

tions" and explained that "however much she might be willing to grant any special privilege to one power, when others object it is impossible that for the sake of making one nation friendly she should alienate the sympathies of all others."

Russia's domestic "spasm," as the Russian consul general in London calls it, and which we mentioned last week (page 810), is still active, but details are as scarce as ever. It has given rise to a rumor, apparently well founded, that the Russian authorities have exiled Tolstoi for having by his theories caused the attempted assassination of the chief procurator of the holy synod. As the rumor runs, Tolstoi was on the 26th escorted by two gendarmes across the Russian frontier into Germany. But the Russian consul general in London declares his confidence that the rumor is not true. He says that Tolstoi does not counsel violence, and can have only the most remote responsibility, if any at all, for the "academic spasms" that now disturb the country. Even if some of the rioters suppose they were acting as Tolstoi would have them, the consul general thinks his government "is not likely to hold Tolstoi accountable for their misconceptions."

The French ministry have gained the first step in their movement for the abolition of privileges to religious orders by securing the passage by the chamber of deputies of their bill for the regulation of associations. This bill was introduced in the chamber in November, 1899, but its discussion was not begun until last autumn. Since then it has been under almost constant and heated debate. It aims to place all associations upon the same legal footing as commercial associations, so that they may be subject to the courts with reference especially to their property. Some amendments have been made. They are not easily understood, but appear to be hostile to Catholic organization and teaching. The bill passed the chambers on the 30th by the vote of 303 to 230, and was sent to the senate. It is the burning question of the hour in France.

There is no indication of the cessation of the war in South Africa. On the contrary, reports from there indicate that the Boers are gaining

strength. Several skirmishes are reported, one of them in the British colony of Natal, where the Boers wrecked a train. Heavy fighting ensued, in which the Boers are reported as having had the best of it.

At last, steps have been taken in the United States to stop the exportation of mules and horses from New Orleans as military supplies for the British in the Transvaal. But the United States government has no part in the proceedings, which consist of a private lawsuit brought in the federal courts against the transporting steamship company. The suit was begun by Samuel Pearson, a citizen of the South African republic, whose residence is at Barberton; Edward Vanness, a citizen of New York, and Charles D. Pierce, consul general of the Orange Free State. The petition charges the defendants with making use of New Orleans as a military base for the British in their war against the South African republic and the Orange Free State, and an injunction against the shipment of military supplies is asked for. The preliminary hearing is set for the 6th.

American local news for the week consists chiefly of returns from municipal elections. Most important in point of general interest was that of Cleveland, Ohio, which was held on the 1st. Tom L. Johnson was the regular democratic candidate. He was opposed by W. J. Akers, the regular republican candidate, who was supported by John Farley, the leading old-style democrat and present mayor. Johnson was elected by a majority twice as large as Farley, the democratic candidate of two years ago, received, though Mr. Hanna's faction of the republicans supported Farley. According to the Cleveland Recorder, the vote this year was as follows:

Johnson	35,791
Akers	29,758
Johnson's plurality	6,033

The other successful candidates on the general ticket were republicans. They were elected by pluralities ranging from 973 to 6,019. This, however, does not affect the administration, for in Ohio mayors appoint their own cabinets. The Recorder gives the Cleveland council to the democrats by a majority of one. No reports of third party votes are published as yet.

Johnson's election has attracted exceptional attention all over the country, partly because of his phenomenal victory in a republican city, and partly because of his fame as a single tax leader. Replying by wire on the 3d to a telegraphic question of the Chicago American regarding his policy as mayor, Johnson said:

In the first place, it seems to me the time is ripe for municipal ownership and operation of street railroads, and there is a simple, easy and quick way to reach that end without doing any injustice to the right of property. I shall make my street railroad plan the chief part of my political programme. The ordinance for a new grant has yet to be passed by the Cleveland council. The railroads do not want a three-cent fare, and I shall fight for it without giving or accepting quarter. I want municipal ownership, because I believe that will quickly lead to the adoption of the single tax, the abolition of all taxes but one falling upon land values, irrespective and exclusive of improvements. I want the single tax because I believe that that will bring a large measure of justice, and the only solution for all the great social problems of the world.

Johnson also proposes to frustrate the attempt of the railroads to grab the waterfront. The old council voted for this grab, and Mayor Farley was about to approve their action, when Johnson, as a private citizen, sued out an injunction against his doing so. This injunction has been continued, on Johnson's application, until he shall have taken the oath of office as mayor, when he intends to veto the grab ordinance.

At the municipal election in St. Louis on the 2d the democratic candidate, Rolla Wells, who refused to support the national ticket in 1896 and 1900, was elected by 7,985 plurality. More definite figures are not yet at hand. His principal adversaries were George W. Parker, republican, and Lee Meriwether, a democrat who ran on the municipal ownership ticket. Meriwether announces his intention of contesting Wells's election on the ground of fraud.

The election in Chicago on the 2d resulted in the choice for the third time of Carter H. Harrison. To facilitate comparisons we append the Chicago vote in this and three previous elections, as given by the Chicago Tribune:

1897—Harrison (dem.)	148,880
Harlan (ind.)	69,730
Sears (rep.)	59,542