

stopped running altogether, because the mayor would not appoint special officers at the request of the company. Five mills of paper makers and sulphite workers, belonging to the International Paper Co., were closed by a strike on the 10th in New York State, and militia were ordered out. A large body of strike breakers were at that time massed at Saratoga by the paper trust. Because a strike in the steel plant at Bethlehem has been in progress for several weeks, to the injury of the Federal Government, which has contracts there, Congressman Rainey of Illinois introduced a resolution in Congress on the 11th calling for an investigation.

At a meeting of the general federated board for Western railroads of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, at which 38 members of the Board were present, a resolution authorizing a strike was unanimously adopted. The resolution affects 49 Western railroads. The contention relates to recent demands of the Brotherhood for an increase of wages and a modification of rules of service. The railroads offered to arbitrate the wages question, but refused to arbitrate the question of rules. The point about the rules question is a demand of the Brotherhood that firemen's promotions to places as engineers shall be on the basis of seniority, and that engineers in this Brotherhood shall have rights of representation as engineers on negotiating committees.

The British Parliament.

Nothing of special significance has occurred in the British Parliament (p. 227) during the past week, except the announcement of the Ministry that they would ask a vote of supplies for only six weeks. This amounts to a declaration that the Ministry will keep the purse-strings completely under the control of the Commons while the proceedings to destroy the veto of the Lords are in progress. If in the course of those proceedings the Ministers were to resign and the Tories were asked to take over the Government, the latter would come into office without any power to meet expenses except by appealing to a Commons with a hostile majority. Consequently, if the present Ministry do resign, the Tories will be unable to postpone elections. This announcement has aroused anew the anger of the Tories and given corresponding satisfaction to the Irish, the Labors and the radical Liberals.

Regarding the Lloyd George Budget, Mr. Asquith announced in the Commons on the 14th, that it would be reintroduced and disposed of before the Spring recess. This means, taken in connection with the program adopted by the Commons

on the 28th (p. 203), that the Ministry expects to act upon the Budget immediately after adopting resolutions abolishing the financial veto and restricting the general legislative veto which the Lord's assert.

In the House of Lords on the 14th, a debate was opened by Lord Roseberry, on resolutions of his proposing a reorganization of this body. He argued for the perpetuation of the House of Lords as a second chamber, but with a membership composed of selected peers. The selections to be not by the voters at large but by associations, corporations and county councils. His plan is very like that upon which the United States Senate is chosen, except that only peers would be eligible. Lord Morley responded in behalf of the Ministry by saying that they would not discuss any proposals for reforming the House of Lords until the question of the Lords' veto had been settled.

The Democratic Movement in Prussia.

The great "demonstrative stroll" held in Berlin on Sunday, the 6th (p. 228), as a protest against the undemocratic features of the elections bill now pending in the Prussian Diet, was repeated by 20,000 persons in Frankfort on the 13th. Of the intensity of feeling over the principles involved in this franchise reform question, the Chicago Tribune's cable dispatch of the 12th says: "No political movement of modern times has been carried on with greater fervor or determination. Mass meetings and processions of protest are taking place daily and nightly in all the great centers of population. The newspapers the opinions of which are not officially manufactured are hammering Von Bethmann Hollweg's government with a persistency and ferocity unparalleled in German political history. Liberal and Radical classes are marching shoulder to shoulder and mobilizing public opinion on a scale which the government can hardly dare to defy indefinitely. Last Sunday's remarkable demonstrations in Berlin have left nobody in doubt with regard to the temper of the masses or their power when once thoroughly aroused. For all practical purposes the capital was bodily in their possession."

A Graft Scandal in France.

The discovery that the liquidation of the church property which fell into the hands of the French Republic when church was separated from state in France, three years ago (vol. xii, p. 974), has involved great losses to the Republic through "collusion sales," excessive fees, and other forms of graft, has aroused a great excitement throughout France. The official liquidator, Mr. Edmond Duez, has been arrested on charges of defalcation. He