

tion idea seems to be gaining ground rapidly.

British politics (p. 646) has been further disturbed by the astonishing result of a by-election at Norwich on the 15th. Norwich has been safely Conservative for many years; and although an increased Liberal vote was expected, yet it was supposed that the advocates of a Labor party candidate would nullify the effect of that increase and insure the triumph of Mr. Chamberlain's candidate. The Labor candidate did poll 2,240 votes, but the Liberal nevertheless defeated the Chamberlain candidate by 8,576 to 6,756. That the Liberals should have come in with such an overwhelming plurality is regarded in London as making the result at this election the worst blow to Chamberlain's protection policy that it has yet received.

In France (vol. v, 633; vol. vi, 458, 475) the ministry suffered a defeat in the department of the Nord at a by-election on the 16th; but it was not important nor especially significant. Some attention was excited during the week by a split in the Radical-Socialist group in the chamber of deputies. The seceding faction has named itself the "Radical Socialist Left." But as both factions continue to support the ministry, this episode also is of slight importance.

It was demonstrated in the German reichstag (p. 584) on the 19th that the German government tolerates the operations of Russian secret police within the German Empire. A Socialist member, Haase, made the accusation. He said that Russia maintains a chief of spies in Berlin whose relations with the German government are such as to permit him to use the German police agencies and other instruments of the government as though they were Russian; that these spies make domiciliary visits to the homes of Russian students or other residents, occasionally getting at the postal officials and opening mail addressed to Russians; that they use the methods of housebreakers, seemingly without exciting police vigilance, and had forged a power of attorney to receive the mail of a Socialist member of the reichstag, suspected of being in corre-

spondence with Russians who were under the disapproval of the Russian government. Mr. Haase then asked the ministers if it was not true that Russians were conducted across the Russian frontier at the request of the Russian government without extradition proceedings or the bringing of specific charges. The secretary for foreign affairs, answering Haase, declared the German government was aware that the Russian embassy employed an official to watch over Russian anarchists in Germany, but the government was not aware that German subjects were likewise under observation. The government also was not aware, he said, that Russian agents had committed crimes or attempted to persuade others to commit crimes. Continuing, the secretary said that Haase had reproached the government with lending assistance to Russian agents. This, he admitted. The government had no reason to protect the revolutionary subjects of a neighboring friendly state. The common interests of civilization demanded watching over anarchists. The government had no other course than to deliver Russian anarchists to the Russian government. The German government simply put troublesome foreigners over whichever frontier it regarded as most suitable. This ministerial explanation was answered by Bebel, the Socialist leader, who denied that the Russo-German police understanding was directed against anarchists; he said a well informed Russian had assured him that what Germany regards as anarchists do not exist in Russia at all. Bebel characterized the delivery of Russians, whose only crime was discontent with the reigning political conditions, to the Russian police to be transported to Siberia or indefinitely imprisoned, as being barbarism. He added that the German government and the German empire had become "Russia's bootblack." The protest was not confined to Socialists. Schrader, a Liberal of the Barth faction, was among the others who supported the Socialist position. He protested vigorously against the exercise of police functions in Germany by foreigners. There was not the least doubt, he insisted, that Russian agents also watched Germans, since it

was impossible to watch Russian residents without watching their acquaintances.

The progress of the war in Santo Domingo (p. 612) brings us back to our own side of the Atlantic. On the 19th something extraordinary in the way of warfare occurred in this conflict. The Jiminez revolutionists in possession of Puerto Plata were attacked by the government forces. Before the battle began the commanders of the American and British warships notified both sides of the utmost limits of the fighting zone that they would tolerate. Both sides respected this fighting-zone order, as the two warships were in a position to enforce it. Finally when the fighting had progressed far enough to show that the Jiminez forces were defeated, eight marines from the American warship took the American flag and, going up to the firing line, ordered hostilities to cease. The order was obeyed. After the fight had been stopped by the eight marines the commander of the United States warship landed a force of 100 men and arranged for the surrender of all the Jiminez troops and turned the fort into which they had retreated over to Gen. Cespedes, the commander of the government forces.

A brief revolt against the Haytian government (vol. v., 599) occurred early in the month under the leadership of Gen. Montplaisir. It was immediately suppressed and Gen. Montplaisir with four of his following were executed at Cape Haytian on the 17th, after sentence by a military tribunal and in the presence of a large crowd of spectators.

The Republic of Panama (p. 630) was turned over on the 15th by the provisional junta to the recently elected (p. 613) constitutional convention. The convention had assembled for the first time on the same day and completed its permanent organization. Of the temporary organization G. B. Amador was elected chairman. Dr. Pablo Arosmena was elected president of the permanently organized convention, and Dr. Louis de Roux vice president. The first draft of a constitution was approved on the 20th. It provides

for the abolition of business monopolies of the Republic; the infliction of the death penalty for political crimes; the abolition of the army and the establishment of an efficient police force; and the Catholic church separate from the state. All citizens, with the exception of members of any military body which may be established, are to have the right to vote, and the press is to be free.

A bill for the annexation of Panama to the United States was introduced in the American Senate on the 20th by Senator Morgan. It appropriates \$10,000,000 as compensation to Panama for its cession; places \$10,000,000 at the disposal of the President for the compensation of Colombia, and appropriates \$60,000,000 for the purchase of the property of the New Panama Canal Company in Colombia, including the Panama canal. It is especially provided that the provisions of the bill shall not have the effect of repealing the Spooner act. A preamble to the bill sets forth that many nations have recognized the secession of Panama, that the independence of that Republic is an accomplished fact, that the President of the United States approved and protected the secession with the naval forces of the United States, and that the President and the Senate recognized the independence of the new Republic by appointing and accrediting a minister to that Republic. After providing for the construction of the Panama canal by the United States, the bill declares that all the rights and properties of the Republic of Panama of every description shall vest in the United States of America without reserve and shall be subject to their sovereign jurisdiction.

Senator Morgan also introduced in the Senate on the 20th a concurrent resolution directing the President to enter into negotiations with the governments of Nicaragua and Costa Rica for the construction of a canal by the Nicaraguan route.

Apropos of the traction question in Cleveland (pp. 647-48) it appears that recent press dispatches have been somewhat misleading. No extension of old franchises

has been given, but a franchise has been granted a new company which proposes to operate a road at three-cent fare, with other favorable stipulations as to transfers and ultimate municipal ownership. Franchises for the operation of connecting lines now owned by the monopoly company, whose franchise soon expires, have also been granted to the new 3-cent line. In addition, an ordinance (the McKenna ordinance) has been passed fixing fares slightly within the city limits at 3 cents on all the old lines. This would accommodate about 90 per cent. of the people of Cleveland with 3-cent fares. But there has been no compromise allowing the old companies to charge more than 5 cents anywhere. The 3-cent, 5-cent and 7-cent zones reported in the press dispatches as acceptable to Mayor Johnson were merely proposed by representatives of the company. Mayor Johnson has stated publicly that he would not accept such a proposition without a referendum. The 3-cent ordinance is to take effect on the 21st, when it is to be enforced if not enjoined by the courts.

NEWS NOTES.

—Geo. Francis Train, 74 years old, died at New York on the 18th.

—Ex-Gov. Asa Bushnell, of Ohio, died at Columbus on the 15th at the age of 70.

—The convention of the United Mine Workers of America opened at Indianapolis on the 19th.

—One of the Republican Senators in the Ohio legislature has introduced a bill to abolish Spring elections in municipalities.

—Charles Denby, formerly United States minister to China, died at Jamestown, N. Y., on the 13th, after giving a lecture there. His home was Evansville, Ind., and his age 73.

—James L. Blair, of St. Louis (son of Francis P. Blair, the candidate with Horatio Seymour for Vice President of the United States), recently general counsel for the World's Fair at St. Louis, died at Eustis, Fla., on the 16th.

—Hermann Eduard von Holst, author of "The Constitutional History of the United States," died at Freiburg, Germany, on the 20th. He was born in Russia, June 19, 1841; escaped political persecution by fleeing to the United States in 1867; and at the time of his death was head of the department of history in the Chicago University.

—The statistics of exports and imports of the United States (see p. 585)

for the six months ending December 31, 1903, as given by the December Treasury sheet, were as follows (M standing for merchandise, G for gold and S for silver):

	Exports.	Imports.	Balance.
M	\$77,017,182	\$482,906,678	\$304,110,304 exp.
G	13,010,593	51,231,179	38,220,586 imp.
S	21,635,634	13,939,268	7,756,366 exp.
	\$521,723,409	\$548,077,325	\$273,646,084 exp.

—On the 18th the Federal Supreme Court, following a previous decision in a similar case, decided in a case coming up from Texas that the exclusion of Negroes from grand juries in cases involving criminal charges against members of their race is in violation of the Constitution. The decision was announced by Justice Holmes in the case of a Negro of Alabama named Rogers, who was indicted for murder by a grand jury composed entirely of white men and from which, it is charged, all Negroes were excluded because of their color. The Supreme Court of the State upheld the regularity of the proceeding, but Rogers brought it to the Federal court with the result that the decision of the State court is reversed.

PRESS OPINIONS.

BRYAN'S STUBBORNNESS.

Milwaukee Daily News (Dem.), Jan. 19.—In Mr. Bryan's attitude, the compromisers, the timeservers and those with palms itching to lay hold of the campaign contributions of organized wealth will profess to see nothing but a blind and obstinate attachment to a dead issue. If the silver question were the only issue at stake, this charge of Bourbonism which the "reorganizers" bring against the leader of radical democracy might be of some force. . . . But that is the least of the things which it is sought to make the basis of compromise and concession. It is radical democracy in itself that the Bourbons would destroy. In Ohio, the radical democracy preached by Tom Johnson, although he never approved the free silver doctrine, was as objectionable to the "conservatives" as the radical democracy advocated by Mr. Bryan. It is not "free silver" that the plutocratic element fears, but democracy—democracy that does not profess devotion to the interests of the masses while secretly betraying them to their despoilers.

MILES FOR PRESIDENT.

San Francisco Star (Dem.), Jan. 16.—We are, in a general way, opposed to military men occupying civic office, but Gen. Miles is more than a military man. Although he served his country long, faithfully and well in that capacity—while agreeing with Sherman that "war is hell"—he found time to study statecraft, and knows the true meaning of Jeffersonian democracy, to which he is devoted. This we learned in conversation with him during his recent visit to this city. Gen. Miles is far better informed as to the leading questions of the day than many "great statesmen" in both the Democratic and Republican parties, who pretend to know all about them.

THE HEARST BOOM.

Chicago Chronicle (Ind.), Jan. 9.—In the first place, there are serious doubts as to the actual existence of such a character as the yellow kid. All have seen his portrait—thanks to his modesty and generosity—but who ever saw the kid himself? It would be exceedingly embarrassing to nominate a brilliant, saffron-hued charac-