

will be no budget legislation until the question of the Lords' veto is in full process of solution; while the other cable gossip, to the effect that financial legislation will take precedence of the Lords' veto question in spite of Ministerial pledges, means only that measures for validating the collection of taxes, the temporary suspension of the sinking fund, and the issue of temporary bonds, all in the absence of legal authority through a budget, are to be considered and disposed of prior to the recess of March 24 to 29. On the 1st the Commons authorized the Ministry to proceed with its issuing of temporary bonds and its suspension of the sinking fund; and on the 3d (the proceedings being of too "humdrum" a character in other respects for cable reporting) it was reported by Associated Press that Mr. Asquith had on that day informed the Commons that the Budget would be brought up immediately after the resolutions regarding the Lords' veto were passed. He also at that time confirmed the declarations of Lloyd George that the Ministry would not continue in office unless it was in a position to insure the adoption of its veto proposal. On the 7th the House of Lords reluctantly passed a bill of the House of Commons validating and authorizing temporary borrowing pending the adoption of the Budget.

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The first by-election since the recent general elections, occurred on the 5th. William Wedgwood Benn, a radical Liberal elected at the general elections just held by 1,568 to 1,134 for the Tory, from what was a Tory constituency (St. Georges-in-the-East, of Tower Hamlets) prior to the Liberal landslide of 1906, when he carried it, had been appointed to an office in the Government (junior lord of the Treasury), and, pursuant to Constitutional custom was therefore obliged to stand for re-election, was re-elected by a majority of 509, being an increase of 75 over his majority of 434 at the general elections. The returns are reported by cable as showing that Mr. Benn was again supported by the Irish vote in his constituency. Two other by-elections will soon occur, one to fill the place of Sir Samuel T. Evans, appointed to a judgeship, and the other to confirm, by popular re-election to Parliament, the appointment of Rufus D. Isaac to Evans's place in the Government as solicitor general. Evans was elected at the recent general elections from Mid-Glamorganshire (which he has represented since 1892) by a Liberal vote of 13,175 to 9,793 for the Tory candidate. Isaacs was elected from Reading by a vote of 5,264 to 5,057 for the Tory candidate—a Liberal majority of 207.

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#### London Municipal Elections.

Details of the elections for members of the London County Council are not yet at hand; but

the cable reports of general results indicate a forward swing of the political pendulum. At the elections three years ago (vol. ix., p. 1,212) there was a tremendous reaction from the Progressive majority theretofore controlling the Council. Under the name of "Municipal Reformers," reactionaries came in with a sweep which was made much of by the cable reports of that time. At the election on the 5th, however, that result was reversed in degree by the election of 56 Progressives and 3 Labors (a total of 59), against 58 Municipal Reformers. Municipal ownership of public utilities, and land value taxation, were the issues at both elections, the latter more distinctly so at that of last week, the Municipal Reformers standing for the negative and the Progressives for the affirmative. These policies are denounced as "socialism" by the Municipal Reformers.

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#### Prussians Continue to Demand Broader Suffrage.

Open air meetings for the expression of disapproval of the inadequacy of the electoral suffrage bill now before the Prussian Diet (p. 204), planned for last Sunday in the chief cities of Prussia, were in some cases forbidden by the police. At Cassel, where the radical and liberal parties had joined the Socialists in arranging for the meeting, and where a police permit had been given, the permit was later cancelled because of what the police called the danger to public security. At Essen the meeting was held as planned, on promise of the leaders that it would be orderly. Seven thousand persons, most of them miners, held a meeting between Waldenburg and Altwasser, and adopted resolutions in favor of a general strike unless the government should adopt more democratic suffrage provisions. In most of the cities of the provinces the demonstrations, though shared in by thousands, passed off peaceably.

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In Berlin the open air meeting was forbidden, and when a "demonstrative stroll" in the direction of Treptow Park, some six miles from the center of the city, where the meeting was to have been held, was proposed by the Socialists, that also was forbidden by the police on the ground that such a walk would be contrary to the spirit of the law. The State's Attorney, moreover, has brought proceedings in behalf of the government against Richard Barth, the responsible editor of the Socialist newspaper Vorwaerts, charging him with inciting disobedience of the authorities because of his invitation to the public to take the "demonstrative stroll." Toward noon on Sunday large bodies of demonstrators marched quietly along the different approaches to the Park, until they encountered police lines, when they were promptly ordered to go back. The crowds did not resist, though later by slow degrees the Park filled up.

In the meantime secret late messages sent out by the Socialist and radical leaders turned the "demonstrative stroll" toward the Tiergarten in the heart of the city. The plan met with great success, and before the police "caught on" the democratic forces were holding a tremendous peaceful, but not noiseless demonstration, marching by thousands up and down among the fashionable Sunday paraders, shouting for direct, equal, secret and universal suffrage. Soon mounted men were sent in hot haste from Treptow Park. As they arrived the demonstrators moved northward out into the Koenig Platz, where on the steps of the Reichstag they hoisted the red flag and sang the Marseillaise. While this was happening the thousands who had gradually been drifting into Treptow Park, in the middle afternoon there heard of the Tiergarten "stroll." "Thereupon," as the Inter Ocean's cable report states, "about 50,000 with one accord set out westward, streaming through the streets in a long line toward the Tiergarten, five miles distant, without attempting an organized procession. When they had covered about a quarter of the distance a company of country gendarmes, without a word of warning, attacked the people fiercely with their sabers, cutting right and left. Five persons were dangerously wounded and hundreds received serious wounds and bruises, while more than 100 arrests were made." On the following day the newspapers severely criticized the impetuosity and overzeal of the police in handling the suffrage crowds.

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#### The Strike in Philadelphia.

In response to the call of the Central Labor Union of Philadelphia for a general strike in sympathy with the traction strikers (p. 207), 125,000 working men were reported to have quit work at the close of last week. At midnight of the 5th the union orchestras at leading hotels and cafes picked up their instruments and left their places; the hotel, cab and automobile service was badly crippled; and factory workmen and women had notified their employers that they would not return to work on Monday morning. Disorder occurred in the afternoon of the 5th, apparently—from the reports—because Mayor Reyburn ordered the police to prevent the assembling of a mass meeting in the square in front of Independence Hall, the traditional "cradle of liberty" in Philadelphia. The meeting had been called by the Central Labor Union to assemble at 3 o'clock. The Mayor proclaimed it in advance as disorderly, and warned "all law-abiding citizens" against assembling. Thereupon the labor committee requested their sympathizers to march peaceably by Independence Hall and to the labor headquarters. Mayor Reyburn then announced that he would prevent their marching through the streets. So they marched on the sidewalks. Although the

police were irritating, the marching was orderly, and at the labor headquarters a large meeting assembled. Disturbances occurred, however, at a distance from Independence Hall. But all the reports fairly bear out Charles E. Russell's report to the Hearst papers, of his belief that there would have been no trouble if the Mayor had not forbidden the meeting in Independence Square. "Meetings prohibited in defiance of the State Constitution," he adds, "are no novelty in Philadelphia, but there was something about the prohibition of this one in Independence Square and about the spot supposed to be consecrated to liberty that stung. Naturally you can't blame people for thinking they had a right to do what the Constitution says they may do. It was a dull performance to choke them off. The men that know best the patient spirit of Philadelphia assure me that if the meeting had been allowed it would have vented some verbal enthusiasm and dispersed. When the Mayor interfered the people got mad." Federal troops have been ordered from Wilmington to Philadelphia, ostensibly to protect the Mint. The regular news dispatches of the 7th reported the general strike as a failure, the Philadelphia police having reported only 18,407 persons on strike out of 176,193 employed in the establishments canvassed by them.

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The final call for the general strike now in progress was made after the directors of the traction company had rejected the proposal of the Central Labor Union for arbitration under the provisions of the State law of 1893, which authorizes the courts to appoint a board of arbitration when applied to by employes and employers, between whom there are differences. The company offered instead the following: "That a committee of nine employes be selected, three from those re-employed from the men now on strike, three from those who have remained in the service of the company during the strike, and these six to select three more from the whole body of employes, the company to treat with this committee." This proposal the strikers refused to accept.

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#### Unrepresented Taxpayers.

The "League of Unrepresented Taxpayers" (p. 206) of Chicago, while organized for the immediate purpose of standing by a woman who resists the collection of personal property taxes on the ground that she is denied the ballot, but for the general purpose of organizing "all tax-paying women and their sympathizers in a movement against taxation without representation," invites sympathizers of both sexes to membership, either active or associate. Its by-laws, just published, provide that—

All men and women of legal age are eligible to