

the premier, Mr. Balfour, who said that such a request from the Liberal party would be granted, but not from the Irish party. A violent controversy ensued, and John O'Donnell, one of the Irish members, for refusing to obey the speaker, was suspended by a vote of 341 to 51. The premier's motion that the session be devoted to ministerial business was then carried by 262 to 145. Under this decision ministerial business will have precedence at every sitting and at the conclusion of such business each day the speaker is required to adjourn the house without putting the motion to adjourn. On the 20th Mr. Wyndham, the secretary for Ireland, asked leave to withdraw the Irish land bill (vol. iv., p. 809), and his motion was granted. He explained that in the course of the next session he intended to introduce a new measure for voluntary arrangements between Irish landlords and tenants. The Irish controversy was renewed on the 22d, when the Liberal leader, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, supported the request of the Irish members for a day on the Irish crisis. Mr. Balfour responded that he would comply only if the request were adopted by the Liberal party as a whole and made a party question on a vote of censure. As this could not be done, the day was not granted. William O'Brien exclaimed during the discussion that if the Irish members were not given a day they would take one.

Outside of parliament the most important British news relates to the action of the conference on the taxation of land values held at London on the 21st. This conference was called by the town council of Glasgow (p. 378), by an overwhelming majority, to meet for the purpose of considering how best to formulate a general parliamentary bill for the taxation of land values for local purposes. There were 160 delegates in attendance representing 124 British councils—county, urban district and borough. Two resolutions were adopted. One approved the principle of taxing land values for local purposes, the same principle that is distinguished in the United States by the term "single tax." This was adopted without dissent. The other resolution, adopted with only four dissenting votes, provided for carrying the first into effect through a parliamentary bill. The specific demand made was for a tax of 2 shil-

lings to the pound of annual land value, whether actual or potential, which would be about $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 per cent. on the selling value of all land, whether in use or vacant, and without considering the value of improvements. As land values now escape taxation, this proposal, light as the suggested tax would be, is regarded in Glasgow, where it originates, as a pronounced advance in the direction of the land reform advocated by Henry George.

Apropos of the Irish question in the British parliament, an Irish agitation has begun in the United States. It was started under the auspices of the United Irish League of America. John Dillon, Edward Blake and John E. Redmond, members of parliament, and Michael Davitt, landed in Boston from Queens-town on the 17th to attend the convention of the league, which met on the 20th in Fanueil hall. The league pledged \$100,000 to the cause, and John F. Finerty, of Chicago, was re-elected president. The night before the convention two immense mass meetings of sympathy with the Irish was held. Mayor Collins presided at one and William Lloyd Garrison at the other.

A long expected breach has occurred in the ministry of the Canadian dominion. Minister Laurier's party was elected as a free trade party, but the minister of public works, Joseph I. Tarte, turns out to be a protectionist. During the absence of Mr. Laurier in Europe last Summer Mr. Tarte, without consulting his colleagues, began an active campaign in favor of an immediate revision of the Canadian tariff in the direction of high protection. For this Mr. Laurier demanded his resignation, and on the 21st it was given. In tendering his resignation Mr. Tarte said:

You are leader of the government, and your opinion, as far as my attitude is involved, must prevail. Entertaining the opinion that the interests of the Canadian people make it our duty to revise, without delay, the tariff of 1897 with the view of giving a more adequate protection to our industries, to our farming community, to our workmen. I cannot remain silent. I prefer my freedom of action and of speech, under the circumstances, than the great honor of being your colleague.

In reply Mr. Laurier described Mr. Tarte's conduct, and wrote as follows:

I regret having been obliged to ob-

serve to you that this attitude on your part constituted a self-evident violation of your duty toward the government, of which you were a member. If you had reached the conclusion that the interest of the country demanded without delay an increase of the customs duties, the first thing for you to do as a member of the government, before addressing your views to the country, would have been to place them before your colleagues with the object of obtaining that unanimous action of the cabinet which is the very foundation of responsible government. If you had not been able to obtain from your colleagues their assent to the new course which you recommended, you would have been obliged then to sever your connection with them, and then, for the first time, you would have been free to place your views before the public.

It is understood that Mr. Tarte will make an aggressive campaign against the ministry of which he has been until now a member. Back of the protection movement he is leading is the Canadian Manufacturers' association. The premier of the province of Quebec, Mr. Parent, has been called to Mr. Tarte's place in the Laurier cabinet.

Johnson's campaign in Ohio remains the subject of special interest in American politics. After his Youngstown meeting on the 13th (p. 440) Johnson went on the 14th to Warren, the county seat of Trumbull county, where Mr. Bigelow rejoined the party after a tour in the southern part of the State. Although the night was bitterly cold and the locality strongly Republican, the audience at Warren numbered 4,000. Ravenna was the meeting place for the 15th. It is the county town of the strongly Republican county of Portage, but the tent was packed. On the 16th the tent was pitched in Akron, where the Republican convention had been held. Though Akron is in the Republican county of Summit, the meeting there is reported to have been much larger than that which listened to the speakers on the occasion of the Republican convention. The sides of the tent were removed and 7,500 people crowded within hearing distance. But the largest of all of Johnson's meetings was on the 17th, at Cleveland, where 15,000—10,000 within an enlarged tent and 5,000 without—gathered to hear him and Bigelow. Two large meetings were held in Cleveland on the 18th and again on the 20th, the beginning of next to the last week of the campaign.