

to oppose the whole "dreibund" policy. The German emperor's name was hooted by them in the reichsrath, and while denouncing him they also denounced the Austrian government for cowering before him. To intensify this danger to the "dreibund" treaty the Russian government, against which in part the treaty is made, is pursuing a policy of giving exceptional freedom to Russian Poles along the Prussian frontier with a view to creating Russian sympathies among the Prussian Poles by bringing Russian liberality to the Poles into sharp contrast with the drastic Prussian policy.

France is stirred profoundly by a religious agitation which threatens open revolt. The struggle is due to the rigid enforcement by the new ministry (p. 150) of the "associations law," enacted a year ago (p. 202), which subjects the Catholic orders to regulation by the civil powers. When the new ministry with M. Coombes at its head faced the new parliament at its first session, a vote of confidence in the determination of the ministry to apply the policy of "laicism (anti-clericalism), fiscal reform and social solidarity" was carried in the chamber of deputies by 329 to 124. That was on the 12th of June. Two days afterwards, June 14, the ministry outlined its policy as follows:

- (1) Vigorous anti-clerical policy;
- (2) reduction of military service to two years;
- (3) imposing an income tax either rigidly proportional or progressive;
- (4) withdrawal of educational privileges from all religious institutions, leading up to a future state monopoly of schools and universities;
- (5) radical reforming of the judicial machinery, implying, perhaps, a revising of the criminal and civil codes in order to rescue justice from a tangle of contradictory jurisprudence;
- (6) the pensioning of aged and disabled workers and widows with children;
- (7) state ownership of the railways.

Pursuant to the first and fourth items of this policy, an order was issued on the 10th enforcing the "associations law" by directing the police to close all religious schools which did not apply for special authorization under that law and which might remain open at the end of six days. For doing this the ministry was interpellated on the 11th, but by a vote of 328 to 218 the interpellation was at the premier's request, postponed.

Great popular excitement followed the subsequent efforts at closing Catholic schools. All France was in a turmoil, and in many cities and towns the resistance was so great that the gendarmes were called in to support the police. Throughout the country, schools and cloisters were turned into fortresses, around which the Catholic peasantry formed protective cordons and defied both police and gendarmerie. A mass meeting held in Paris on the 26th to protest against the closing of the Catholic schools was broken up by mobs, which organized counter demonstrations. On the 27th two mass meetings were held in Paris, one for the suppression and the other against it, the attendance at each being about 15,000. Neither was seriously disturbed, though there were several violent encounters in the neighborhood. In the midst of the enforcement of this anti-clerical policy the chamber of deputies took a recess on the 12th until October.

To the closing days of the present session of the British parliament a vigorous debate over maladministration in Ireland has lent excitement. When the appropriation estimates for Ireland came before the House of Commons on the 23d, John Redmond, leader of the Irish parliamentary party, moved a reduction of the salary of George Wyndham, chief secretary, and the acrimonious debate followed. The question came to vote on the 25th and the motion was defeated, 168 to 117; but the object of the Irish party was accomplished in laying bare the oppressive system of government prevailing in Ireland, the main features of which the ministry were unable to deny.

Another motion, made and supported by the Irish party, but which was opposed by the Liberals as well as the Conservatives, was a protest against the appointment of Lord Alverstone, Sir John Bigham and Sir John Ardagh as a royal commission to inquire into the question of remitting or reducing the sentences imposed in South Africa by British military courts during the war. It was urged that the approving attitude toward the Jameson raid of two of these appointees, Alverstone and Bigham, made them unfit to serve on such a commission. The protest was defeated, July 28, by a vote of 210 to 64.

Mr. Chamberlain took occasion on

the 30th to make a speech from the floor of the Commons dealing comprehensively with the South African question. Regarding the status of the defunct republics he is reported as saying that—

the imperial government had established a crown colony in the strictest sense. The next step would be to add a nominated official element, and then nothing but circumstances and time would separate the new colonies from full self-government, the ultimate goal of their ambition. That consummation would not be delayed; if for no other reason, because it might relieve the government of the tremendous burden of responsibility involved in the present situation, but all must understand that the government would not be rushed nor hustled into any action which circumstances did not warrant. The speaker said he was one of those optimistic enough to believe that the new colonies would reach the ultimate goal of their ambition much sooner than many persons now thought possible. So far as the government was concerned, the surrender promises would be kept, in spirit as well as by letter. The government, he said, was bound both by honor and interest to this course.

After many days the Boer resolutions of surrender adopted at the conference at Vereeniging (p. 137) on the 31st of May by a vote of 54 to 6 have been transmitted in full text. They are as follows:

This meeting of representatives both of the South African Republic and of the Orange Free State, held at Vereeniging, from May the 15th till May the 31st, 1902, has received with regret the proposal of His Majesty in connection with the cessation of the present hostilities, and the communication that this proposal must be rejected or accepted unchanged. It regrets that H. M.'s government have absolutely refused to negotiate with the governments of the two republics on the basis of our independence or to allow our governments to communicate with our delegation. For our nation has always thought that not only on grounds of justice it has a well-founded claim to that independence but also because of its great material and personal sacrifices made for that independence.

This meeting has earnestly considered the state of our country and people and paid special attention to the following facts:

1. That the war policy of the British military authorities has led to the total devastation of the territory of the two republics, with the burning of farms and villages, the destruction of all means of existence and the exhaustion of all resources necessary for the