

British, and also of a fight in which "a superior Boer force" attacked 80 of Gen. Kitchener's scouts and after killing 20 captured the rest. In a dispatch of the 4th Kitchener reported that DeWet was moving toward Philippolis, in the southern part of the Orange Free State, but being headed off by the British, had turned north and marched toward Fauresmith.

This long-drawn-out struggle in South Africa is having a wearying effect upon the spirits of the ministerial majority in the British house of commons. We told two weeks ago (page 727) of a vote in which the ministry with a normal majority of 130 were on the 19th saved from defeat upon an important issue by only 45; and now, on the 28th, they have carried an appropriation measure, which had suffered severe criticism from the opposition, by only 52.

A disgraceful physical encounter upon the floor of the house has added to the embarrassments of the ministry. This occurred about midnight of the 5th in an effort to throw out Irish members for passive resistance to a voting rule. Educational appropriations were under debate. The Irish members had not yet been heard, and it was understood that in order to give them a hearing no vote would be taken that night. Consequently the Irish leaders were absent from the house, when, disregarding the understanding, Mr. Balfour, in behalf of the ministerial party, moved "the closure," which is the European equivalent for the American "previous question." Indignant at this attempt to deny them a hearing upon educational appropriations for Ireland, the Irish members present, some 30 or 40, refused to vote on the motion for closure, denouncing it as an attempt at gag law. They were asked three times to retire to the division lobby for the purpose of voting on the motion, but refused. Some of their number were thereupon "named" by the speaker, and their suspension from the privileges of members was moved by Mr. Balfour. Upon the adoption of this motion, without division, the speaker ordered the suspended members to withdraw. They refused. The sergeant-at-arms repeated the request. They still refused. Then a body of police were called in, which ejected the suspended members by force. As the suspended members resisted police interference, a most undigni-

fied manifestation of police violence ensued, and all attempts on the part of liberal leaders to quiet the tumult were drowned by hooting from the ministerial members. After an hour of this rioting, the house adjourned, on motion of Mr. Balfour, without coming to a vote on the question of closure. Indignation is freely expressed by leading Englishmen at the unprecedented and shocking spectacle of a force of police appearing on the floor of the house of commons during its proceedings and assaulting members.

Scenes of violence not essentially very different from that just recorded are an almost daily occurrence in the Austrian reichsrath. Here the party divisions are along the lines of race, language and nationality, and the conflicts are furious. On the 27th, for instance, the Associated Press thus described a free fight between pan-Germans and Czechs on the floor:

The session opened with a promise of storms. Herr Schoenerer was especially prominent in creating disturbance. Later the Czechs resorted to obstruction, making speeches in their own language. The pan-Germans protested against the abuse of freedom of speech, and a party of them invaded the Czech benches. The result was a fierce fist-cuffs fight. A pan-German named Stim attempted to chastise a Czech named Fressl, whereupon the radical Czechs surrounded him. Stim's friends rushed to his rescue, and the various groups became mixed in a free fight, during which the president's bell and voice were drowned in the uproar. Eventually the president succeeded in making it known that the session was suspended. Before the house could be cleared, however, the rival members again clinched and fierce blows were exchanged.

A similar disturbance occurred on the 5th. A Czech began speaking in his own language, and the president stopped him, whereupon another Czech, Fressl, rushed to the presidential chair, and, as the Associated Press correspondent describes the scene—

seized the papers from the desk and crushed them into a ball. A member of the German people's party named Malik sprang upon Fressl and belabored him. Berger, a pan-German, joined in the fray and showered blows upon Fressl. Others joined in the fighting and the noise became terrific. The combatants were separated finally and the sitting of the house was suspended.

The perilous political conditions in Spain, reported some weeks ago (page

713), have improved. The marriage of the king's sister, then mentioned, to a reactionary Bourbon took place at Madrid on the 14th, with the city under martial law and Gen. Weyler, of Cuban fame, in command as captain general. Martial law has been since continued and is still in force, but Weyler promises to remove it as soon as a government capable of restoring constitutional guarantees has been organized. The first step in this direction was the selection of the liberal leader, Sagasta, to form a new cabinet. This he succeeded in doing on the 6th, the composition of the new cabinet being as follows:

Premier, Sagasta; minister of foreign affairs, Almodovar; minister of finance, Urazaiz; minister of war, Gen. Weyler; minister of the interior, Morot; minister of marine, duke of Veragua; minister of public works, Villameva; minister of public instruction, Romanones. The portfolio of minister of justice has not yet been allotted.

The new cabinet is composed throughout of liberals.

Returning to American politics, the item of principal interest for the week was the opening of the municipal campaign in Chicago. A large petition urging John M. Harlan, a son of the supreme court justice, to be a mayoralty candidate before the republican convention had been regarded as certain to secure the selection of that gentleman. But, although he was at first in the lead, a combination of the republican "machine" (bossed by William Lorimer) and the corporation interests, carried the convention for Elbridge Hanecy, one of the Chicago judges. The "machine" tried to strengthen the ticket by offering Harlan the place upon it of nominee for city attorney, but he refused. That was on the 2d, and on the 5th Mayor Carter H. Harrison was nominated for reelection by the democratic "machine."

In Toledo, Mayor Samuel M. Jones has formally announced his acceptance of a nomination for reelection made by a petition signed by 3,500 voters; and in Cleveland, Tom L. Johnson, the democratic candidate, whose conversion to low fares and municipal ownership of street car lines is charged to be recent, has issued a pamphlet of his "past utterances on present issues—three-cent fares and other municipal questions." As it contains information of general interest, copies can doubtless be obtained for the asking.