

don, the opportunity for an unhampered advance has arrived. It can be hindered only by a reaction in London itself. The chance of a generation has come, and no Londoner who realizes what clean and democratic government means in a city menaced by so many appetites, or what opportunities of social service are at the command of the party which dominates the next Council, will hesitate for one moment in his duty. . . The inaction of the Council would be the opportunity for all the restless interests with a monopoly to acquire or a privilege to perpetuate. Three years of Moderate rule might mean stagnation in all the activities which are slowly transforming the mean streets and the decaying slums, but it would leave as its permanent memorial monopolies which could be re-purchased for the common good in some future period of sanity and alertness only at a ruinous cost of debt. . . It would mean the dominance of a party which holds the interests of the ground landlord, of the promoter of private tramways, of electric trusts, and, one must add, of the supporter of clerical schools above the interests of the citizen and the consumer. . . There remains the test question of the Council's scheme for supplying electric power. It is hardly possible to devise an alternative which will not in the end burden London with a monopoly as costly and tyrannical as the old water companies. There is no reason why the scheme should not be run at a large profit, as similar schemes in Breslau and Munich already are. The real hope of further economy rests rather with Parliament than with the Council. It can be achieved only by a unification of authority and an equalization of burdens. But a Parliament bused in giving to municipalities larger powers and greater freedom, devising for them the means of dealing with housing, education, and public health, will labor in vain unless the municipality itself is controlled by men whose first thought is of their duty to their city and their obligation to those whose hopes of health, education, and comfort depend so largely on their work.

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#### The Transvaal to Have Constitutional Government.

A constitution for the Transvaal, debated in the English Parliament at the end of July (p. 418), was issued on the 12th, with the approval of the King and the English Government, and became immediately effective. The constitution provides for a legislative assembly consisting of sixty-nine salaried members elected for a period of five years. Voters, and not population, are taken as a basis of the distribution of seats in the new assembly, and as a result of applying this principle the Rand gets thirty-four seats, Pretoria six, and the rest of the Transvaal twenty-nine. The franchise is given to every male of 21 years of age who has resided in the Transvaal for six months, and is not an officer or soldier of the British garrison.

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#### The Congo Free State to Be Annexed by Belgium.

King Leopold's bequest to Belgium of his sovereign rights in the Congo Free State (p. 871) was accepted for the nation by the Chamber of Deputies of the Belgian Parliament on the 14th, by a vote of 127 to 30. The next step proposed is the annexation by Belgium of the Free State, after obtaining a full statement of its financial obligations. This annexation has been optional with Belgium since 1900, under the Convention of 1890. In accepting the King's bequest Belgium has guaranteed to maintain the crown lands intact, and to respect existing concessions, including those lately granted to Amer-

icans. That the King is trying to shift the burden, and escape the odium attaching to the alleged misgovernment of the Congo, has been hinted at.

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#### The Dissolution of the Reichstag.

On the 1st the consideration of the German colonial policy in South Africa came before the Reichstag. Courageous members of the Socialist party, including Mr. Bebel and Mr. Roeren, related horrible details of the inhumanities practiced by the colonial government, and recorded bitter protests against the continuance of such methods. On the 3d the committee on appropriations reported its rejection of the government's request for a supplementary item of \$7,530,000, to be used in defraying the expenses of the African campaign, offering only \$2,500,000. At present there are 12,000 troops in the colony. The Kaiser was willing to bring 4,000 of them home, but a majority in the Reichstag on the 13th, 178 to 168, refused to vote more supplies than would be needed to keep 2,500 men in the colony. It is claimed that the colony could not defend itself against the native races with so small a contingent. The vote divided on different lines than the debate, the Clericals, called the Center, composed of the Catholics standing solidly together, voting against the Kaiser; and the Socialists and Radicals voting largely with him. Immediately upon the result of the vote becoming known, the Chancellor, Prince von Buelow, arose and read an imperial decree dissolving the Reichstag. The astonishment and excitement which followed were not confined to the Reichstag itself, and great political confusion is reported. The elections for the next Reichstag must take place, under the laws of the Empire, within sixty days, and the new session must open within ninety days. It was officially announced on the 15th that the new elections would take place on January 25.

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#### The French Separation Law in Operation.

The law separating church and state in France has gone into effect with but little of the dreaded violence. In many parishes, both in Paris and in the interior, Catholic laymen have come forward and fled the necessary declarations for the holding of services in their parish churches (p. 872). Cardinal Richard is reported as approving of this move, on the ground that the Pope's prohibitions in the matter only apply to the priests. Violent demonstrations against the Vatican on the part of Italians sympathizing with the step being taken by the French Republic, were reported from Rome on the 16th.

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#### Revolution in Russian Poland Finally Suppressed.

The revolutionary movement in Russian Poland which seems to have smoldered for more than a year (vol. viii, pp. 580, 613), is at last reported as stamped out, at a terrible cost to the Polish people, the number of victims being estimated as in the thousands. Business is said to have become stagnant, and the trades and industries are bankrupt. But the Poles have not lost heart, and are busy organizing for the coming Douma elections. Party differences are reported as forgotten, and the na-

national spirit has brought about a merger of the three great Polish parties—Conservative, Progressive and Democratic. These are selecting fusion candidates representing Polish national ideals.

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The disabilities of the Jews are reported as removed by a bill approved by the Czar. Under the provisions of this bill Jews will be permitted to live in the country as well as in the cities within the "pale," and certain restrictions placed on Jewish merchants and artisans in cities outside the pale, are removed.

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#### The Japanese and President Roosevelt.

In transmitting a report of Secretary Metcalf on the Japanese in San Francisco (p. 704), President Roosevelt sent to Congress on the 18th a special message supplementary to those parts of his annual message (pp. 841, 846, 865) which dealt with that subject. The special message, which is brief, summarizes Secretary Metcalf's report:

I inclose herewith for your information the final report made to me personally by Secretary Metcalf on the situation affecting the Japanese in San Francisco. The report deals with three matters of controversy—first, the exclusion of the Japanese children from the San Francisco schools; second, the boycotting of Japanese restaurants; and, third, acts of violence committed against the Japanese. As to the first matter, I call your especial attention to the small number of Japanese children who attend school, to the testimony as to the brightness, cleanliness, and good behavior of these Japanese children in the schools, and to the fact that, owing to their being scattered throughout the city, the requirement for them all to go to one special school is impossible of fulfillment and means that they cannot have school facilities. Let me point out further that there would be no objection whatever to excluding from the schools any Japanese on the score of age. It is obviously not desirable that young men should go to school with children. The only point is the exclusion of the children themselves. The number of Japanese children attending the public schools in San Francisco was small. The government has already directed that suit be brought to test the constitutionality of the act in question; but my earnest hope is that such suit will not be necessary, and that as a matter of comity the citizens of San Francisco will refuse to deprive these young Japanese children of education and will permit them to go to the schools.

The question as to the violence against the Japanese is most admirably put by Secretary Metcalf, and I have nothing to add to his statement. I am entirely confident that, as Secretary Metcalf says, the overwhelming sentiment of the State of California is for law and order and for the protection of the Japanese in their persons and property. Both the chief of police and the acting mayor of San Francisco assured Secretary Metcalf that everything possible would be done to protect the Japanese in the city.

I authorized and directed Secretary Metcalf to state that if there was failure to protect persons and property, then the entire power of the Federal government within the limits of the Constitution would be used promptly and vigorously to enforce the observance of our treaty, the supreme law of the land, which treaty guaranteed to Japanese residents everywhere in the Union full and perfect protection for their persons and property; and to this end everything in my power would be done, and all the forces of the United States, both civil and military, which I could lawfully employ, would be employed.

#### "Car Famine" in the Northwest.

Reports of inadequate railroad facilities in the Northwest have for several days been attracting attention farther east. The situation is well described by a correspondent in Minneapolis, whose dispatch of the 18th appeared in the Chicago Record-Herald of the 19th. He says: "Inadequate transportation facilities have brought to the people of the Northwest the most severe bodily suffering and to the business interests of the section such enormous losses that they are now in financial straits. This was the story told to-day in distressing detail to Interstate Commerce Commissioners Franklin K. Lane and James S. Harlan by business men and farmers, in person and through a flood of telegrams. All raised in chorus a cry for 'Cars! Cars! Cars!' Residents of towns in which every bit of available combustible material, even to yards of valuable lumber, has been turned into fuel in fighting off suffering caused by blizzards, told their tales of hardships. Farmers who until today had been burning their fences and outbuildings to keep from freezing to death added to the lamentations. Others who had lost all the profits of their year's work because they could not get their products to market contributed their complaints. These told how they had hauled their grain to railway stations and elevators two or three times, each time offering it at a reduced price, and finally had been compelled to dump it on the ground or dispose of it as food for stock because dealers told them it was impossible to make shipments. All these losses are felt indirectly by the tradesmen and others with whom the farmers, with ordinary profits secure, do business. These disclosures were made to the commissioners in scores of telegrams in response to inquiries sent to towns in the district affected by the fuel famine and by witnesses who had been summoned from North Dakota and elsewhere. They made it clear to the investigators that the reports of the last week as to car shortage and consequent suffering had not been exaggerated and that relief measures and the prevention of a recurrence of such conditions are matters of the greatest importance. It was also made clear that the Commissioners had acted none too quickly in securing yesterday the promise of co-operation on the part of the coal companies and the railroads in relieving distress from lack of fuel. The effects of this promise are felt directly in the raising of the blockade that has shut off many towns from supplies for weeks."

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#### The Traction Fight in Cleveland.

As reported by the news dispatches a new traction company named The Low Fare Company has been organized in Cleveland for the purpose of taking franchises of the routes granted to the "Threefer," in order to guard against the effect of any adverse decision of the courts regarding the validity of the "Threefer" grants. As one judge has decided (pp. 865, 873) that Mayor Johnson's guarantee of investors in the "Threefer" against loss, taints the "Threefer" grants, even though the guarantee were for the benefit of the city of Cleveland, the effect of that decision can be nullified by the granting of the same franchises to The Low Fare Company, which Mayor Johnson does not guarantee and in which he