

in the limits of the constitution. The vote for adjournment was defeated—259 to 182. As the normal ministerial majority is in round numbers 130, this majority of only 77 is fairly regarded as indicating a growing feeling in the ministerial party in the Commons against further arbitrary methods on the part of the government.

The French parliamentary elections took place on the 27th, as was announced in these columns (vol. iv., p. 823) that they would; and it is believed that the ministry of Waldeck-Rousseau, which came in nearly three years ago (vol. ii., pp. 8, 9), will have a clear majority in the new chamber of deputies, to assemble on the 1st of June. The apportionment of deputies in France is one for each 100,000 inhabitants, and the number of deputies to be elected was 584. As a majority is necessary to elect, second elections must be held in districts where no candidate received a majority, and these number about 125. The second elections will be held on the 11th. Early news of the count, received on the 28th, gave the ministerialists 165 of the deputies elected, and the opposition 125. At that time the remaining districts were unaccounted for and no reports regarding them have been received since. Although the country at large sustains the old ministry, Paris does not. Not a single ministerialist deputy was elected from that city, from which there were four ministerialists in the chamber just dissolved. The Paris deputies-elect comprise 8 Nationalists, 6 anti-ministerialist Socialists, 4 anti-ministerialist Republicans, and 3 Conservatives. But the second elections may not leave the ministry wholly without support from Paris. One of the candidates to stand at the second elections there is M. Millerand, the Socialist member of the ministry, who failed to secure the necessary majority vote at the first balloting.

Russia appears to be in even greater stress than the reports of last week indicated. Owing to the strictness of the Russian censorship the facts are only just now reaching the outer world. They are divulged through private letters. In the south conflicts have occurred between the peasants and the police, and there are indications of extensive labor revolts. Bands aggregating 18,000 men are reported having sacked 80 estates at

Poltava and Kharkoff and destroyed what they could not carry off. The whole region is terrorized and landlords and stewards are fleeing. At Tula the soldiers refused to fire ball cartridge at the revolting peasants. Other instances indicating the sympathy of the troops with the insurrectionists are noted. Numerous attempts at the assassination of public officials have been made, and a number of desperate fights have taken place within the past eight weeks in which many persons have been killed. Moscow, Kief and St. Petersburg are given as among the places of their occurrence. Some of the reports suggest that a widespread revolutionary movement is on foot, which has penetrated into the army and affected officers as well as men, and that even sailors in the navy have come under its influence. Every class of Russian society except the highest nobility is suspected of being possessed by the spirit of revolution.

Whether in consequence of alarm inspired by these uprisings, or as an act of democratic statesmanship, the Czar has proposed to his ministers the abolition of the conscription laws. The majority of the ministers are said to have disapproved, arguing that it would be an invitation to rival nations to invade Russia. To this the Czar is credited with replying that history demonstrates the needlessness of conscription to make every Russian rise to resist invasion. As to aggressive war, none is needed; for he is opposed to that. No conclusion has yet been reached, but it is inferred that the conscription for 1903 will be postponed.

Concurrently with this report regarding conscriptions it is rumored that the Czar intends to issue a decree giving Russia a constitution in place of the present autocratic government, the principal feature of the proposed constitution to be a provision for a parliament and a responsible ministry.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—The Single Tax league of Missouri is making arrangements to erect a \$10,000 single tax building at the St. Louis world's fair.

—The semi-centennial celebration of the Western Unitarian conference is to be held in Chicago, on the 6th, 7th and 8th of May.

—Sol. Smith Russell, the famous American comedian, died at Washing-

ton on the 28th, at the age of 54. He had been an invalid for two years.

—The Ohio legislature on the 24th adopted a resolution submitting to popular vote the question of amending the state constitution so as to invest the governor with the veto power.

—On the 30th Secretary Long withdrew from his position in the cabinet as head of the navy department, and Congressman Moody, of Massachusetts, the new secretary, entered upon the duties of the office on the 1st.

—On the 28th the Chinese exclusion bill was passed by both Houses, and the President signed it on the 29th. It is the same as the previous law, except that it does not expire with the treaty, but is to remain in force subject only to future legislation by Congress.

—The submarine torpedo boat *Fulton*, on her way from New York to Washington by sea, made a ten-mile submarine trip down the Jersey coast on the 28th. The next day, while off the Delaware breakwater, an explosion, caused by an accumulation of gas generated by the storage battery, injured five of the men who composed the crew. One of them was an American naval lieutenant, another an Austrian naval lieutenant, two were engineers and one was a gunner.

—The San Francisco street car strike, on which we commented last week (p. 33), came to an end on the 26th, the victory being with the strikers. The tie-up was complete. Three thousand men were out, and all San Francisco was obliged to walk. The difficulty originated in an effort of the companies to crush a union. When the mayor had refused to allow either side to arm, the companies consented on the 22d to go into conference with their employes. Four days later the settlement was effected.

—The oleomargarine bill went to the president for his signature on the 28th. As it passed congress it imposes an annual tax of \$600 on manufacturers of oleomargarine, butterine and adulterated butter, and \$50 on manufacturers of renovated butter. In addition, it lays a tax of ten cents a pound on any of those commodities when artificially colored in imitation of butter, and a quarter of a cent a pound when not so colored. The commodities are subjected also to the police laws of any state into which they are transported.

#### PRESS OPINIONS.

##### THE PHILIPPINE ATROCITIES.

Cleveland Plain Dealer (con. Dem.), Apr. 27.—Whatever the provocation received, there was no excuse for such an order from a general of the United States army. The admission that it was given is a shock to the American people.

The Ithaca (N. Y.) Democrat (Dem.), Apr. 24.—If these things constitute "marked humanity and magnanimity," then pan-