

was decided at this meeting that all sessions of the commission for the taking of evidence should be open to the public. No other definite business was transacted except to direct that a notification be made to both parties that the commission would reassemble on the 27th for the purpose of arranging with them for the presentation of testimony and arguments. A discussion arose, however, as to whether the recorder, Carroll D. Wright, should have a vote in the deliberations of the commission. President Roosevelt settled this question on the following day by appointing Mr. Wright, with the concurrence of both parties to the arbitration, to the position of a commissioner, thus making the commission a body of seven instead of six.

Upon the reassembling of the commission on the 27th, Mr. Baer did most of the talking for the employers, while Mr. Mitchell represented the strikers. At the suggestion of the employers the commission decided to hold their next meeting at Wilkesbarre on the 30th for the purpose of personally inspecting the coal mines and their surroundings. To facilitate this investigation and save the commissioners expense, the employers offered to furnish a special train for the use of the commission in going through the mining region, but this offer was declined.

The coal strike in France (p. 424), which began on the 9th, came to an end on the 24th in a manner similar to the ending of the anthracite strike in the United States. Reports of serious rioting at Dunkirk (where the dock laborers, who had struck in support of the coal strikers, prevented the landing of foreign coal), and of the consequent establishment of martial law by the French ministry, were cabled on the 23d; but later in the day the premier, M. Combes, announced in the chamber of deputies that the strike had ended and that work would be resumed on the 24th. A vote of confidence—375 to 164—was thereupon given. The premier had evidently been in communication with the strikers, for on the 24th a committee of the miners' federation waited upon him and agreed to submit the demands of the miners to arbitration.

In the British parliament, the disorder over the attempt of the ministry to prevent any discussion of the

Irish question (p. 455) continued daily until the 27th, when the ministry gave way. They were forced to do so because the new rules enabled the Irish members to consume time by repeatedly moving adjournments to consider one question or another. While losing their motions they obstructed legislation to such an extent that in seven days only 11 lines of the special order, the education bill, had been considered. Finally, on the 27th, William O'Brien was allowed to move an adjournment for the purpose of discussing the enforcement of the so-called crimes act in Ireland, in support of which the merits of the Irish question was discussed on both sides. The motion, however, was defeated by 215 to 121. Though this is not regarded by the Irish members as equivalent to granting the day they demand for a discussion of Irish grievances, it has stopped the disorder at least for a time.

To the surprise of everyone familiar with the strong feeling which the ministerial educational bill has stirred up among the opponents of the state church in England, a by-election on the 25th in Devenport, a Liberal constituency for 10 years past, resulted in the return of the Conservative candidate. The contested issues were the educational bill and the Irish question, and the vote stood 3,785 for James Lochie, Conservative, and 3,757 for T. A. Brassy, Liberal.

An innovation in British colonial methods is to be made by Mr. Chamberlain, the colonial secretary, who, it was officially announced on the 27th, is to visit South Africa personally for the purpose of settling the affairs of the conquered colonies. He goes in November and will probably remain through the winter. This undertaking is said to have not only the approval of the ministry but also the sanction of the King, and is regarded in England as indicative of a new policy in colonial administration generally. It will be the first time that a British colonial secretary has visited a colony while in office.

There are, however, special reasons sufficient to account for Mr. Chamberlain's extraordinary visit. The hostility between the Dutch and the British in South Africa, which created the demand by a faction of the latter some months ago (p. 325)

for the abrogation of the Cape Colony constitution, is reported to have become more intense. According to one of the press dispatches, "Transvaal and Free State colors are worn freely in Dutch towns of Cape Colony, and sedition is openly preached," which has so alarmed the British loyalists that the agitation in favor of suspending the colonial constitution is becoming irresistible.

Farther up the eastern coast of South Africa, Great Britain has probably extended her dominions by acquiring part of the Portuguese territory, including Delagoa bay. It was rumored last August that the purchase of this territory would be announced in parliament in October; and now, though no official announcement is made, the fact has been allowed authoritatively to leak out. As the story comes, the transaction is between Great Britain, Portugal and Germany, Portugal relinquishing her sovereign rights and Great Britain acquiring them as far north as the Zambesi river, while Germany acquires the remainder, from the Zambesi to the southern border of German East Africa on the river Rovuma. It is explained that the transaction was made by secret treaty three years ago.

Still farther north, in the regions of the "mad mullah," the British troops under Col. Swayne (p. 455) are reported to have escaped from the trap in which the "mad mullah" had caught them, and to be retreating without molestation to Berbera on the Somaliland coast.

Back into Europe and we are confronted with a compilation, the first in 50 years, of the prohibitions imposed by the Russian government upon the Russian press. The compilation has been sent to the Russian newspapers in the form of a confidential circular, the following clauses of which are cabled:

1. Ministerial reports to the czar may not be published without the consent of the ministry of the interior; likewise rumors about the same; likewise acts and expressions of the czar.

2. Matters emanating from the higher governmental circles, such as documents and decisions, may not be referred to without the consent of the authority concerned.

3. Circulars of governmental departments may not be referred to without the special permission of the department concerned.

4. Information relating to the empire's defensive position, mobilization or dislocation of the army or navy, credits for war purposes, construction of strategic roads or warships, etc., may be taken only from the "Russki Invalid."

5. News or articles concerning the maintenance of the Chinese Eastern railroad and its guard are forbidden.

6. News about the commanding of agents of the finance ministry into Persia and the results of their work is forbidden.

7. News about or articles on school disorders or the last university regulations are forbidden, likewise petitions of the students, blackboard notices, etc., furthermore, no information can be printed about the internal life of any schools without the consent of the proper authorities.

8. Articles on or news about political arrests or crimes or criminals, except what are printed in the Official Messenger or other official organs about executions and those who perform them, are prohibited.

9. Factory disorders and other public disorders cannot be mentioned without the consent of the higher police.

10. Pestilence in Russia and neighboring countries cannot be mentioned without the decision of the medical department of the ministry of the interior.

11. No allusions can be made to the personnel or the work of the secret police.

12. No calls for money contributions can be issued without special permission.

13. Suicides cannot be mentioned without the written consent of the nearest relatives, or, in case of their absence, of the local chief of police.

14. Mention of contemporaneous measures against religious dissenters or of the holy synod's action against Tolstoi is forbidden.

15. "Curb" quotations are forbidden.

16. Articles of a strictly scientific nature not suited for the masses are forbidden when bad results might ensue.

Again have the hopes of the advocates, both in Denmark and the United States, for the sale of the Danish West Indies by the former to the latter, been disappointed. The folkething, or lower house of the Danish parliament, voted last spring to ratify the treaty of cession (p. 107), but the landthing, or upper house, inserted a referendum clause requiring the question to be submitted to a vote of the property owners of the islands. The lower house insisted that the referendum should

require no property qualification, and while the two houses were thus at a deadlock the time for ratification, June 24, expired. But the United States agreed to extend the time, and it was hoped that the elections for the new Danish parliament, to be held in September, would change the political complexion of that body sufficiently to guarantee ratification without any referendum clause, which is what the American government requires. When the official results of the elections were given out, September 19, it seemed certain that this hope would be realized, for the ministerialists had carried 37 seats and the opposition only 29. But the ministerialists were unable to hold their majority. The ratification measure passed its first reading in the new landthing on the 15th of October, after a discussion in which the premier declared that there were two alternatives, either the cession of the islands or an increase of the already heavy expenditure necessary for their maintenance and development. He added that he had received the written promise of the United States government that after the cession free imports from the islands into the United States would be granted. This, however, was as far as the measure got. It failed to pass its second reading, on the 22d, by a tie vote—32 to 32.

Another of the West Indies, Santo Domingo, immediate neighbor to Hayti, whose civil war ended several days ago (p. 455), has just passed through an insurrection which began on the 11th and ended on the 22d. It began with a revolt by Gen. Navarro, the deposed governor of the district of Monte Christi, at the northwestern extremity of the republic. Gen. Navarro took possession of the town of Monte Christi on the night of the 11th, and imprisoned all the government officials except the new governor, who escaped. The whole district came to his support at first; but early in the morning of the 22d his followers were scattered by government troops, after a severe battle in the streets of Monte Christi, and the town fort was wrested from him. Gen. Navarro himself was taken prisoner.

The revolutionists in Colombia (p. 409) are reported to have suffered a crushing disaster near Santa Marta, in the department of Magdalena.

Gen. Marjarres, of the government troops, attacked at Santa Marta a revolutionary army under Gen. Uribe-Uribe and Gen. Castillo, on the 26th; and on the 28th news reached Panama direct from Gen. Marjarres that Gens. Uribe-Uribe and Castillo had surrendered with a large quantity of weapons and ammunition. Uribe-Uribe was the military leader of the revolution. No details were given, but there were rumors of heavy casualties on both sides. This disaster to the revolutionists, so the Colombian government claims, perfects government control in the departments of Bolivar and Magdalena and confines revolutionary activities to the Isthmus.

Regarding the Panama canal, which is to be cut through Colombian territory (p. 187), Attorney General Knox, who has just returned from a special trip to Paris to investigate the title of the French company, whose rights are to be purchased by the United States, reports the title good. But now a new difficulty arises. The action of the American authorities with reference to the Isthmus (p. 409) in interfering with the military operations of the Colombian government, has aroused strong opposition in Colombia to the whole canal scheme. So strong is this feeling against the possible assumption of American sovereignty over the Isthmus, that the Colombian government now declines to proceed with treaty negotiations for the construction of the canal until the treaty of 1846, under which the United States is obligated to preserve to the world the commerce and open transit of the Isthmus, is revised and Colombian sovereignty made supreme.

The excitement of the election campaigns in the United States has continued to the end at the highest in Ohio (p. 456), where Mayor Johnson and Senator Hanna are fighting vigorously over the issue of "home rule and just taxation," which is Johnson's slogan. At the opening of the campaign Mr. Hanna refused to discuss anything but national questions, but as the campaign has gone on and the Republican legislature has adopted a municipal code which overturns the principle of home rule for municipalities, but little attention is paid by either party to any but the local issues which Johnson has raised. One of the peculiarities of Johnson's method of