

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-