

mation. This election took place on the 21st.

For more than a week telegraphic messages have been passing back and forth across the ocean without the use of cables. This has been the final test of the Marconi system (p. 522), which is now beyond peradventure successful. They were sent between Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, and Poldhu, England, a distance of 2,300 miles. Among the messages sent were one from Lord Minto, governor general of Canada, to King Edward VII., one from Marconi to the king and a reply, and one from Marconi to the king of Italy and his reply. These inaugural messages were sent on the 21st, and the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. is now making shore connections on each side with a view to doing commercial business. It is announced that their charges for wireless messages across the Atlantic are to be 10 cents a word for private messages and 5 cents a word for press dispatches.

As a result of the wrangle in the German reichstag over the tariff bill, which was strenuously opposed by the Socialist members (p. 585), the rules of that body have been so changed as to strangle all debate at the will of the majority, which is enabled to pass any measure in two days. This has been done for the purpose of preventing the circulation of speeches by Socialists. As all utterances in the reichstag are privileged, Socialists have been able to utter their sentiments there with absolute freedom and to publish broadcast their speeches made upon the floor. Lese majesty laws do not apply. But now, though the privilege exists, they being no more answerable for their parliamentary utterances than before, they are to have little or no opportunity to make such utterances.

The British parliament adjourned on the 16th. In his speech the king referred to the Venezuelan affair, the Transvaal, the expedition against the "mad mullah," the Brussels sugar convention, the alliance with Japan and the treaty with China.

A labor question of huge proportions has been raised in England by the courts. It is a legacy from a strike which the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants ordered against the Taff Vale Railway com-

pany in August, 1900. The society was sued by the railway company for damages caused by breaches of contract by their employes who joined the strike. The case came before the House of Lords in its preliminary stages on the question of whether, under the acts of parliament, a labor union can be sued. Sitting as a final court of appeals the law members of the Lords decided that "a labor union can sue or be sued, for wrongs committed for or against it, as if it were a corporate body." The case then went before the lower courts for a trial of the facts before a jury, and on the 19th that trial was completed. Without leaving their seats the jury returned a verdict for the railroad company against the union of \$140,000. As the union has in its treasury over a million dollars the verdict is collectable. The general effect is to make the treasuries of all labor unions liable for any damages which employers can prove they suffer illegally in connection with strikes.

Proceedings before the arbitration board in connection with the American anthracite coal strike, continued until the 20th, when the arbitration commission adjourned over the holidays. The sessions are to be resumed on the 6th. Prior to adjournment testimony was presented by the lawyers for the nonunion men, showing acts of violence committed upon them by strikers and of boycotting from which they suffered. One death was charged to the strikers.

When Judge Dunne's initiative and referendum proposal as a substitute for the proposed constitutional amendment of the executive committee of the so-called "charter convention" of Chicago (p. 586), came back before that body on the 18th, it was accompanied by an adverse report from the executive committee. Several hours of debate followed, and the substitute was defeated. Then Judge Dunne offered one providing that—

the legislature may pass laws which will enable the city of Chicago to acquire, own, and operate, or own without operating, street railways on the surface of the streets, and above, and below the surface of the streets, gas works, electric light plants, construct, own, and operate conduits, subways, and other enterprises.

This, also, was defeated. The principal argument against both was that the legislature already has the power

to grant all they called for. "There is not a sane man to-day," said John H. Hamline, one of the leaders of the opposition to these substitutes, "who will contend that the legislature cannot give Chicago municipal ownership, cannot relieve child labor by a just law, cannot provide for the initiative and referendum."

NEWS NOTES.

—Western Starr will speak for the Henry George association of Chicago at Handel hall on the 28th at 3 p. m.

—Bishop Quigley, of Buffalo, nominated for Roman Catholic archbishop of Chicago (p. 587), was appointed to that office on the 20th by the pope.

—The archbishop of Canterbury, Frederick Temple, died in London on the 23d at the age of 81 years. As archbishop of Canterbury he had been at the head of the Church of England since 1896.

—Great destitution is felt in Finland, and the governor general has issued an appeal to Russia for help in certain parishes where 400,000 persons are reported to be impoverished to the point of starvation.

—Mrs. Percy Widdrington is to occupy the platform of the Chicago Society for Ethical Culture at Steinway hall on the 28th at 11:15 in the morning, her subject being "Cecil Rhodes: A Character Study."

—The Irish land conference between landlords and tenants (p. 552) began in Dublin on the 20th. Lord Dunraven, John Redmond, the earl of Mayo and William O'Brien were among the more prominent attendants.

—The Socialist party of Chicago has nominated Charles L. Breckon for mayor. A series of resolutions setting out an opportunist municipal programme, which had been reported by the committee on resolutions, were defeated by the convention by a vote of 82 to 39.

—A decision of the Supreme Court of the United States made on the 22d holds that the insurance policy of a person convicted and capably executed for crime is non-collectable. The case, which came up from Texas, is Burt against the Union Central Life Insurance company.

—The official vote of the State of Illinois for treasurer, the head of the ticket, at the Fall elections (p. 538) was as follows:

Republican	450,685
Democrat	360,925
Prohibition	18,434
Socialist	20,167
Socialist Labor	8,235
People's	1,513
Scattering	1

Republican plurality