

ous proceedings, the congress, on the 30th, adopted the following resolution by a large majority:

Resolved, That the Zionist congress firmly maintains the principle for the foundation of the colony in the Jewish fatherland, Palestine, or in that vicinity. The congress thanks Great Britain for her offer of African territory, the consideration of which, however, is terminated; and hopes that Great Britain will continue to aid in the solution of the Jewish question.

The minority, described in the dispatches as "the socialist section," thereupon withdrew. On the 31st they issued a circular address to the Jewish people protesting against their treatment during the meetings of the congress, and giving notice of their intention to form a special organization, with the view of taking over the Uganda territory.

British politics.

The Parliamentary paper explaining the proposed redistribution of Parliamentary seats, regarding which the Ministry recently suffered a defeat (p. 263), shows that the proposed distribution was in accordance with the following scheme:

The number of members of the House of Commons shall not be materially altered. A municipal borough or urban district with a population exceeding 65,000, not at present separately represented, shall become a separate constituency. A county or borough with a population exceeding 65,000 multiplied by the number of its members shall have an additional member for every complete 65,000 of the excess. A borough with a population of less than 18,500 shall cease to exist as a separate constituency. A county or borough with two members and a population of less than 75,000 shall (except in the case of the city of London) lose one member. A county or borough with more than two members and a population of less than 65,000 multiplied by the number of its members shall have one less member for every complete 65,000 of the deficiency. The county and the borough shall, as far as practicable, be made coextensive with the administrative county and the municipal borough respectively, but the boundaries of a borough shall not be curtailed except when the population affected is inconsiderable. In London each metropolitan borough shall be treated as if it were a borough returning the number of members returned by the present boroughs or divisions to which it most nearly corresponds.

The net result is shown in the following table:

	Gain.	Loss.
England—		
Counties	6 ..	8
Boroughs, London....	5 ..	—
Boroughs, outside London, including new boroughs.....	20 ..	6
	31 ..	14
	Net gain..17	
Wales—		
Counties	— ..	—
Boroughs, including new borough.....	1 ..	—
	— ..	—
	2 ..	1
	Net gain.. 1	
Scotland—		
Counties	1 ..	—
Boroughs	4 ..	1
	— ..	—
	5 ..	1
	Net gain.. 4	
Ireland—		
Counties	— ..	20
Boroughs	1 ..	3
	— ..	—
	1 ..	—
	Net loss..22	

Reviving feudalism in New Foundland.

Before the King there is supposed to be now pending for his approval, if he may not already have sanctioned it, a bill adopted by the legislature of New Foundland about two months ago, which would create intolerable feudal conditions in America. Newfoundland, at the mouth of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, has an area of 40,200 square miles, and a population of 217,037. Although adjacent to Canada it is independent of that Dominion and holds direct Colonial relations with Great Britain. The government (inclusive of Labrador) is administered by a governor appointed by the king, and a legislative body of two houses—the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly. The proposed feudalization referred to above began openly on the 27th of April last, according to the London (England) "Land and Labour," by the introduction by the local ministry of resolutions in the House of Assembly—

for the confirmation of a contract which, it appeared, had been made on January 12 with the "Anglo-Newfoundland Development company," promoted by "Messrs. Harmsworth, of London, England," assigning to them in perpetuity about three thousand square miles of land for the purpose of wood-pulp and paper manufacture.

The contract included amazing conditions as to the unfettered ownership of this vast area, which practically handed over the government of the region to the new company. The same day a bill embodying the contract was read a first time. Next day, April 28, it was read a second time. On May 2—the next sitting of the House—the bill was committed. On May 3 it was reported. On May 5 it was read a third time. A great public meeting of citizens was held on May 10, and passed emphatic resolutions against the bill. . . . Nevertheless, the bill was sent on to the upper house or Legislative Council, where it was read a second time on May 12, in spite of the protest and petition. On May 17 the measure was committed and reported, on May 22 recommitted for a technical alteration and again reported, and set down for third reading on May 29. On that date the third reading was deferred, and we are informed by the Colonial Office that it has not yet reached this country for the royal assent, but that the substance of the citizens' protest has been telegraphed by Sir William Macgregor, the governor. The upper basin of the Exploits river, of which it is proposed to make the Harmsworth combination absolute rulers—as we shall presently show—is a lake country more than a hundred miles long, its scenery surpassing even that of Killarney. It cuts right across the heart of the colony. The three thousand square miles included in the concession are a noble and favorite sporting and fishing country, and the deer of the great northern peninsula of Newfoundland pass across this ground twice every year when they migrate southward in the autumn and return in the spring. By fencing in the concession Messrs. Harmsworth will be able to capture almost all the deer of Newfoundland. . . . It is believed that there are valuable minerals in the concession; and these are handed over absolutely for a consideration which is little more than nominal. The Exploits river is nearly as long as the Thames, and the great region of mountain, river, lake, and forest to be handed over forever to Messrs. Harmsworth is as large as the Thames basin from London up to the headwaters near Gloucester. It includes a dozen fine lakes, one of which, Red Indian lake, is three times the length of Windermere. These lakes, and their connecting rivers, with the water power and traffic facilities appertaining to them, are handed over to the Harmsworth trust. The new Harmsworth province is now connected by rail with both east and west, the railway cutting across the Exploits river just below the ceded territory. The citizens of Newfoundland have recently had to buy back this railway from its monopolist own-

er at a cost of over a million dollars, and in 1901 paid Mr. Reid, the late owner of the railway, nearly another million for certain land concessions formerly granted by the legislature. Newfoundland having thus taxed itself "up to the hilt," as one of the speakers at the protest meeting said, to recover the national heritage in the land and means of transit, is now actually going to hand over to an English firm of capitalists the very land for the opening up and development of which the railway was required. This new province, which is being handed over absolutely to the Harmsworth partners, is twice as large as Prince Edward island, and four times as large as Rhode Island, one of the states of the American union. The so-called "pulp bill," under plea of encouraging a paper industry, actually sets up a power in one of the most fertile and promising regions of the British empire as absolute as that of the czar or the sultan. The concession is perpetual. "For ever and ever" is the note that rings through the Newfoundland press. The lease is for 99 years, but the government undertakes "at the expiration of every further term of 99 years" to renew the lease with "the same rents and royalties, covenants, provisions, and agreements." So that Newfoundland is eternally bound, and long after the present capitalists are forgotten their descendants may be the sole ground landlords of a country half as large as Wales. The concession includes permission to "fell, cut down, and use all or any of the trees for the time being standing and growing on any part of the demised premises," without any reforestation obligations. The Harmsworths may sweep the land bare like a flight of locust. Not only the land is handed over, but "lands covered by water." All streams, lakes, water-courses, springs, are to be the property of the company for its milling and logging business, and it may divert, dam, or stop up all waters at its pleasure, and use all the power of the great waterfalls for driving its mills. Any person using any of the waterways on the territory for floating lumber must pay rent to the Harmsworth trust. . . . The whole of the three thousand square miles of land and the property upon it, as well as mill property outside the concession shall be exempt from municipal taxation. Thus, throughout all future generations, the very germs of local government cannot spring up within the territory. The company are to be bound to give sites for churches or schools, but nothing is said as to houses or shops, so that they can retain the power of expulsion from residence in the territory, and also will have the power to prevent any selling of goods to their workers, except from their own stores. Every man in the

whole region will have to buy all his goods at the company's prices, and be liable to immediate exile if he incurs the company's disfavor. It might be thought these powers—exemption from local and imperial taxation, absolute ownership of timber, and also all minerals and precious and other metals, leave to charge rental for the use of waterways, and landlord's rights over every foot of the territory—were amazing enough. But what of this? The Harmsworth combination are to have power, within 70 miles of their borders—that is, in an additional area twice as large as Wales—to "enter and take" any lands required by them for rights of way, telegraphs, telephones, railways, tramways, roads, mills, works, factories, warehouses, wharves, piers, docks or shipping facilities, paying to the dispossessed owners or occupiers a price to be settled, if necessary, by arbitration. "And upon payment to the owners or occupiers aforesaid of the amount awarded in such arbitration the said lands shall become and be absolute indefeasible property of the lessee." Not only is any property owner within 70 miles of Messrs. Harmsworth's borders to be compelled to "stand and deliver" if they covet any part of his land, but the government must do the same. Only the government will not receive even an arbitration price, but a rental working out at 12 acres a penny! Choice bits of picked land in important positions, at 12 acres a penny! Was ever anything like it heard outside Gilbertian farce? All the choice harbor land may be picked up thus and appropriated for 70 miles in every direction from Harmsworthland, provided that not more than half a mile square is seized upon in any single creek, harbor or bay. Rivals may thus be absolutely shut out from the rivers. What, it may be asked, are "Messrs. Harmsworth, of London, England," to pay for all these unheard-of concessions? (1.) An annual rental of two dollars a square mile. Even this paltry payment "shall not be payable on swamp or barren lands." Yet on those barren lands, which are a free gift to the Harmsworths for ever, towns for the workers may be built, and any ground rent charged that pleases the company. (2.) While there is no charge except the rent for the trees converted into pulp or paper, 50 cents a thousand feet shall be paid for trees converted into "sawn lumber." (3.) For "precious and other metals, minerals, and mineral substances," the company are to pay "five per cent. of the net profits." And this is how the "net profits" are ascertained. From the "gross price" received are to be deducted: (1.) Wages and salaries. (2.) Ten per cent. per annum on the cost of buildings, shafts, engines, machinery, gear, tools, rails,

plants, and effects of every description used in the mines or in connection with them. (3.) Insurance of ditto. (4.) Taxes, rates, assessments and duties. (5.) Repairs, storage, freight, export duties and harbor, dock and other dues. Thus the company may earn compound interest of ten per cent. before it begins to reckon the "net profits" on which the shilling in the pound is due to the government. It can prospect, sink trial shafts, lay down railways, and pay itself a perpetual ten per cent. on the works, whether individually remunerative or not, before it "owns up" to a halfpenny of that "net profit." The payment for mineral wealth is therefore virtually nil! And that exhausts the payments under the agreement. A paltry four or five thousand dollars a year—a fraction of the annual rent of a draper's shop in a London suburb—for a vast monopoly, which within a few years may hold within its grasp towns, railways, harbors, telegraphs, the industrial centers, and the means of communication of the colony!

Municipal ownership in the United States.

The tendency in the United States, away from private monopolization of public business and property, has expressed itself emphatically at Springfield, Ill., in connection with the question of public lighting. Ten years ago that city was paying \$137.50 per year per lamp for electric lighting. Resenting this as an overcharge, a body of public-spirited citizens formed a lighting corporation which built a plant and agreed not only to furnish lighting for \$113.33, but to apply the difference between that sum and \$60 to paying the cost of the plant, which, upon being so paid for, should be the property of the city. In five years the city owned the plant. But instead of proceeding to operate it, the Council leased it for five years to the Capital Electric Company, which had already obtained a franchise for commercial lighting. This company afterwards transferred its plant and rights under both franchise and lease to the Public Utilities Company, with which the city is now in conflict. Early in May of the present year, in view of the approaching expiration of the lease, the Mayor, H. H. Devereaux, appointed a special lighting committee to consider the question of leasing vs. operating. This committee was composed of the Comptroller, the Electrician, and four