

be allowed as a body or guild to elect two members of parliament.

An important labor question occupied the attention on the 8th of the British House of Commons. It grew out of the decision in the Taff Vale railway strike case (vol. v, p. 600), wherein the House of Lords held last year that an unincorporated trade union can be sued for damages committed in its behalf the same as if it were incorporated. To abolish one of the causes of action which this decision recognized as valid, a bill had been introduced in Parliament for legalizing peaceable "picketing," and on the 8th the Commons rejected the bill by a vote of 246 to 226. Its passage was opposed by Mr. Balfour, the premier, who, in opposing it, promised that a royal commission would be appointed to inquire into the whole question of trades unionism as affected by court decisions in the Taff Vale and similar cases.

Some talk of a British "Monroe doctrine" in the East has been caused during the week by a speech in the House of Lords on the 5th by Lord Lansdowne, foreign secretary, on the subject of British interests on the Persian gulf. While contending in this speech that so far as the navigation of the Persian gulf is concerned, Great Britain holds a position different from that of the other powers because it is owing to British enterprise and expenditure of life and money that this gulf is open to the commerce of the world and because the protection of the sea route to India necessitates British predominance in the gulf, Lord Lansdowne said:

I may say without hesitation that we should regard the establishment of a naval base or a fortified port in the Persian gulf by any other power as a very grave menace to British interests, and we should certainly resist it with all the means at our disposal.

The industrial enterprise which is supposed to have elicited this warning passage in Lansdowne's speech is the Bagdad railway, originally a German project, but combining also French, German, Austrian and even British interests, for the success of which a terminus on the Persian gulf is indispensable.

Another instance of British expansion was called to the attention of Parliament by Secretary Chamber-

lain on the 12th. He then announced in the House of Commons that as a result of the British military operations in the Sokoto and Kano districts, ending in the capture of the Emir of Kano, 100,000 square miles of territory had been added to northern Nigeria and would be administered by the government of that territory.

Nigeria is a British-African protectorate bordering on the French Soudan at the south. It comprises the whole of the British sphere of occupation and influence within lines of demarcation arranged by Anglo-German agreements made in 1885, 1886 and 1893, and Anglo-French agreements made in 1889, 1890 and 1898. Within an area of about 400,000 square miles it has a population of 25,000,000. Originally under the government of the Royal Niger Co., it is now subject directly to Imperial administration. Much the largest part of this country is known as Northern Nigeria, the area of which is 320,000 square miles. It is inhabited partly by Mohammedan tribes, chief among these being the Fulani, and partly by the Hausa, who are pagans, and upon whom the British depend mostly for native troops, these pagans making, it is said, excellent soldiers. Last December Sir Frederick Lugard, the British high commissioner for Northern Nigeria, began, upon his own responsibility, a campaign against the Fulani of the independent Kano and Sokoto States. One ostensible object was the extirpation of slave-raiding, which the Mohammedan Fulani are said to practice on an extensive scale at the expense of their pagan Hausa neighbors. Another, given by a London dispatch of the 13th, is to the effect that the Emir of Kano refused to surrender alleged native murderers of a British agent. This campaign was in reversal of the old commercial policy of the Royal Niger Co., which maintained friendly relations with the Fulani rulers and induced them by diplomatic means and the payment of small subsidies to maintain order and encourage trade. But success has attended Lugard's new departure. He captured Kano on the 3d of February and Sokoto on the 14th of March, with the result, as Mr. Chamberlain now states, of adding 100,000 square miles of territory (namely, the independent Mohammedan states of Kano and Sokoto) to Northern Nigeria to be ad-

ministered by the imperial government of Great Britain.

Details of the capture of Sokoto, the last of these two African cities to fall, have just been published in London. The engagement, which lasted two and a half hours, was between 500 British troops armed with rifles and four quick-firing guns and four Maxims under the command of Col. Morland, and 6,000 Fulani armed with modern rifles and using smokeless powder. The British camped during the night of March 13 one and one-half miles from Sokoto. At day-break March 14 they moved toward the valley in which Sokoto lies. Immediately after the British appeared over the ridge the Fulanis charged with a bravery that was undeterred by a withering Maxim and rifle fire. They had no proper leadership, but the isolated bands continued to advance over heaps of dead and dying, often reaching within a yard of the square, where, refusing quarter, they were shot down while shouting "Allah" with their last breath. Their main body was finally routed, leaving a remnant of about thirty chiefs around the emir's great white flag. These chiefs were war heroes to the last, and their corpses were found hedging the standard when the British entered the city.

Curiously enough an American victory over Mohammedan Filipinos in Mindanao is reported at the same time with the above details of a British victory over Mohammedan Africans in Nigeria. The American victory was achieved by Capt. John J. Pershing, who won a similar victory (p. 24) about a month ago. After that engagement the natives began to reassemble for further defense, and Capt. Pershing went out against them again. According to Manila dispatches of the 7th he encountered a strong force of the Sultan of Amparuganos at Taraca, east of Lake Lanao, and a running fight ensued. It finally centered on a group of ten earthworks. Eight of these were easily captured by the Americans, but the defenders of the ninth and tenth made a brave resistance, and lost 130 men killed and wounded before they were overcome. The Americans had two killed and two wounded. No further resistance to the American invasion was expected, but a subsequent attack was nevertheless made upon Capt. Pershing's rear guard, and a lieutenant and one sol-