

## NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, January 30, 1912.

### Final Result of German Elections.

At the second elections in Germany on the 25th, the political complexion of the new Reichstag, to meet on the 7th of February, was disclosed. There were 33 seats yet to fill, of which the Socialists won 11 out of the 22 which they had the right (through being either first or second at the first elections) to contest. This increases the Socialist strength from 53 in the Reichstag just dissolved, to 110 in the one about to convene; and it gives them 29 more seats than they have ever had before. It also makes the Socialist party the strongest individual party in the Reichstag.



The balance of power in the next Reichstag is reported to be held by the National Liberal party, of which Ernest Bassermann is the leader. This party can, by co-operating with either the reactionaries or the progressives, create a Parliamentary majority; and it is surmised that they may come to an understanding with the Socialists and other progressives, thereby divesting the conservative element of all control. This, however, is doubtful. The National Liberal slogan is said to be: "The *foe* stands on the Left, the *opponent* in the Right."



The final results of the elections show the following partisan distribution of seats:

Socialists .....	110
Centrists .....	97
Conservatives .....	71
National Liberals .....	47
Radicals .....	42
Racial parties .....	33
Independent .....	1
	401

Dr. Karl Liebknecht, son of the great Socialist leader who died a few years ago, was elected as a Socialist by an overwhelming majority at Potsdam, hitherto a strong Conservative constituency. "His chief constituent," say the dispatches, "is the Emperor," who, while the campaign was on, threatened to ruin the business interests of Potsdam if it elected Liebknecht. Dr. Liebknecht had recently served a sentence of 18 months' imprisonment for having made an anti-military propaganda. In the Emperor's own district in Berlin

the Socialist was defeated by a majority of only 7 in a total vote of 12,000. The result is as a whole distinctly a Socialist triumph and is so regarded on all hands. [See current volume, page 82.]



Some understanding of the party groupings may be got from a description of tendencies published by Edward Bernstein, the German Socialist, in the *London Nation* of December 30, 1911. There is a tendency, Mr. Bernstein writes, to division into three large camps, viz.:

1. The Conservative Camp, embracing the two Conservative parties, the Catholic Centre party, the Agriculturists, and small kindred groups.

2. The Liberal Camp, composed of National Liberals and the Radical Populists.

3. The Democratic Camp, consisting of the Social Democrats and the Democratic Radicals, of which Herr Rudolph Breitscheid is the best-known leader.

Besides these combinations, there are some small national groups, such as Poles, Alsatians, Guelfs, Danes, and so on, forming together a force of twenty-five to thirty members.

Of these "camps," as Mr. Bernstein calls them, the Agriculturists and other small groups are probably included in the Conservative group in the above table; but no line can be drawn in the table between the Radical Populists, whom Mr. Bernstein puts in the Liberal "camp," and the Radical Democrats whom he puts in the Democratic "camp" with the Socialists.



### The Freetrade Fight in Congress.

The metal tariff bill was taken up in the lower house of Congress on the 26th, Representative Palmer presenting and explaining the bill in behalf of the Democratic members of the ways and means committee, with Bartlett of Georgia and Underwood of Alabama supporting him, and Dalzell of Pennsylvania, Crumpacker of Indiana and Austin of Texas in opposition. The measure reduces the tariff on steel, iron ore and other metals and their products by an average of 35 per cent. It passed the House on the 29th by a vote of 210 to 109. Of the Progressive Republicans 20 voted for the bill with the Democrats and 14 against it. Three Democrats voted against it: Martin, Rucker and Taylor of Colorado. [See vol. xiv, pp. 394, 530.]



### Progressive Republicans in Illinois.

Two sessions of the Progressive Republican conference of Illinois were held in Springfield on the 27th, with Charles E. Merriam and E. P. Lovejoy as temporary and permanent chairman respectively. Medill McCormick was chairman of the resolutions committee and Walter S. Rogers of the committee on organization. The resolutions,