

the large majority noted above, the motion of Mr. Asquith to go into committee of the whole on the veto resolutions was adopted without division. April 14 had already been fixed for the conclusion of the committee stages on the passage of the resolutions, and on the 6th, by a majority of 84, closure rules for the committee were adopted.

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The United States and Liberia.

It will be remembered that the United States sent out a commission of investigation to Liberia a year ago (vol. xii, pp. 395, 492) in response to an appeal from that disorganized little Negro republic on the west coast of Africa (vol. xi, p. 203). Newspaper anticipations of the report of the Commission appeared in the American press in January, but the report was not transmitted to Congress by the President until the 25th of March. The Chicago Inter Ocean describes the Commission as objecting to any co-operation between Great Britain and the United States for the reform of the disorders of Liberia. The Commission makes the following recommendations:

(1) That the United States extend its aid to Liberia in the prompt settlement of its boundary disputes.

(2) That the United States enable Liberia to refund its debt by assuming as a guarantee for the payment of obligations under such an arrangement, the control and collection of Liberian customs.

(3) That the United States lend its assistance to the reform of the internal finances.

(4) That this nation aid in organizing and drilling a competent constabulary or frontier police.

(5) That the United States establish and maintain a research station there.

(6) That the United States reopen the question of establishing a coaling station in Liberia.

The Commission calls attention to the fact that the Liberians have never resorted to revolution. Also, Liberia is not bankrupt. Her troubles are external, rather than internal—coming from the pressure of neighboring English and French spheres of influence.

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Following close upon the heels of this tardy transmission to Congress of the Commission's report, with the consequent publicity of its recommendations as to American intervention, has come news in regard to the lining up of American warships on the Liberian coast. The dispatches in regard to their flight across the Atlantic assume an American protectorate. Since the 31st dispatches have been coming from Liberia by the way of Liverpool, to the effect that the Liberians are having trouble with the natives, and that assistance offered by a German gunboat has been indignantly rejected by the Liberians. Berlin reports state that the disturbances are slight, but that the situation as revealed by the refusal of Ger-

man assistance, is such that a United States protectorate in Liberia may be regarded "as good as settled."

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Significant Supreme Court Decisions.

Three decisions by the Supreme Court of the United States, made on the 4th, are of serious political importance. One of them nullified as unconstitutional the statute of Nebraska requiring railroads to build switches to all grain elevators along their tracks upon request. This was held to be a taking of property without compensation. Another nullified as unconstitutional the Arkansas statute imposing penalties upon inter-State railroads for failure to supply sufficient cars for inter-State traffic. The third decides that the business of a correspondence school with pupils in various States is inter-State commerce and therefore subject to Federal regulation.

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Prospective Coal Strike.

The agreement between the bituminous coal miners and mine operators having expired on the 31st, and a joint conference having dissolved without reaching a new agreement, the special convention of the United Mine Workers of North America, in session at Cincinnati, adjourned on the 29th. Several points of disagreement were involved, but a concession of an increase in wages of 5 cents a ton on pick-mine-screen coal, with proportionate advances for other methods of mining and for outside labor, is made a pre-requisite to negotiations on the other questions. If this is conceded, there will be no strike pending further negotiations; but if this concession is denied, the miners will not return to work after the expiration of their contract. That was the situation on the 29th, and no change has taken place since, except that on April 1st, their contract having expired the day before, the organized coal miners of the bituminous fields did not return to work.

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Socialism in the Milwaukee Election.

On the eve of the Milwaukee election of the 5th, it was predicted by Socialists that their candidate for Mayor, Emil Seidl, would be elected, and reported by Republicans that the contest would be between Mr. Seidl and their own candidate, Dr. Beffel. Early in the campaign the election of the Democratic candidate, V. J. Schoenecker, was considered certain. The election resulted in the choice of Mr. Seidl (Socialist) for Mayor and a strong Socialist majority for the Council. Victor Berger, a Socialist of national reputation, is an alderman at large. The plurality for Mayor-elect Seidl was 8,000 over the Democratic candidate and 16,000 over the Republican.