticism. He said that information was desired regarding Venezuela and Macedonia.

In Venezuela, he said, the cloud happily had passed, but it was a black cloud and one which many people thought might have been avoided. It might have had dangerous consequences, and it was the duty of the country to inquire how it had been led into such a difficulty. He commented questioningly in this connection on the fact that Germany was not mentioned in the King's speech regarding Venezuela. There were people in England, he explained, who were of opinion that Great Britain should not associate with Germany under any circumstances, but he did not sympathize with that view, although he was opposed to cooperation with Germany in a matter like the Venezuelan. He characterized Germany as strong but rough. If there ever had been a case for arbitration, he argued, the Venezuelan affair was one; and if this course had been adopted in the first place a great precedent would have been established towards the peaceful settlement of international controversies.

One of the important measures likely to be brought before parliament at this session is a bill advocated by the British labor unions for protection against recent court decisions holding unions responsible in damages for business injuries caused by strikes. This bill proposes a legislative definition of the rights of unions, which shall include the right of peaceful "picketing." It would also amend the conspiracy law so as to make it lawful for several strikers acting together to do anything which a single striker may lawfully do when acting alone; and would protect union funds from attachment for damages caused by union members in committing acts unauthorized by the union.

The arbitration proceedings in the Pennsylvania anthracite strike (p. 713) have terminated. George F. Baer, president of the Reading company, began the final summing up for the employers on the 12th. Toward its close he made the following offer:

That the rate of wages now paid shall be the minimum basis for the next three years; that from Nov. 1, 1902, to April 1, 1903, all employes, other than contract miners, shall be paid an additional 5 per cent. That on and after April 1, 1903, for each 5 cents in excess of \$4.50 per ton on the average price realized for white ash coal in the harbor of New York, on all sizes above pea,

wages shall be advanced 1 per cent; the wages to rise or fall 1 per cent. for each 5 cents increase or decrease in prices; but they shall never fall during the next three years below the present basis.

Mr. Baer was followed on the same day by Clarence S. Darrow, attorney for the miners, who made the final speech in the case. He opened with this response to Mr. Baer's offer:

We have seen the President of the United States appoint this commission to settle this difficulty and then, this afternoon, in the last hour of this proceeding, the man more responsible than any other comes before this commission and says: "We will do exactly that which these men demanded nine months before." Why did not Mr. Baer go to John Mitchell nine months ago as he came to this commission to-day?

And later, referring again to Mr. Baer's offer, but in connection with representations of the employers as to the high wages the miners have been getting, Mr. Darrow responded:

If, at the end of all this time and labor, he is willing to give us 5 or 10 per cent. upon the figures that he says correctly represent our earnings we will be very glad indeed to take it. From the beginning of this strike until the end, whatever you may say about whether the miners knew what they were getting or not, these operators have never given out a correct figure or made a statement that would stand the light of day for a single moment when they talked to the public.

He went on to show, however, that—the 1 per cent raise on 5 cents suggested by Mr. Baer would give the operators an increase of 3½ per cent. in profits and the miners only 1½ on the \$4.50 basis.

Mr. Darrow concluded on the 14th, whereupon the commission adjourned for the purpose of considering their decision. Three days later, on the 16th, Mr. Darrow, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Lloyd were given a public reception at the Auditorium by the labor organizations of Chicago.

Partly as the result of his work before the arbitration commission, partly because of his remarkably large vote last fall for member of the lower House of the Illinois legislature (p. 482), and partly because of his advocacy of municipal ownership of street car systems, now a burning issue in Chicago, a movement has been started to make Mr. Darrow an independent candidate for mayor at the April election. A large independent committee has been organized. Mr. Darrow has not yet accepted. He

has declined, however, to be a candidate for the regular Democratic nomination. The candidates now seeking nomination to that office are Mayor Harrison in the Democratic party, and John M. Harlan and Graeme Stewart in the Republican party.

In national politics the principal event of the week was the banquet of the Jefferson-Jackson-Lincoln league, at Columbus, O., which occurred on Lincoln's birthday, the 12th, and was attended by 1,800 people. John J. Lentz, the president of the league, presided. Ex-Gov. Budd, of California, one of the regular speakers, proposed William R. Hearst for the Democratic nomination for the presidency. Mayor Johnson, of Cleveland, another of the regular speakers, spoke exclusively on municipal affairs; and in the course of his speech, referring to complimentary allusions that had been made regarding him, he declared that he was a candidate for reelection as mayor of Cleveland and for that office only. William J. Bryan evoked overwhelming enthusiasm when, in his speech he said "the Democratic party could hope for more through converting dissatisfied Republicans than in winning back Palmer and Buckner Democrats." He declared, also, that he was for harmony, but that he would not change his principles if he could, nor would he surrender them, to win any victory for his party, however great. "A party, like a man," he said, "needs a character and a membership that knows what is right and will do it in the advocacy of political principles." He added that he did not propose to take his Democracy from any Democratic leader who received his inspiration from Wall street.

Regarding the local political situation in Cleveland, the only candidate for mayor as yet known to be in the field is Mayor Johnson. No strong Republican has been announced who is willing to run against him. Neither party has made its nominations.

Chicago political affairs are, as indicated above, complicated with the traction question, heretofore described in these columns. As stated at page 695, the local transportation committee of the city council has for some time been in negotiation with

representatives of the traction interests with a view to extending charters for 20 years or less, on terms that will eliminate the claims of the companies to their so-called charters in perpetuity and for 99 years, with which they are obstructing the movement for municipal ownership. These negotiations came to a deadlock on the 16th, over the question of the disputed 99-year franchise. The traction interests demanded (1) delay in the adjustment of the value of the alleged 99-year franchise until the expiration of the franchises for which they were negotiating; and (2) a friendly law suit at any time prior to that expiration, to determine the validity of the 99-year grant. On the other hand, the council committee unanimously demanded that—

the 99-year act be taken up in connection with the consideration of compensation, and that its value be determined now; and if the gentlemen representing the companies desire to proceed on that basis we will take such further action as may be necessary in the premises. The whole matter to be settled between the companies and committee.

With this demand the traction interests refused to comply, and the negotiations were abruptly broken off.

The general question of trusts has been in evidence during the week. On the 13th the Elkins anti-trust bill (p. 713) passed the Lower House of Congress by a vote of 241 to 6, under a special rule prohibiting amendments other than those the committee had made. This measure is supposed to require publicity, the expediting of all proceedings against the trusts under the direction of the attorney general, and the prevention of illegal rebates by providing for a fine of both the giver and the receiver. The House amendments were adopted by the Senate on the 14th and the bill is before the President.

Another scene in the trust drama was enacted on the 18th by United States Judge Grosseup, of Chicago. He made his decision in the "beef trust" suit (p. 586), overruling the defendants' demurrer to the Federal government's bill for an injunction. This decides, subject, of course, to appeal, not the facts in the case but the law. It holds that if the facts are as stated the "beef trust" has violated the Federal anti-trust law.

NEWS NOTES.

—Gen. Miles returned on the 16th from a five months' trip around the world.

—President Roosevelt signed the bill for the department of commerce and labor on the 14th.

—The Religious Educational association was permanently organized at Chicago on the 12th to put into effect improved methods of religious training.

—President Roosevelt has appointed Elihu Root, Senator Lodge and Senator Turner, as the American arbitrators under the Alaskan boundary treaty (p. 713).

—George Bruce Cortelyou, Secretary to the President, was nominated on the 16th by President Roosevelt as Secretary of Commerce and Labor, the new cabinet office.

—A woman suffrage measure pending before the Maine legislature was defeated in the Senate on the 18th by the casting vote of the presiding officer. The tie vote was 12 to 12.

—Gen. Davis, commanding at Manila, has approved the findings of the court-martial acquitting Maj. Glenn (p. 697), but with a rebuke to the accused for having shown a reckless disregard for human life.

—By a treaty with Cuba, signed on the 16th at Havana, the United States are given two permanent naval stations, one on the north coast 55 miles west of Havana, and the other on the south coast, 40 miles east of Santiago.

—The statistics of exports and imports of the United States for the seven months ending January 31, 1903, as given by the January treasury sheet, are as follows (M standing for merchandise, G for gold and S for silver):

	Exports.	Imports.	Balance.
M ...	\$356,546,724	\$598,079,657	\$259,487,087 exp
G	15,831,497	32,793,320	16,962,323 imp
S	30,322,336	16,076,160	14,246,176 exp

\$902,700,557 \$646,949,667 \$255,750,890 exp.

—The January treasury report of receipts and expenditures of the Federal government for the seven months ending January 31, 1903, shows the following:

Receipts:	
Tariff	\$174,327,687 89
Internal revenue ..	137,372,166 18
Miscellaneous	22,929,933 50
	\$334,629,787 57
Expenses:	
Civil and misc.	\$74,486,513 07
War	73,706,360 71
Navy	47,537,488 55
Indians	8,901,626 16
Pensions	81,907,139 46
Interest	20,687,712 21
	\$306,625,940 15
Surplus	\$28,003,847 42

PRESS OPINIONS.

THREE-CENT FARES.

Chicago Chronicle (Ind.), Feb. 11.—It is anything but ridiculous to say that the public should get the benefit of the service at