

lutionists from the field and the town of Guatire in disorder.

Crossing over to Morocco, where it was expected last week (p. 616) that the capital city, Fez, could not long delay capitulation to the rebels by whom it was beleaguered, we find it impossible to give further trustworthy news. The situation is reported as mysterious, and the only direct sources of news are Tangier and Madrid. Among the more or less dubious reports is one to the effect that as the rebel leader had proclaimed his efforts to dethrone the sultan to be for no other purpose than to enthrone the sultan's imprisoned brother, Mulai-Mohammed, the sultan has deprived him of all ostensible reason for the rebellion by releasing his brother from imprisonment and making a public reconciliation. Another of these dubious reports declares that the sultan has circumvented the rebels by breaking off his relations with Christians and agreeing to the immediate dismissal of his European officials.

Germany has notified Spain that she intends to observe a neutral attitude towards Morocco, similar to that of Great Britain and France (p. 616); but France has apparently taken military measures to protect her Moorish interests. A dispatch of the 2d from Paris tells of telegrams from Algeria, announcing that detachments of French zouaves had been ordered to the Moorish frontier and that one company had started.

In France, senatorial elections were held on the 4th, at which 94 seats becoming vacant by expiration of term, and 4 which had become vacant by death of incumbents, were filled. One-third of the senators of France go out of office every three years, the full term being nine years. The issue at these elections was the Waldeck-Rousseau policy and the programme adopted in support of that policy by the Combe's ministry, which became the friendly successor of the Waldeck-Rousseau ministry after the triumph of the latter at the elections for members of the lower house last Summer (pp. 90, 140, 150). Among the candidates at the senatorial election were the premier, M. Combes, and the finance minister, M. Rouvier. Both were elected, the former from two departments. The ministry claim a general net gain of 13 senators—a loss

from two departments and a gain from fifteen.

An important British election took place on the 2d. It was a by-election to fill the Conservative seat in parliament for Newmarket, and was regarded as a supreme test of the non-conformist feeling over the passage of the education bill (p. 585). The Liberal candidate, C. D. Rose, belongs to the Rosebery faction; but the party united upon him because he is opposed to the education bill. He was elected by 4,414 to 3,907 for the Conservative candidate, a Liberal majority of 507. At the previous election the Conservative candidate had carried the constituency by a majority of over 1,000.

Apropos of the wireless telegraph across the Atlantic (p. 600), an interview with Marconi, the inventor, which appeared on the 4th, is of special news interest. Mr. Marconi said:

"Wireless telegraphy across the ocean is now as practical as cabling. We have sent more than 2,000 words in all from Grace Bay to Poldhu and have reached a speed of fifteen words a minute, which, considering our clumsy sending apparatus—a mere wooden lever to connect and disconnect the current—indicates what we can do when we substitute a sending key designed for speed. With a proper sending key we can easily get off 30 words a minute, and I shall be surprised if we do not soon send at a higher rate. The Atlantic cables average about 21 words a minute in their regular work, I believe. And there is this vital difference in the two systems of transoceanic telegraphy: As the cable grows longer the rate of speed in sending messages decreases, while distance makes no difference in the rate at which we can send by the wireless system."

"Can you send more than one message at a time from the same station?"

"Yes, I have already demonstrated that we can send two at a time for a short distance. Whether more than two messages can be transmitted simultaneously by the same wires I am unable to say—probably not. But separate stations can be set up and worked in the same neighborhood without interfering with each other, so that our capacity for sending messages can be multiplied indefinitely."

"How can you prevent other people with similar wireless apparatus from reading the messages you send from continent to continent? The secrecy of telegraphic communication is vital."

"With properly tuned instruments," he said, "we can make the reading of

our trans-Atlantic messages very difficult. To read a wireless message an outside station would have to be in exact tune or vibratory unison with our stations at the same moment. It would cost a rival not less than \$50,000 to try the experiment on the smallest scale. Besides, we can arrange our apparatus so that the tune, or rate of vibration, can be automatically changing every moment at the same rate in the sending and receiving stations on each side of the ocean. Those who talk about the danger of having our messages read by outsiders do not understand the subject."

It is announced also, with reference to the wireless telegraph, that it is to be utilized within a few days for the publication of a daily newspaper on board one of the Atlantic liners, during her voyages.

In Congress, which resumed its sessions on the 5th after the holiday recess, the Senate has become involved in promising discussions of the trust question. These discussions had two distinct starting points—a bill introduced by Senator Hoar, the discussion of which he opened on the 6th; and a resolution offered by Senator Jones, calling upon the attorney general to disclose the testimony against trusts, which had been procured and submitted to him last Fall by Wm. R. Hearst, but upon which he appears to have taken no action. In addition to these centers of controversy there was published a long semi-official letter from the attorney general to the House judiciary committee purporting to set forth not only his own views but those of the President on the trust question. The Hearst evidence was the most important subject of the three.

The character of the issue may be inferred from the Jones resolution, which is as follows:

Whereas, on October 4, 1902, a sworn statement or petition was filed with the attorney general of the United States by William Randolph Hearst, charging the existence of an illegal combination or conspiracy among railroads therein named engaged in interstate commerce, the tendency and the purpose of which was the establishment of a monopoly in the business of transporting and selling anthracite coal, and in connection with said petition a request was made for permission to present evidence establishing the existence of such a combination; whereas, said petition was referred to the United States district attorney for the Southern District of New York, with instructions to receive the evi-

dence and report the same to the department of justice; whereas, a protracted interval has elapsed since the filing of said petition and the submission of such evidence; Resolved, that the attorney general be, and he is hereby, directed to transmit to the Senate the evidence presented by said petitioner, together with a report thereon by said United States district attorney.

Senators Spooner and Foraker spoke against the resolution, urging that the law officers of the government ought not to be hurried in so grave and complicated a matter, and the debate was cut off by the arrival of the hour set for the regular order of business.

Senator Hoar spoke in favor of his anti-trust bill on the 6th. This bill would prohibit all corporations and associations that do not comply with certain regulations, or shall conspire to restrain trade, from engaging in inter-state or foreign commerce. It would require their books to be open to inspection. It would inflict severe penalties for violation. In his speech Mr. Hoar outlined the evils he aimed to remedy, substantially as follows:

(1) Destruction of competition; (2) the management of local industries by absentees in the interest of absentee capital; (3) destruction of local public spirit; (4) fraudulent capitalization; (5) secrecy; (6) management for the private benefit of the officials; (7) the power to corrupt elections, and in some cases to corrupt the courts; (8) the want of personal responsibility to public sentiment; (9) the absence of personal liability for contracts or wrong doing; (10) the holding of vast properties in mortmain—in the "dead hand."

Attorney General Knox's long letter to the House judiciary committee is thus summarized by a trustworthy and well known Washington correspondent, Walter Wellman:

(1) That all acts of discrimination affecting interstate trade be made offenses and be punished.

(2) Railroads and other common carriers should be prohibited carrying freight for anyone at less than the published rate.

(3) Shippers who accept rebates should be punished as well as the carriers who pay them.

(4) The law should reach concerns which produce or manufacture wholly within a State but sell in other States, first by punishing them for accepting transportation rebates, and second, for selling below the general price in particular localities for the purpose of destroying competition. The suggestion being that commodities in-

tended for this purpose be prohibited crossing State lines.

(5) That a commission be appointed to investigate the facts relating to trust abuses and to make recommendations to Congress.

(6) That legislation should be had to facilitate decision of cases now raised or that may be instituted under the existing anti-trust law by enabling the attorney general to have original cases heard before a full circuit bench, with immediate appeal to the United States Supreme Court, so that all constitutional questions involved may be disposed of as speedily as possible.

Mr. Knox's general point of view is indicated in the following quotation from his letter:

The end desired by the overwhelming majority of the people of all sections of the country is that combinations of capital should be regulated and not destroyed, and that measures should be taken to correct the tendency toward monopolization of the industrial business of the country. I assume a thing to be avoided, even by suggestion, is legislation regulating the business interests of the country beyond such as will accomplish this end. In my judgment a monopoly in any industry would be impossible in this country, where money is abundant and cheap and in the hands or within the reach of keen and capable men, if competition were assured of a fair and open field and protected against unfair, artificial and discriminating practices. Two or more persons or corporations cannot by any combination or arrangement between themselves, either contract or expand the rights of others to engage in a similar business. The utmost they can do is to discourage the disposition to do so by restricting the opportunities, or by securing to themselves some exclusive facilities or the enjoyment of some common facilities upon exclusive terms. The country is filled with men whose lives have been devoted to industry, who have developed and made profitable the properties now possessed by the trusts at prices far in excess of the cost of modernized duplicates, who will not long remain idle when assured that their capital and experience can be securely employed in the business to which they were trained.

All this anti-trust excitement in official circles, coming as it has with significant suddenness, is doubtless due to the intense popular excitement of the past few days over the coal famine. The famine is reported throughout the West, and also from the East, and everywhere the price of coal is exorbitant beyond precedent. Factories have been com-

pelled to close and personal suffering for lack of coal is severe. To relieve New England, Senator Lodge has introduced a bill to suspend the tariff duty on coal for 90 days, while Senator Mason has introduced one authorizing the Federal courts to operate idle coal mines through receivers as in cases of insolvency; and on the 7th a resolution, offered by Senator Stewart, was adopted, under which an immediate investigation into the entire question of coal supply and the relation between wholesale and retail prices in the District of Columbia is to be made. Boston and Detroit are arranging to retail coal as a matter of public relief. In Cleveland threats of indictment for combining to make coal scarce are hanging over the heads of local dealers, and similar proceedings are threatened in Chicago. This phenomenon of coal scarcity is everywhere regarded as a mystery. Yet it is known that for weeks mile after mile of railroad sidetracks have been occupied by cars loaded with coal and waiting for—something. The more common disposition seems to be to place the blame upon local dealers, though rumors were filling the newspapers only a month or two ago to the effect that the coal trust, itself controlled by the coal railroads, which indirectly own the coal fields, was then making an effort to acquire a monopoly of the retail coal business of the large cities. What became of this effort is not positively known, but the mysterious coal famine with its enormous prices for coal would indicate that it succeeded.

The proceedings in arbitration of the anthracite strike (p. 600), which was proposed and agreed to with the express purpose of preventing just such a shortage of coal as now exists, were resumed on the 5th at Philadelphia.

A revival of public indignation over the cruelties inflicted by American soldiers upon Filipinos (p. 71) during the American war in the Philippines, is now imminent. It was allayed by the assurances of the war department and the President that these atrocities were only sporadic and committed by irresponsible soldiers or minor officers, and that in such instances the offenders would be tried and if convicted punished. Those assurances were strengthened by the institution of court martial proceedings. But the defense in one