

Vacancies will be filled at some future time by elections to be held by the provisional government pursuant to a declaration issued Sept. 29 last. The first series of senators, elected in 1902, and the representatives elected in 1904, continue in office. The decree will state that if moral peace, tranquillity and public confidence are restored to such an extent that elections can be held in 1907, there will be elected at that time successors to the representatives whose terms of office expire Dec. 31, 1907, without shortening the terms of those representatives.

+

The Moderates (President Palma's party) are much dissatisfied with the situation, but the Liberals are on the whole pleased, believing that since the insurrection was entirely directed against the frauds of the last elections, this course vindicates their contention. *La Discussion* declares that—

The essence of the document inspired by the Washington administration, while complying with the agreement with the insurgents, is that the United States will now treat with Cuba as a whole, will listen to the whole country and invite all classes to express their opinions as to the best settlement of the problem. This is just; it is democratic, and beyond doubt it offers the only solution to the problem."

+ +

Ministerial Crisis in Spain.

Movements looking to a separation between church and state in Spain, similar to the movement now working itself out under the separation law in France, have been vaguely reported from Madrid for several months (p. 678). This situation is one of the reasons assigned for the resignation of the ministry (vol. viii, p. 202) announced on the 28th. Another reason given is that the ministers disagreed over the treatment of Morocco. Some wanted immediately to land troops in that country to enforce order at Tangier and its neighborhood, where Raisuli is reported to be still fighting the Kabyle and Anghera tribesmen, and where in any case lawlessness is acute. The others were opposed to such action as imprudent and as likely to have fatal consequences for Spain, German interests in Morocco being very sensitive to interference.

+

A new cabinet was formed on the 29th by Senor Moret y Prendergast, and the appointments were accepted by King Alfonso. This new cabinet encountering difficulties, resigned on the 3d. On the 4th the King approved of a new ministry under the premiership of the Marquis de Armijo, in which General Weyler holds his old portfolio as minister of war. This second cabinet has assured the Cortes (the Spanish parliament) that an attempt will be made to hurry through the ratification of the Algeiras convention (p. 34) and the budget, and then the Cortes will be prorogued.

+ +

In the British Parliament.

The land tenure bill (p. 824) has passed its third reading in the House of Commons, and has gone to the Lords. Of this bill it was remarked in the Commons as a curious fact that "there was not, from one end to the other, one single sentence in it affecting

the tenure of land." It deals, in fact, with the contract relations between the landlords and tenants of agricultural land.

+

The trades disputes bill (vol. viii, p. 874; vol. ix, p. 9) has passed its second reading in the House of Lords. Lord Lansdowne, speaking for the Conservative Opposition, declared that he believed the duty of the House of Lords was to arrest the progress of a measure when it believed it had not been sufficiently considered or was not in accordance with the wishes of the people. The Government had a mandate for the people for the present measure, however, so that the only course opened to the House of Lords was to pass the bill, although the House regarded it as conferring excessive privileges on trade unionists which were dangerous to the community and likely to embitter industrial life.

+

Compromise between the two Houses on the education bill (p. 824) seemed hopeless after the debate in the Lords on the night of the 3d, and the opinion prevailed among the members of the Opposition that the Government would have to drop the present bill, and introduce another at the next session of Parliament. No important concessions have been made by the Lords. So intense is the feeling aroused by the House of Lords that at an emergency meeting of the general committee of the National Liberal Federation on the 27th, a resolution was adopted unanimously urging the Government to totally reject the Lords' amendments to the bill, and to "resolutely determine that the present Parliament shall not come to an end until steps are taken to bring to a final arbitrament the question whether the House of Peers should any longer possess the right of veto on the will of the people as declared by the House of Commons." The meeting is reported to have been the largest and most representative of its kind which has been held for years. In a letter to the committee which was read at the meeting, the Premier, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, made the following statements on behalf of the Government:

The education bill as passed by the House of Commons was a bill which the country demanded in unmistakable terms at the general election. It now seems to have been turned into a travesty of its original form. As amended it perpetuates, if it does not extend the very grievances and wrongs fixed upon the country by the act of 1902. Of one thing you may rest assured—we will have no tampering with the main principles upon which our bill is founded. If within those limits an arrangement can be reached, all well and good. If not, it will be for us to see that on this question of education, and on others, a way is found by which the wishes of the country may be made to prevail.

+ +

Russian Political Parties.

As the time for the Douma elections, December 30 (p. 704), approaches, party alignments become more definite. The Octoberists, as the most conservative constitutional party has been called since constitutionalism for Russia became a practical question two years ago (vol. vii, p. 535), held a general meeting in St. Petersburg on the 18th, at which 5,000 members were present. A. J. Guchkoff, who presided, advised all who were ready to use revolu-