

resolutions of the most sweeping character formally finding Secretary Ballinger guilty not merely of charges which had been made but of charges which had been only implied and of things which had never been charged but which persons appearing at the hearing had alleged against him. Other members of the committee present protested against such proceeding, which would dispose of the case in the absence of four of the twelve members, making it possible for a minority of the committee to find the committee's verdict, and this, too, without any consultation or discussion. But the partisan political end to be gained by the Democratic minority became all the more urgent in proportion as the railway trains bearing other members of the committee were approaching Minneapolis. The minority refused even to take a recess, and the other members, protesting against the evident determination to take a snap judgment by a minority in the absence of a third of the whole tribunal, and declining to bear any responsibility for thus converting the investigation into a travesty and for a violation of the fundamental principle which should govern the whole proceeding, withdrew from the meeting, and thus deprived the Democrats of their temporary control of the committee.

Denouncing this procedure as unlawful, the statement goes on to explain that—

every effort was made to induce the minority members to agree to a meeting on some day at Minneapolis or Chicago as might suit their convenience, but without avail. The chairman thereupon called the present meeting. The members whose names are hereto attached have spent the day reviewing the case, but being without a quorum are powerless to act and have adjourned subject to the call of the chairman. The report of the committee cannot be made until Dec. 5, when Congress meets, and the meeting called for Sept. 5 was for the purpose of considering and discussing what the report to be made three months thereafter should be. There was, therefore, no haste or pressure for time.

The statement was signed by Senators Nelson, Sutherland and Root, and Representatives McCall, Olmstead and Denby.

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Replying to the above statement, Congressman James is reported from Louisville on the 14th to have said:

The statement issued by Senator Nelson and his colleagues in Chicago yesterday is only positive proof of what we saw demonstrated in Minneapolis, and that is, that the Republican members of the committee did not desire to make a report upon the Ballinger case until after the elections. Their attempt to prevent a report was accomplished by breaking the quorum. The statement made by the gentlemen that the meeting called for Sept. 5 in Minneapolis was for the purpose of considering and discussing what the report to be made three months thereafter should be is far from the truth. It was specifically agreed, when we adjourned in Washing-

ton to meet in Minneapolis Sept. 5, that it was for the purpose of making up our report and giving it to the public.

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**The Anti-Imperialist League Honors William James.**

At a stated meeting of the Executive Committee of the Anti-Imperialist League held September 8th, the following minute was adopted, to be placed upon the records of the Committee, communicated to the family of the late Professor James, and published in the usual manner:

As one of the most important in that group among the faculty at Harvard university which has done so much to redeem the academic type from the reproach of isolation and remoteness, Professor William James is a great loss to the Anti-Imperialist League, of which he was a vice-president.

He could hardly be otherwise than a strong adherent of the League since he was by nature an irrepressible champion of the weak and the wronged, but he brought to our councils not only enthusiasm but the most practical wisdom, and in speech and writing his firm temper carried conviction by its union with a habitual cheerfulness of mind and equanimity of spirit.

MOORFIELD STOREY,  
President.

ERVING WINSLOW,  
Secretary.

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**The British Land Question.**

Conservative newspapers in Great Britain have for weeks exhibited much uneasiness on the part of land monopoly interests regarding the valuations for land taxes under the Lloyd-George budget (p. 417), which are now in process of adjustment. "The Tory papers continue," as one observer has stated it, "an active campaign against Lloyd-George's land taxes, and the Daily Telegraph and Mail are filled with columns of daily letters from all kinds of persons, including that historic figure, the desolate widow with small means, who figures in every such controversy, and the militant army officer who makes a resounding call for passive rebellion against the wicked budget and predatory chancellors." This outcry appears, now, from the following comment in the cable letter of T. P. O'Connor, M. P., to the Chicago Tribune of the 18th, to have—

received a severe blow by the courageous action of Lloyd George in summoning all of his enemies and critics to a public conference. This conference blew sky high many of the stupid or hypocritical criticisms, and Lloyd George is more confident and courageous than ever.

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**The British Labor Parties.**

A recent decision of the British courts has put the Labor parties at an unexpected and serious disadvantage (vol. xii, pp. 515, 1256), since they are dependent for financial support upon trade union assessments. The crisis through which they are consequently passing is thus ex-

plained by T. P. O'Connor, M. P., in his weekly cable letter to the Chicago Tribune of the 18th:

The crisis has been induced by what is now the historic case of Osborne. Osborne is a workingman and a member of a trades union, who, for some reason or other, appealed to the law courts against a decision of his union which decreed a compulsory subscription toward the expenses of a member of Parliament. The law courts held that the union had no right to compel such subscriptions. One would have thought that the trades unionists of England, like the Socialists of Germany, or the Nationalists of Ireland, would not have found any insurmountable difficulty even after such decision. But for some reason or other the English workingman has not learned yet the art of free giving to those who fight for him. Their first idea, of course, was to resort to legislation and to have the same course adopted in this case as in the Taff Vale decision. It will be remembered that the Taff Vale decision by the judges enabled a railway company or any other corporation to pursue a trades union for damages if given by the courts. After some pressure and some changes of purpose, the Liberal ministry resolved to pass a law which would make trades union funds immune from attack, and the House of Lords, avowedly because it did not want to come into conflict with the millions of working men and also, perhaps, because it did not consider it its special business to look after the business of the great employers of labor, many of whom are pronounced Liberals, allowed their remarkable bill to pass into law. The trades unionists now hope to induce the Ministry to act in the same way regarding the Osborne judgment and to give to trades unionists the right of a compulsory levy for Parliamentary purposes on their members. But the Ministry, for the moment, do not see their way clear to propose a bill so drastic. Nor, indeed, would the trades unionists themselves be quite unanimous in advocating such a proposal. Strange though it appears, there is a considerable number of trades unionists who are also Conservative. This is especially so in Lancashire, where the large Irish immigration in the late forties produced a permanent estrangement between English and Irish labor which has not yet entirely disappeared, though it is now disappearing. The Ministry proposes to meet the difficulty, as is known, by passing a measure for the payment of members. It is strange that such a measure should have remained so long delayed, seeing that there are now so few countries that do not give a salary to their Parliamentary representatives.

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#### First Federal Parliament of South Africa.

The general elections for the House of Assembly (the lower house) of the first Parliament of the Union of South Africa (Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Transvaal and Orange Free State (p. 541), were held on the 15th. The dispatches report that the most dramatic result recorded was the defeat of General Louis Botha, the Premier and minister of agriculture (p. 491), in the east-

ern division of Pretoria, at the hands of the Unionist, Sir Percy Fitzpatrick. The Associated Press dispatch thus sums up the party situation: "The chief parties in the campaign were the Nationalists, representing the Dutch interests, under the leadership of Premier Botha, and the Unionists, representing the British and mining interests, under the leadership of Dr. L. S. Jameson, former Premier of Cape Colony. Both racial and political issues have been so confused, however, that they had little real influence on the results, which thus far assure the Nationalists of a majority. Dr Jameson and many other prominent candidates have been re-elected or returned unopposed."

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#### Finland Makes a Stand for Her Liberties.

It will be remembered that a bill for the suppression of Finland's ancient and constitutional rights of autonomy was passed by the Russian Douma (pp. 543, 563) and the Council of the Empire (p. 686) in the summer just closed, and that the political significance of it all was expressed in the now historic phrase of a member of the Douma who when the Government's victory was announced triumphantly shouted: "Finis Finlandiæ!" (p. 563). But Finland has not lost her ancient sturdy courage. When the Finnish Diet (p. 444) met on the 15th it proceeded to re-elect its former President, Mr. Svinhufvid (p. 179), who represents resistance to Russia. In his speech upon re-election, Mr. Svinhufvid boldly said: "We are still to undergo a more severe trial than ever, as the Diet has been asked to sanction terrible inroads in the constitution. Hard times face us, but we shall survive, handing to the generations to come the most precious treasure—a spotless standard, refusing to negotiate the sale of our liberties."

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## NEWS NOTES

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—The autonomy committee of the Young Egyptians (vol. xii, p. 541; vol. xiii, p. 591) met at Geneva, Switzerland, on the 14th.

—The voters of Shreveport, Louisiana, on the 15th adopted the commission form of government at a special election, by a majority of 557.

—By a vote of 530 to 267, San Luis Obispo, California, adopted on the 13th a charter embodying the main features of the Commission plan.

—Although scattering cases of cholera (p. 379) are appearing in various European countries, among which Hungary is now to be included, the epidemic is on the whole abating.

—The British Trades Union Congress, sitting in Sheffield, on the 13th, adopted by a large majority, resolutions authorizing steps to ascertain the practicability of combining all trades unions in the kingdom under one supreme control. The purpose is to