

was decided at this meeting that all sessions of the commission for the taking of evidence should be open to the public. No other definite business was transacted except to direct that a notification be made to both parties that the commission would reassemble on the 27th for the purpose of arranging with them for the presentation of testimony and arguments. A discussion arose, however, as to whether the recorder, Carroll D. Wright, should have a vote in the deliberations of the commission. President Roosevelt settled this question on the following day by appointing Mr. Wright, with the concurrence of both parties to the arbitration, to the position of a commissioner, thus making the commission a body of seven instead of six.

Upon the reassembling of the commission on the 27th, Mr. Baer did most of the talking for the employers, while Mr. Mitchell represented the strikers. At the suggestion of the employers the commission decided to hold their next meeting at Wilkesbarre on the 30th for the purpose of personally inspecting the coal mines and their surroundings. To facilitate this investigation and save the commissioners expense, the employers offered to furnish a special train for the use of the commission in going through the mining region, but this offer was declined.

The coal strike in France (p. 424), which began on the 9th, came to an end on the 24th in a manner similar to the ending of the anthracite strike in the United States. Reports of serious rioting at Dunkirk (where the dock laborers, who had struck in support of the coal strikers, prevented the landing of foreign coal), and of the consequent establishment of martial law by the French ministry, were cabled on the 23d; but later in the day the premier, M. Combes, announced in the chamber of deputies that the strike had ended and that work would be resumed on the 24th. A vote of confidence—375 to 164—was thereupon given. The premier had evidently been in communication with the strikers, for on the 24th a committee of the miners' federation waited upon him and agreed to submit the demands of the miners to arbitration.

In the British parliament, the disorder over the attempt of the ministry to prevent any discussion of the

Irish question (p. 455) continued daily until the 27th, when the ministry gave way. They were forced to do so because the new rules enabled the Irish members to consume time by repeatedly moving adjournments to consider one question or another. While losing their motions they obstructed legislation to such an extent that in seven days only 11 lines of the special order, the education bill, had been considered. Finally, on the 27th, William O'Brien was allowed to move an adjournment for the purpose of discussing the enforcement of the so-called crimes act in Ireland, in support of which the merits of the Irish question was discussed on both sides. The motion, however, was defeated by 215 to 121. Though this is not regarded by the Irish members as equivalent to granting the day they demand for a discussion of Irish grievances, it has stopped the disorder at least for a time.

To the surprise of everyone familiar with the strong feeling which the ministerial educational bill has stirred up among the opponents of the state church in England, a by-election on the 25th in Devenport, a Liberal constituency for 10 years past, resulted in the return of the Conservative candidate. The contested issues were the educational bill and the Irish question, and the vote stood 3,785 for James Lochie, Conservative, and 3,757 for T. A. Brassy, Liberal.

An innovation in British colonial methods is to be made by Mr. Chamberlain, the colonial secretary, who, it was officially announced on the 27th, is to visit South Africa personally for the purpose of settling the affairs of the conquered colonies. He goes in November and will probably remain through the winter. This undertaking is said to have not only the approval of the ministry but also the sanction of the King, and is regarded in England as indicative of a new policy in colonial administration generally. It will be the first time that a British colonial secretary has visited a colony while in office.

There are, however, special reasons sufficient to account for Mr. Chamberlain's extraordinary visit. The hostility between the Dutch and the British in South Africa, which created the demand by a faction of the latter some months ago (p. 325)

for the abrogation of the Cape Colony constitution, is reported to have become more intense. According to one of the press dispatches, "Transvaal and Free State colors are worn freely in Dutch towns of Cape Colony, and sedition is openly preached," which has so alarmed the British loyalists that the agitation in favor of suspending the colonial constitution is becoming irresistible.

Farther up the eastern coast of South Africa, Great Britain has probably extended her dominions by acquiring part of the Portuguese territory, including Delagoa bay. It was rumored last August that the purchase of this territory would be announced in parliament in October; and now, though no official announcement is made, the fact has been allowed authoritatively to leak out. As the story comes, the transaction is between Great Britain, Portugal and Germany, Portugal relinquishing her sovereign rights and Great Britain acquiring them as far north as the Zambesi river, while Germany acquires the remainder, from the Zambesi to the southern border of German East Africa on the river Rovuma. It is explained that the transaction was made by secret treaty three years ago.

Still farther north, in the regions of the "mad mullah," the British troops under Col. Swayne (p. 455) are reported to have escaped from the trap in which the "mad mullah" had caught them, and to be retreating without molestation to Berbera on the Somaliland coast.

Back into Europe and we are confronted with a compilation, the first in 50 years, of the prohibitions imposed by the Russian government upon the Russian press. The compilation has been sent to the Russian newspapers in the form of a confidential circular, the following clauses of which are cabled:

1. Ministerial reports to the czar may not be published without the consent of the ministry of the interior; likewise rumors about the same; likewise acts and expressions of the czar.

2. Matters emanating from the higher governmental circles, such as documents and decisions, may not be referred to without the consent of the authority concerned.

3. Circulars of governmental departments may not be referred to without the special permission of the department concerned.