

cratic motion (invited by the Speaker) to declare the Speakership vacant was then defeated.

+

The adoption of the Norris resolution, by taking from the Speaker the powers of concentrated control over the House of Representatives which he exercised under the old rules, makes him simply the presiding officer of that body.

+ +

#### The British Parliament.

Pursuant to the program agreed upon by the House of Commons on the 28th (p. 254) this House will adjourn on the 23d, over the Easter holidays, and its sessions will be resumed on the 29th, when the movement to curb the power of the House of Lords will proceed. Meanwhile, Mr. Asquith, the prime minister, has given formal notice of the veto resolutions the Ministry have agreed upon. He did this in the House of Commons on the 21st. As reported by cable the proposed resolutions, three in number, are in substance as follows:

The first declares it is expedient that the House of Lords be disabled by law from rejecting or amending a money bill.

The second declares that it is expedient that the powers of the House of Lords over bills other than money bills be restricted by law, so that any such bill which has passed the House of Commons in three successive sessions and has been rejected by the House of Lords in each of these sessions shall become a law without the consent of the House of Lords, on Royal assent being declared, provided that at least two years have elapsed between the date of the first introduction of the bill in the Commons and the date it passes the Commons for the third time.

The third proposes to limit the duration of each Parliament to five years.

+

In the House of Lords the Rosebery resolutions for reforming that House from within (p. 254) were adopted in part by that House on the 21st. The first two resolutions, declaring that a strong and efficient second chamber is not merely an integral part of the British constitution, but is necessary to the well being of the state and the balance of Parliament, and that a second chamber can best be had by reconstituting the House of Lords, was unanimously adopted; but the third renouncing the hereditary principle went over. It was passed on the 22nd by 175 to 17.

+ +

#### The French Ministry Tides Over Its Crisis.

The French Premier, Mr. Briand, has met the scandal of the exposure of vast graft in the liquidation of the church property for the Republic (p. 254), with a pluck that has brought a popular vindication. In a powerful speech in the Chamber

of Deputies on the 15th he made no attempt to plead extenuating circumstances for what had happened; but contended that the government was not responsible for individual breaches of trust in the great work of the separation of the church and the state, which, he said, "had freed the country from ties which tomorrow other countries will be obliged to sever." The Chamber adopted a resolution by 343 votes to 79, condemning in the severest terms the manner in which the liquidations were executed, but expressing confidence in the government's promise to fix the responsibility and punish the guilty, whoever they may be found to be. On the 17th the Senate adopted a similar resolution by a vote of 261 to 13.

+ +

#### Alsace-Lorraine Desires Statehood in the German Empire.

The provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, ceded by France to the German Empire in 1871, at the close of the Franco-Prussian war, have since been governed as the "Reichsland," or Imperial Land, of Alsace-Lorraine, under laws voted by the Reichstag, or Imperial Parliament, administered by a Governor-General bearing the title of "Statthalter." The double province now desires the standing of a Federated State, like the other States of the Empire; and on the 15th the Reichstag, by a narrow margin, adopted a resolution presented by Mr. Preiss, an Alsatian member, asking for such Statehood. Dr. Gregoire, another Alsatian member, offered an amendment, which was adopted, providing that in the event of an Alsatian parliament being formed, its members should be elected by universal, equal, direct secret ballot.

+ +

#### The Prussian Suffrage Bill Is Passed.

The Government's suffrage bill (p. 254) was passed by the Prussian Diet on the 16th, without essential changes, by a vote of 238 to 188. The bill substitutes direct for indirect suffrage, the old system having been for groups of 150 electors to elect delegates, who in turn elected the members of the Diet. In other respects the bill fails entirely to meet the desires, not only of the Socialists, but of all radical and progressive groups, including the "intellectuals," as the professional classes are called. The Government refused to include secret balloting in the new measure, which also provides for the retention of the three-class electoral system, whereby the electors are divided according to the amount of taxes they pay, but officers, officials and other members of the educated classes are placed in the first or second class, irrespective of the amount of their taxes. The majority for the measure in the Diet was composed of the Conservative and Free Conservative parties, only two members of which refused their support. The minority was made up of the National Liber-

als, Progressive People's party, Poles and Socialists, who raised a storm of protest on the passage of the bill. Mr. Liebknecht, the Socialist, denounced the Diet as a den of hucksters, peddlers of old clothes, and merchants who had bartered away the rights of the people. This set the house in an unparalleled uproar. After speaking at length with a vehemence of accusation which impelled the Conservatives and Catholics to make a dramatic withdrawal from the Chamber, Liebknecht closed with this defiant prophecy: "The trumpet of the last judgment, which is the judgment by the people, will break harshly on your ears. Your present parliamentary victories will cost you dear. The franchise fight will go on despite everything."

---

## NEWS NOTES

---

—Rapid City, South Dakota, adopted the commission form of government (vol. xii, pp. 114, 520) on the 18th, by a majority of 45 in a vote of 739.

—The grand jury at Pittsburg returned indictments on the 21st against forty members and ex-members of the city council for bribery (vol. xii, p. 470).

—The Manhattan Single Tax Club will hold a house warming on Saturday evening, March 26th, at their new rooms, southeast corner of 125th street and Eighth avenue, New York City.

—Through jumping a track, a combination Rock Island train, running to Minneapolis from Chicago and St. Louis was wrecked near Green Mountain, Ia., on the morning of the 21st, and 47 persons were killed, and 43 injured, many of them fatally.

—Chile (vol. xii, p. 1163) and Peru (vol. xii, p. 731) are working up a disagreement, while Chile, very likely for war-alliance purposes, is demonstrating affection for Ecuador (vol. xii, p. 804), Peru's contiguous neighbor on the north, as Chile is on the south.

—The withdrawal of 350 of the 1,459 United States marines on service in Nicaragua (p. 231), was announced on the 15th. It is understood that the American fleet under Admiral Kimball is to be shortly recalled from Nicaraguan waters, as President Madriz is regarded as having practically re-established peace.

—Mr. Khomyakoff, the president of the Russian Douma (vol. xii, p. 1095), has resigned his office for the second time, on account of his failure to control the disorder of that body and now refuses to reconsider his resignation. Mr. Khomyakoff is an Octoberist, and has been serving his third term as president, having been re-elected for the last time on the 12th of November.

—An ordinance which provides that no person can walk in the public streets, ride in street cars, elevated trains or elevators of public buildings of Chicago, wearing a hatpin which protrudes more than half an inch from the crown of the hat, was passed by the Chicago City Council on the 21st, and was

signed by the Mayor on the following day. A maximum penalty of not more than \$50 is imposed for violation of the ordinance.

—A court at Brussels has awarded \$2,000 damages to a man who was blinded in one eye by a woman's hatpin, according to a dispatch of the 15th. The man had been standing on the platform of a street car, which stopped with a jerk, which caused the hatpin to pierce his eye. The damage was assessed equally between the woman and the car company, each being condemned to pay \$1,000.

The "No-Vote—No-Tax League" of Chicago (p. 229) has decided to secure petitions for a referendum next fall on two questions: Whether women shall be exempt from taxation (both direct and indirect) until they are allowed to vote, and whether personal property taxes shall be abolished and a 5 per cent tax on the full value of the franchises of public service corporations be levied instead.

—The exports and imports of the United States (vol. xii, p. 1257) for eight months of the current fiscal year, ending February 28, 1910, as given by the statistical sheet of the Department of Commerce and Labor for February, were as follows:

	Exports.	Imports.	Balance.
Merchandise	\$.1,210,205,125	\$1,021,079,710	\$189,125,415 exp.
Gold	78,146,750	29,145,847	49,000,903 exp.
Silver	37,319,566	30,719,357	6,600,209 exp.
	\$1,325,671,441	\$1,080,944,914	\$244,726,527 exp.

—A bill in equity charging criminal conspiracy to fix prices, was filed in the Federal court at Chicago on the 21st, by the Federal district attorney, against J. Ogden Armour, Louis F. Swift, Edward Morris, Edward Tilden, Edward F. Swift, Charles H. Swift, Arthur Meeker, Thomas E. Wilson, L. H. Heyman, Thomas J. Connors, Frank A. Fowler, L. A. Carton, Armour & Co., Swift & Co., Morris & Co., and the Continental Packing company. The bill asks dissolution of the packing company and its subsidiaries.

—An indictment of the beef trust under the anti-trust law (p. 180) was returned by the Federal grand jury at Chicago on the 21st. The persons indicted are the National Packing company of New Jersey, G. H. Hammond company, of Michigan, Fowler Packing company of Kansas, United Dressed Beef company of New York, St. Louis Dressed Beef and Provision company of Missouri, Hammond Packing company of Illinois, Omaha Packing company of Illinois, Anglo-American Provision company of Illinois, Western Packing company of Colorado, Colorado Packing and Provision company of Colorado and New York Butchers' Dressed Meat company of New York.

—A half of the 15,000 inhabitants of the little Principality of Monaco are said to be demanding of their ruler, Prince Albert, who is an absolute monarch, that he should grant his subjects a constitution. Monaco, which lies on the Mediterranean, and is surrounded on three sides by France, has an area of only eight square miles. While the people have no measure of self-government, they also have no taxes to pay—the expenses of the principality being born by the Prince, who in turn derives vast sums for the gaming concessions of Monte Carlo, the greatest gambling resort in the world. This does not, however, compensate; and the Monacans are said to be bitterly complaining that their country is