

was strongly opposed by the free trade members in caucus.

The Federal Labor members recently held a very long debate over the matter, but no scheme could be devised by which a satisfactory referendum could be taken. The idea has, therefore, been abandoned, and Labor members will, as before, vote according to their own individual convictions when the tariff issue is again raised in the House.

Mr. Deakin, the prime minister, has stated that at the next general election his principal plank will be increased protection.

The New Zealand parliament has come to an end without deciding whether perpetual crown lessees shall be allowed to acquire the freehold of their land.

This will probably be one of the chief questions at the forthcoming general election.  
ERNEST BRAY.

#### BUFFALO.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 11.—In addition to the recent work of the Referendum League, which I described in former correspondence (p. 541), it may be useful to note the League's previous work of the year.

It obtained by persistent effort the adoption of an ordinance authorizing the use of the schoolhouses for public meetings, in accordance with the vote in 1904, but not upon as good terms as desired. Ten dollars must be deposited, seven of which is returned if no damage is done, and the meetings must not be for religious, social or partisan purposes.

The League unsuccessfully opposed in the Council the making of the contract between the city and the gas company, on the ground that it would make a municipal electric light plant, on which the people were to vote, impossible for three years. It secured a bid from a responsible bidder to supply gas at 65 cents per 1,000 feet. The city is now paying \$1 net. After the contract was signed, Mr. Stockton brought a taxpayer's action to set it aside. He was beaten in the trial court and in the Appellate Division, and has made an application to be allowed to go to the Court of Appeals.

Last Winter we prepared a bill providing for a commission to build a municipal electric lighting plant, and to submit the question whether it should be built to the voters, making provision for the issuing of bonds. This bill was introduced in both branches of the legislature, and was buried in committee. Our two annual bills, the public opinion bill and the bill requiring franchises to be approved by the people, met a like fate. An effort was made to have the Com-

mon Council indorse the municipal lighting bill, but without success.

Last Winter the Iroquois Electric company asked the city for a franchise to lay conduits and string wires in the streets for the purpose of bringing more Niagara Falls power here. The League opposed the granting of the franchise on the ground that the city was going to vote on the question of a municipal distributing plant for electricity and any more franchises would interfere with that programme. The franchise has not been granted yet, and the result of the League's action will be that the city will impose terms in the way of price to be charged for electricity, etc.

A grant was made to certain companies about ten years ago to lay conduits in the streets for electric wires upon the condition that half the space therein should be reserved for the city's use for ten years, and if within that time the city began to use the conduits such use should continue without charge. The ten years' limitation expires January 15, 1906, and no use has yet been made of these very valuable rights. The League has been urging the Common Council to string cables in these conduits for the purpose of lighting the public buildings and supplying power to the water pumping station, and the city has gone so far as to advertise for bids for cables and transformers and to issue bonds for \$20,000 to pay for the same. This has been done in face of the open hostility of the Commissioner of Public Works and the covert hostility of the Board of Aldermen.

The League is now opposing the attempt on the part of the Street Railway company to seize the most important thoroughfares remaining unoccupied by tracks, which would destroy the possibility of a municipal street railway. The League secured the adoption of a resolution by the Civic Conference, a body composed of representatives of various civic societies, favoring the establishment of municipal docks.

Most of this work has devolved upon the president, Mr. Lewis Stockton, who has devoted nearly all his time to it. Mr. Frank C. Perkins, the League's electrical expert, has also given a great deal of his time to fighting for the city's rights in all the matters relating to electricity. Others, of course, have worked hard and faithfully. It is safe to say that the advances of democracy here center around the efforts of the Referendum League, which has especial strength because it is not tied up with any selfish interests and is winning the regard of citizens generally for its vigorous fight for the general public good.

ALBERT H. JACKSON.

## NEWS NARRATIVE

How to use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives: Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue so until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Thursday, Dec. 14.

### British politics.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman has succeeded in forming a Liberal ministry (p. 580) of exceptional strength. It was approved by the King on the 9th and authoritatively announced on the 11th. The names of those constituting the cabinet were cabled as follows:

First lord of the treasury—Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, prime minister.

Chancellor of the exchequer—Herbert Henry Asquith.

Secretary of state for home affairs—Herbert John Gladstone.

Secretary of state for foreign affairs—Sir Edward Grey.

Secretary of state for the colonies—Earl of Elgin.

Secretary of state for war—Richard Burdon Haldane.

Secretary of state for India—John Morley.

First lord of the admiralty—Baron Tweedmouth.

President of board of trade—David Lloyd-George.

President of local government board—John Burns.

Secretary of state for Scotland—John Sinclair.

President of board of agriculture and fisheries—Earl Carrington.

Postmaster general—Sydney Charles Burton.

Chief secretary for Ireland—James Bryce.

Lord president of council—Earl of Crewe.

Lord of the privy seal—Marquis of Ripon.

Lord high chancellor—Sir Robert Threskild Reid.

President of board of education—Augustine Birrell.

Chancellor of Duchy of Lancaster—Sir Henry Hartley Fowler.

Following are the ministers not in the cabinet:

Lord lieutenant of Ireland—Earl of Aberdeen.

Lord chancellor of Ireland—Right Honorable Samuel Walker.

First commissioner of works and public buildings—Louis Vernon Harcourt.

On the 12th the following appointments by the ministry were called:

Financial secretary to the treasury, Reginald McKenna; patronage secretary to the treasury, George White-law; under secretary for home affairs, Herbert Louis Samuel; under secretary for the colonies, Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill; under secretary for war, the Earl of Portsmouth; paymaster general, Richard Knight Causton; secretary to the admiralty, Edmund Robertson; under secretary for India, John E. Ellis; attorney general, John Lawson Walton; solicitor general, J. S. Robson; lord advocate for Scotland, Thomas Shaw.

The ministers were formally installed on the 11th.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the prime minister, who has been a member of the House of Commons since 1868, and leader of the Liberal party since 1899, is personally committed to the taxation of land values. H. H. Asquith, chancellor of the exchequer, and D. Lloyd George, president of the board, are also strongly committed to this policy. The latter takes advanced ground regarding it, and is the radical leader. The ministry as a body is similarly committed, some of the other members as pointedly as Campbell-Bannerman, Asquith and Lloyd-George but these three are conspicuous. John Burns, president of the local government board, is the most influential labor leader of Great Britain, and known as such all over the world. James Bryce, secretary for Ireland, is distinguished in the United States for his book on our politics, "The American Commonwealth."

Having resigned responsible office, Arthur J. Balfour, the recent prime minister and now leader of the Opposition, made a campaign speech at Manchester on the 9th. The campaign will probably open early in January and last for six weeks or so. It will be the effort of the Conservatives to confine the issue to tariff questions. This will doubtless have the effect of forcing to the front the question of taxing land values, for the radical members of the Liberal party will insist that the poverty of Great Britain, now widespread and acute, is due, not to too much free trade, as explained by the protectionists, but

to too little. They will, therefore, urge the extension of free trade principles to production generally, by abolishing or reducing taxes on industry and levying taxes on land values.

#### The Hearst contest in New York.

On the 11th the decision of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of New York (p. 581), in affirmance of a judgment of the lower court in mandamus proceedings, ordering a recount of the ballots cast at the recent mayoralty election in New York city, was argued before the New York Court of Appeals. Ex-Judge Alton B. Parker represented Mayor McClellan as his leading counsel; ex-Gov. Black was Mr. Hearst's leading counsel. The court decided the case on the 13th, two judges of the seven dissenting. The majority opinion is to the effect that the courts are "without power or authority to order a recount of the ballots cast," and that therefore the candidates defeated on the face of the returns are "left to such action at law, or otherwise, as may be appropriate wherein to question it, as to the ballots counted without question." In the dissenting opinion, agreed to by Judges Bartlett and Vann, it is argued that the intent of the legislature in the election law in commanding the preservation for six months of the ballots and other documents relating to an election was manifestly for the purpose of having them available for a recount. But the majority (Cullen, Gray, O'Brien, Haight and Werner) are of opinion that "full scope may be given to the election law without attributing to the legislature an intent to authorize the opening of the ballot boxes for the purpose of a recount or recanvass of the vote by the election officers," and that "if so important an exercise of a judicial power of supervision or review was intended, it should have been stated, and not left to implication." The decision operates to defeat Hearst, unless in quo warranto proceedings he can prove, without a recount, that the returns in favor of McClellan were fraudulent.

Several ballot box criminals have been convicted since the election, including Joseph J. Cahill, a

Tammany ex-member of the legislature, who has been sentenced to two years' confinement in the State's prison.

An organization to "secure government independent of corporate and corrupt influences" was incorporated in New York on the 12th, under the name of The Independent League, with William Randolph Hearst at the head of the list of incorporators. The other incorporators are Judge Samuel Seabury, Thomas Gilleran, James G. Phelps Stokes, C. Augustus Haviland, Max F. Ihmsen, John Palmieri, Melvin G. Pall ser, John Ford, Clarence J. Shearn and Bird S. Coler.

Rumors of a purpose on the part of Mr. Hearst to organize the State of New York with a view to becoming a candidate for governor, were met on the 8th by Mr. Hearst in a speech at a reception given him, with a positive declaration that he is not a gubernatorial candidate. But Bird S. Coler, president of the Borough of Brooklyn, in a speech on the same occasion, insisted that if it should be impossible to get measures enacted at the approaching session of the legislature which would remedy the defects of the election law it would be necessary to make a State campaign, and, that in that event Mr. Hearst, whether he wishes to or not, "will be compelled to take up the fight as our standard bearer."

#### Municipal Election in Boston.

At the municipal election in Boston on the 12th, the largest vote ever cast in that city was polled. It resulted in the election of ex-Congressman John F. Fitzgerald, Democrat, as mayor. Following is reported as the mayoralty vote:

Fitzgerald (Dem.)	44,174
Frothingham (Rep.)	35,992
Dewey (Ind. Rep.)	11,641
Watson (city. and ind. Dem.)	502
Fitzgerald's plurality,	8,182.

#### Chicago Charter Convention.

The convention for framing a home rule charter for Chicago (p. 581) assembled in the City Council chamber at the City Hall on the 12th. It was called to order by Mayor Dunne, who appointed Graham Taylor as temporary secretary. Judge Orrin N. Carter,