

given to one reform as compared with another, the reason is that we desire to have time to carefully consider the best way of giving effect to the principles I have enunciated, and which I think all here hold in common, and in particular to review the subject in relation to all its bearings upon the general question of local taxation and local expenditure. I believe we are more likely to produce a satisfactory and permanently adequate remedy if we allow ourselves a little time for the consideration of the problem than if we at the moment introduce a comparatively small and piece-meal installment of the reform which we all desire. I do not think I need say more to-day on behalf of the Government. I assure you we are in hearty sympathy with the objects of your movement, and as time and opportunity offer, we shall be ready to do everything we can to put these objects into legislative form.

Mr. Bryce, Chief Secretary for Ireland, said—

they were all agreed in the principles laid down by the Chancellor of the Exchequer; but, clear as the principles were, some little care was required in working them out in the most convenient form, and therefore he was sure the deputation would not ask for any hasty disclosure of what the Government might find it necessary ultimately to adopt.

Mr. Burns, President of the Local Government Board, added that—it was neither necessary nor relevant that he should add much to the practical, sympathetic, and direct observations which Mr. Asquith had addressed to the deputation. The Government sympathised with and desired to help the deputation in their objects and do adequate justice.

#### The new French Ministry.

Immediately following the resignation of the Rouvier ministry of France (p. 821), President Fallieres asked Jean Marie Ferdinand Sarrien to form a new ministry. Mr. Sarrien accepted on the 10th. The Ministry he formed is as follows:

Premier and Minister of Justice, Sarrien; Minister of Interior, Clemenceau; Foreign Affairs, Bourgeois; War, Etienne; Marine, Thomson; Instruction and Worship, Rand; Commerce, Dumergue; Public Works, Barrou; Finance, Poincare; Colonies, Leygues; Agriculture, Ruau.

The new Ministry outlined its policy on the 14th by declaring its intention regarding the separation of church and state, of carrying out the law firmly; and

concerning the Morocco question, of following the policy of the preceding Ministry.

#### Further fighting in the Philippines.

Another battle with Moros (p. 489) was reported officially from the Philippines on the 9th. The battle occurred at Mount Dajo, a lava cone with a crater at the top, near Jolo; it lasted two days, from March 6 in the afternoon until March 8 in the morning.—and the American loss was 18 killed and about 40 wounded. The Moros left 600 killed; no wounded are reported. Gen. Wood describes these Moros in his report to Washington as "a band of outlaws who, recognizing no chief, had been raiding friendly Moros and, owing to their defiance of the American authorities, had stirred up a dangerous condition of affairs." Owing to the horrible slaughter of the Moros, including their women and children, the Senate of the United States has ordered an investigation.

#### Progressive Democracy in New Jersey.

Pursuant to a movement for the revival of genuine democracy in New Jersey (p. 695) a conference to meet at Newark on the 20th has been called by representative democratic Democrats from all parts of the State. The call is led by ex-Congressman Allan Benny, and is signed by James F. Minturn, Charles H. Ingersoll, A. C. Pleydell, James E. Martine, Charles O'Connor Hennessy, John Moody, Joseph R. Buchanan, Albert Brandt, George White and other leaders among the progressive Democrats who think "the time has come for the citizens of New Jersey to take charge of their own affairs" and dismiss the public utility corporations which now control both parties in that State. In the call it is declared that—

The machinery of the two old parties has fallen completely under the control of corporate influences and other privileged interests, and the spirit of independence has reached its highest point in the history of American politics. While this statement is true of the country as a whole, it is peculiarly descriptive of the condition of New Jersey. In this State party leadership has been and is completely dominated by corporation influence. Party principles have been trampled under foot, party honor has been bartered for corporation pelf, party banners have

been trailed in the filth of political corruption. . . . It has been said that "when things get thoroughly bad they will right themselves," implying that, in public affairs there is a point in the decline at which the people will revolt, and inspired by the spirit of honor and pride will rally at the call of duty and check the downward course. We believe that New Jersey has reached that point. Dishonored in our party councils, betrayed in our legislative sanctuary, chained to the wheels of unbridled monopoly, a butt for the jokes of one-half the world and commiserated by the other half, the citizens of New Jersey have come to the time when they must assert their manhood and their patriotism.

In further explanation of this call, its sponsors state:

The movement is being started not in the interest of any men or set of men in or out of the State of New Jersey. It is the particular purpose of those who are starting the movement to make distinctively an organization for the promotion and propagation of what they feel to be the principles of fundamental democracy. It cannot, therefore, be said that the movement is in any sense inspired by, or organized in the interest of any particular individual. It is not a Parker movement, nor a Cleveland movement, nor a Black movement, nor a Hearst movement, nor a Bryan movement. It is, however, a distinctively State movement, which is calculated to crystalize and put into definite action the present more or less dormant but vital sentiment of true democracy in the State of New Jersey.

#### Progressive Democracy in Illinois.

A conference of the Majority Rule League of Illinois (p. 103) was held at Chicago on the 12th, to perfect details for ousting from control in the Democratic party of the State the so-called "Hopkins-Sullivan crowd," who also control the gas monopoly of Chicago. Representatives from every Congressional district but one were in attendance. Millard F. Dunlap, of Jacksonville, presided. Referring to the "Hopkins-Sullivan crowd," now in control of the party machinery, the resolutions adopted declare unalterable opposition to the continued management of the party business by those men or by any men who are directly under their control. A specification of particular acts of perfidy follows, including their gavel rule at the State convention in 1904 (vol. vii, p. 482). The address continues:

Capable, reliable and sincere Demo-