

Parliament, for a municipally owned electric supply for all London. It may be added that the Municipal Reformers raised the old cry of "Reduce the Rates," but they were silent as to the means that might be adopted to achieve that very desirable end. The Progressives, on the other hand, advocated the further extension of the equalization principle, and their ultimate ideal is one rate for all London. They also advocate the taxation of land values as a means of rate relief, a proposal which the Municipal Reformers have either opposed or endeavored to postpone.

+ +

#### Reforms in France.

A radical program has been expected from the new Premier, M. Georges Clemenceau (pp 703, 732). Such advanced steps as the purchase of railroads and mines by the state, have been mentioned as possibilities. Parliament assembled on the 5th, and the Premier presented his program, which, though it did not include the above-mentioned possibilities, did include—

- The application of the law separating church and state.
- The realization of workmen's pensions, the extension of the law governing labor unions and the reform of the mining laws.
- The introduction of a democratic spirit in the army by the reduction of the term of service to two years.
- The suppression of courts martial.
- Relief of the wine growers.
- A progressive income tax.

The Premier declared that the ministry intended to keep the foreign policy of France as it was, and purposed in domestic affairs to definitely instal a democratic government. A motion approving the program was carried by the great majority of 395 to 96.

---

## NEWS NOTES

---

—Having been given by the Grand Jury a censure of the Chicago Tribune for libeling him, when he asked an indictment (pp. 723, 729), Mayor Dunne has brought a libel suit against the Tribune for \$100,000 damages.

—Preparations for the elections to the Russian Douma are reported as advancing rapidly. The registration lists are much shorter than those of the last election, owing to the exclusion of thousands of voters under the government's ruling in October (p. 704).

—Commander Robert E. Peary has telegraphed from Labrador that in his recent dash toward the North Pole he succeeded in reaching 87 degrees, 6 minutes, of north latitude, which is 34 miles nearer to the Pole than any other explorer has advanced—at least, than any who has lived to tell the tale.

—The International Wireless Telegraph Conference which has been sitting in Berlin during October (p. 656), signed an agreement on the 3rd as to rules of inter-communication between the different systems. The term "radio-telegraphy" was selected as the one to be used officially for this new method of communication.

—Judge Joseph E. Gary died on the 31st at the age of 85. He was distinguished as the judge who presided at the so-called "anarchist" trials at Chicago

in 1887, which resulted in the hanging of some of the accused and the imprisonment of the others. Gov. Altgeld pardoned the survivors on the ground that they had been unfairly tried and falsely convicted.

—The Secretary of the Single Tax Information Bureau (134 Clarkson St., Brooklyn) reports that for several months past their principal work has been to send literature to the subscribers to Tom Watson's Magazine, which had taken strong ground against the Single Tax proposition. Quarterly receipts had been \$91.97, with expenditures, \$83.83, leaving a balance of \$8.14.

—Captain Roald Amundsen, first navigator of the famous, long sought North West Passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and explorer of the north magnetic pole region, was entertained in Chicago between the second and the 5th by the Chicago Geographical society, the Norwegian National society, and other bodies. Captain Amundsen is on his way from San Francisco to Norway.

—The speech of Professor John W. Burgess, Theodore Roosevelt Professor at the University of Berlin, in which the Monroe doctrine and the protective tariff were declared alike obsolete, as reported last week (p. 728), has aroused great indignation among the Americans in Berlin, according to the dispatches. In the meantime the German government is distributing thousands of copies of the speech, describing it as official.

—Mme. Curie, associated with her husband, the late Professor Pierre Curie (p. 80) in the discovery of radium, inaugurated her lectureship at the college of the Sorbonne of the University of Paris (p. 206) on the 5th. Press dispatches state that: "Her lectures will be on radio activity, expounding the theory that matter is not reducible to atoms but to forms of electricity. In other words, matter, as it is understood, is nonexistent; only force exists."

—Jean Jacques Rousseau, in his own day called "the virtuous citizen of Geneva," and by later generations, including our own, regarded as a poser and a hypocrite, is being rehabilitated as to character, according to correspondence of the Chicago Tribune. Mrs. Frederika Macdonald, "long recognized as an authority on the France of Voltaire and Rousseau," has discovered that the odious characterization of Rousseau in the posthumous work called "Madam d'Epinay's Memoirs," is an interpolation arranged in accordance with notes drawn up by Rousseau's two chief defamers, which notes are preserved with the original manuscripts of the Memoirs in the Paris archives. This interpolation took the place of a suppressed story of an evidently wholly different character. Apparently the personal character of the great democrat is vindicated.

—The engineer appointed by Secretary Taft to report upon the facts as to power development at Niagara has joined with the American members of the International Waterways Commission in a recommendation to permit the admission of 160,000 electrical horse-power from the Canadian side. The result of favorable action by Secretary Taft on this recommendation would be to abstract from the Niagara River above the Falls an amount of water equal in flow, in connection with the quantity now being