

sitting for about a month, but practically nothing has been done yet.

During the recess Mr. Deakin, prime minister, invited Mr. Chamberlain to visit Australia to try to induce us to accept England's "offer" with regard to preferential trade. Mr. Chamberlain declined. He is probably too busy trying to get Great Britain to accept the "offer" made by the colonies. Preferential trade was mentioned in the Governor General's speech at the opening of parliament, but the question is really dead in Australia.

The arbitration and conciliation bill has again been introduced. It was on an amendment to this bill that the Barton ministry was defeated last year. The Deakin ministry will probably get beaten in the same way, which may mean a change of government.

Mr. Irvine, the State premier of Victoria, has retired on account of ill health, and has been succeeded by Mr. T. Bent. Irvine was by far the strongest man in the local ministry. Most of the reforms he set out to carry have been obtained: Economy, reduction of members of both houses of parliament, and reduction of the property qualification for electors of the upper house.

The elections under the new constitution will soon be held. The Opposition party has put forward taxation of land values, which is supported also by the Labor party, as one of the principal planks of their platform.

The See ministry in New South Wales was returned at the last election, in 1901, pledged to reduce the numbers of the State parliament. Nothing was done in that direction until at the end of last year, when a referendum was held on Federal election day to let the people vote on the reduction of State members. The choice was limited to 125 (the present number), 100, and 90. By a large majority 90 was carried, and the local ministry at once prepared a bill and mapped out new electorates; so it seems probable that the next election in New South Wales will be held under the new act.

The proposal to work the Rand mines with Chinese labor has opened many people's eyes to the underlying cause of the Boer war. Public meetings have been held to protest against it, and a motion condemning it was carried in both Federal Houses. Mr. Deakin sent a letter of protest, as did Mr. Seddon, of New Zealand, a thorough imperialist, and worshiper of Chamberlain. Deakin and Seddon were politely told by the home authorities to mind their own business.

ERNEST BRAY.

NEWS

Week ending Thursday, May 5.

What appears to have been a bloody and important battle in the

Russo-Japanese war (p. 55) has been fought on the western or Manchurian side of the Yalu river. The fighting occurred in connection with a Japanese movement in force across the Yalu from Suku, on the Korean side, to Chintiencheng, on the Manchurian side. The Russians describe it officially as the battle of Turenchen. Gen. Kuroki commanded the Japanese troops; Gen. Zassalitch commanded the Russians. The battle was fought on the 1st. Apparently the Japanese outnumbered the Russians about three to one, but this disparity is supposed to have been equalized by the fact that the Japanese were the assailants in the open, while the Russians fought behind entrenchments. The Japanese are conceded to have been victorious, the Russians having retired from Chintiencheng and Antung, to the south of it, back to Fenghuancheng, which lies to the west of both places and slightly north. Japanese official reports estimate the Japanese loss at 798 killed and wounded; Russian official reports estimate the Russian loss in killed at from 2,000 to 3,000. The Russians suffered heavily also in their loss of field artillery.

Following the authentic reports of the Japanese victory at Chintiencheng, came rumors of their capture of Newchwang, the point on the Russian railway at the head of the Gulf of Liaotung, which commands rail communication southward and menaces Port Arthur from the north. This rumor came from Chefoo, China, in a dispatch of the 4th to the London Chronicle as follows: "The Japanese landed troops at Yinkow on the 1st, under cover of the guns of a squadron of Japanese cruisers, and attacked and captured Newchwang on the 2d, after a fierce battle, the Russians falling back to protect the railway." This rumor is not verified and is probably false. It appears to be certain, however, from dispatches of the 4th from Tokio that the Japanese have succeeded completely in blocking the entrance to Port Arthur and thereby bottling up the Russian fleet at that point.

Colonial warfare by the Dutch against natives in Java and Sumatra has furnished an occa-

sional item of news during the past month or so. For 250 years Holland has maintained a profitable colonial system in these islands and on a greater part of the Malay archipelago. One of the features of this system is an institution resembling peonage, under which the natives are held in a species of slavery, they and their descendants, for the working out of debts. In more recent years a paternal despotism has somewhat modified the rigors of peonage; but the natives have never become reconciled to their foreign masters, and a continuous though desultory warfare has been the result. Lately this warfare has been carried on with the Atcheenese, of the extreme north of Sumatra, against whom the Dutch declared war in 1873. They are pure Malays and the most civilized of all the native tribes. This war is still in progress, and it is to its prosecution that the recent news reports refer. On the 2d of April an Amsterdam report told of a dispatch of that day from Kota Raja, Island of Sumatra, announcing that a column of Dutch troops operating in Atcheen province had engaged a strong entrenched body of Atcheenese in the Gajocloes district, with the result that 541 Atcheenese were killed, although the Dutch lost only 3 men killed and 25 wounded. The latest report from the seat of this colonial war, also from Amsterdam, is dated May 3, and tells of a dispatch from Batavia, Java, saying that a Dutch column had captured the Atcheenese position at Tjan-tee after a desperate fight, in which 190 Atcheenese were killed, the Dutch casualties being only 7 killed and 43 wounded. These fights appear to mark a new outbreak, for a series of campaigns, begun in 1898 and ending last August, was supposed to have subdued the Atcheenese.

Germany's colonial war in German Southwest Africa (p. 25) is not encouraging to the home authorities. Although an official dispatch of April 16 told of a repulse on the 13th of a superior force of Herreros who were moving upon Oxumbo, Berlin reports of the 28th tell a different story. The commandant of the Grootfontein district had cabled that the Germans there had suffered severe

losses and lacked the necessaries of life. He added: "I beg for immediate assistance." Supplies for the troops in the colony were said to have been lost and wasted to a deplorable degree and the entire African campaign miserably mismanaged. It was admitted that the campaign against the Herreros had not suppressed the uprising, but on the contrary had stirred the natives to a high pitch of determination. No further operations of an aggressive nature were contemplated by the Germans until reinforcements should arrive, and it is admitted that defensive measures were imperative.

Industrial instead of sanguinary warfare colors the news of the week in the United States. A tie-up of navigation on the great lakes is predicted in consequence of a failure of the vessel owners' union to agree with the masters and pilots' union. A meeting of the former was held at Cleveland on the 28th, attended also by railway line managers, at which the proposal of the masters and pilots was absolutely rejected. As reported by the committee of that meeting the rejected proposal was in substance as follows:

The masters and pilots insisted that each master should have nine months' pay whether he worked the whole nine months or only one month, regardless of whether he had been employed at any other vocation, and any master not notified prior to January 15 that his services would not be required would consider himself engaged for the ensuing season in the same line and on the same boat, and could not be transferred unless he was given a better boat. Also that no master could be discharged for cause without its being referred to the arbitration board. Yet the master reserved the right to discharge unquestioned all of the men under his jurisdiction.

Another great tie-up began on the 1st on the Santa Fe railroad. It is a strike of machinists, and about 10,000 have either "gone out" or been "locked out." This condition of affairs is reported by the press to be—

the culmination of more than a month of controversy. On March 23, the International Association of Machinists submitted a list of twenty rules which it desired the Santa Fe to contract to observe in the management of its machine shops. The officials asserted that this would be a recognition of the union and would prac-

tically unionize the shops, and take them out from under the control of the company. Therefore, they rejected the demands for a contract.

Owing to the general dearth of opportunities for employment, the railroad officials express no concern. Vice President Kendrick, of the Santa Fe, was reported on the 2d from Topeka as saying:

The labor market is in such condition just now as to make it perfectly practicable to obtain plenty of skilled labor in any department.

The meetings at Chicago of the National Municipal League, at which Lawson Purdy, of New York, spoke on the 27th (p. 55), were continued through the remainder of the week. Among the principal speakers besides Mr. Purdy were Charles J. Bonaparte, of Baltimore; Clinton Rogers Woodruff, of Philadelphia; Chas. Nagle, of St. Louis, and Horace E. Deming, of New York. Mr. Deming explained the municipal nominating law proposed by the committee on that subject, and Mr. Nagle told of the successful operation of the St. Louis law for elective school boards. A banquet at the Auditorium was given the delegates by the City Club of Chicago on the 29th, at which Frank H. Scott presided and Lincoln Stefens was one of the speakers.

The first national convention of the presidential campaign is that of the Socialist party, which met at Chicago on the 1st and is still in session. It opened with 230 delegates, representing all the States. Committees were appointed on the 2d. The committee on platform is as follows:

Eugene V. Debs, Indiana; George D. Herron, New York; Ben Hanford, New York; H. F. Titus, Washington; William Mally, Nebraska; M. W. Wilkins, California; Victor Berger, Wisconsin; Elmer Will, Kansas; G. F. Strobel, New Jersey.

Following are the other important committees:

Resolutions—Edward Moore, Pennsylvania; J. M. Spence, Wisconsin; Algeron Lee, New York; James O'Neal, Indiana; Peter Burrowes, New Jersey; Ida Crouch-Hazlett, Colorado; John Spargo, New York; Nicholas Klein, Minnesota; Charles Heydrick, Pennsylvania.

Constitution—Morris Hillquitt, New York; Manion Barnes, Pennsylvania; Robert Bandlow, Ohio; William Butscher, New York; H. F. Slobdin, New

York; B. Berlyn, Illinois; W. E. Clark, Nebraska; W. T. Mills, Kansas; N. A. Richardson, California.

Trades unions—Max Hayes, Ohio; Guy E. Miller, California; James F. Carey, Massachusetts; G. A. Hoehn, Missouri; John Collins, Illinois; Frank Sieverman, New York; Adam Nagel, Kentucky; D. A. White, Massachusetts; Jacob Hunger, Wisconsin.

State and municipal programme—Ernest Unterman, Illinois; J. M. Work, Iowa; A. H. Floten, Colorado; W. R. Gaylord, Wisconsin; Seymour Stedman, Illinois; S. M. Reynolds, Indiana; Luella R. Kraybill, Kansas; Warren Atkinson, Kansas; J. J. Kelly, Massachusetts.

Republican conventions have been held in three States since our last report (p. 53), Kentucky being one, South Dakota another and Louisiana the third. The Kentucky convention met on the 3d and instructed for Roosevelt. The South Dakota convention, which met on the 4th, also instructed for Roosevelt. The Louisiana convention was representative of that faction of the Republican party in the South which excludes Negroes and is consequently known as "the lily whites." It instructed for Roosevelt, but refused to place a Negro on the delegation, although a strong effort was made by ex-Gov. Warmouth and others to have one named.

Relative to the Democratic national campaign, John Brisben Walker, editor and proprietor of the Cosmopolitan Magazine, addressed an audience at Cooper Union on the 3d, in which he urged party harmony on the basis of abandoning the silver question in the platform and declaring for an entirely new financial system, a gradual diminution of the tariff, regulation of trusts, and ultimate independence for the Philippine islands. Mr. Walker proposed several planks which he intends to submit to the St. Louis convention for incorporation into the national platform. As reported, he said that—

the new financial system which he would have the party declare for would be acceptable, to all elements of the party, and in proof of this he asserted that it had been approved by men of such divergent views as William J. Bryan, Henry Watterson, and former Gov. Patterson, of Colorado. Following is his plan:

(1) Retirement of all legal tenders, all national bank currency, and all gov-