They cannot lower the rates unless they mean to starve the public services which they have promised to respect." A Tribune interview said: "The Socialists have lost seats for the Progressives by setting up hostile candidates of their own in perfectly hopeless constituencies. The revolution is devouring its own children. On the other hand—for it is useless to ignore facts at a time like this—many Progressives have been frightened by the growing concessions to the Labour Party and the Socialists in Parliament. . . . It would be idle to deny the magnitude of the disaster. It would be criminal to regard it as a 'knock-out blow,' and to hold our hands and do nothing between now and the next election three years hence. The results ought to stiffen the Liberal ranks and strengthen their unity and their resolution, both inside Parliament and outside it." The London correspondent of the Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury wrote: "The Progressive defeat is largely due to the apathy of the working classes. Of the total electorate, only about one-half polled. There is no doubt that the middle classes voted almost to their full strength, and very largely on the Moderate side. Of the 48 per cent. who did not take the trouble to vote, the vast majority must have belonged to the working classes, who were so little interested in the cause of good municipal government that they stayed away from the poll. One feature of the election is the insignificance of the Socialist vote. Five seats were lost to the Progressive party through Socialistic candidates, though in nearly all cases they polled but a small fraction of the votes. Of the members of the Council only three are Socialist, and these, of course, owe their seats to Progressive support." An interesting deduction was made by the Tribune: "Undoubtedly one of the lessons of London's tremendous municipal turnover is the need of proportional representation. A Progressive majority of forty-nine was transformed into a minority of forty-one; but, as the article we publish to-day shows, in proportion to the votes polled by the two sides in 1904 the majority ought to have been twelve and the minority now should be seventeen. Exactly in the same way the result of the Parliamentary general election of 1906 was a huge exaggeration of the real change of opinion. Liberals were not so weak in 1900 as they seemed, nor so strong last year. Exaggerations of this kind are apt to be mischievous as depriving the majority party of the restraining influence of a really representative Opposition. It would be quite possible under the present system for the party only just in a minority to be almost annihilated."

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A motion to repeal the Irish crimes act was discussed in the House of Commons on the 13th. Mr. Birrell, chief secretary for Ireland, described the act as a "code of tyrannical laws," and said that so far as the present Government was concerned the act was dead and buried and would be formally repealed at the earliest opportunity.

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According to a dispatch of the 18th, Dr. Thomas J. McNamara, Parliamentary Secretary of the Local Government board, has been admitted to member-ship in the Dulwich branch of the United Irish League of Great Britain. This is the first instance of a member of the British ministry joining a militant Irish nationalist organization.

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Proportional Representation Under Consideration in France.

A bill based on the principles of proportional representation and ticket voting has been approved by the universal suffrage committee of the Chamber of Deputies, and is shortly to be brought before the Chamber for discussion (vol. viii, 874). The bill increases the period of the deputies' mandate to six years, instead of four as at present. The number of representatives is to be reduced from 591 to about 490. By the new system each department is to be regarded as a distinct electoral district entitled to return one deputy for every 25,000 voters. Each voter is to be given as many votes as there are deputies to be elected in his department or constituency, and he may either distribute them among the candidates or cast them all for one.

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Jewish Massacres in Rumania.

Rumania, which lies in southeastern Europe between Austria-Hungary, Russia, Bulgaria and Servia, is disturbed by peasant uprisings caused by discontent with the taxes recently levied by the parliament, and with the exactions and tyranny of the smaller land holders. In several places (just as in Russia) the revolt has taken the shape of attacks upon the Jews in the nearest towns, in one district at least with the full acquiescence of the prefect. The following cablegram was received by a Jewish paper in New York on the 17th: "Terrible massacre since last Thursday. Town totally destroyed. All the Jewish population are ruined and houses pillaged. We ask help. Marcus Getzel, Elias Solomon, Shje Sternberg." The names signed to the cablegram are said to be those of leading merchants of Podihilo. It is a place of about 6,000 inhabitants, 4,000 of whom are Jews. Podihilo is described as only about thirty miles from Kishineff, which is in Bessarabia, across the Russian frontier. At Burduzheni, after being attacked and plundered, 2,000 Jews were reported to be fleeing across the frontier into Austria.

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The Russian Program.

The sittings of the Douma were interrupted for a few days because of the fall of the ceiling in the room in the Tauride palace devoted to its use. The catastrophe occurred on the 15th, and seems to have been accidental. The nails and other fastenings binding the ceiling to the rafters had not been replaced for more than a hundred years, and had been strained by the weight of newly added decorations. The Douma resumed its sittings on the 19th, when Mr. Stolypin, the Prime Minister, presented a program to which the Government had given its consent, and which it asked the Douma to put into effect. "Our country," said Mr. Stolypin, according to the Chicago Record-Herald's report "must be transformed into a constitutional state. Real measures must be adopted to define and determine the rights of the state and of private individuals and