

22d that as offensive operations had already begun, it would not be advisable to interfere. Accordingly, Gen. Chaffee was given a free hand, but cautioned to avoid causing a general war with the Mohammedan tribes which number in Mindanao over a million souls.

Passing over into China we shall find what may possibly be a repetition of the "boxer" outbreak of two years ago. This new rebellion was noticed in these columns last month (vol. iv., p. 823) as having arisen in southern China and advanced almost to Nanking. A two-days' battle had been fought about the middle of March, in which the government troops under Gen. Ma were worsted; and a few days later the rebels had captured a town in the province of which Canton is the capital. On the 8th of April advices from Hongkong were to the effect that Gen. Ma and Marshal Su, government commanders, had utterly routed the rebels and driven them to the mountains; but later advices coming from Canton were not so sanguine, and on the 16th it was reported from Canton that over 2,000 government soldiers had been ambushed in a mountain defile and killed or captured. The general situation was at the same time described as alarming. It was feared that both Gen. Ma and Marshal Su had been surrounded. As yet their safety is not assured. Canton itself was in such danger that reinforcements from Peking were urgently called for. The critical character of the situation, not only to the Chinese government but also to foreigners, was indicated on the 19th by dispatches from Peking, which told of the fears of the foreign legations. An official meeting of the foreign representatives in Peking was held on that day, at which it was decided, in view of the magnitude of the rebellion and distrust of the government, to station three cordons of guards around the legations.

While in the throes of this rebellion sweeping up from the south, China is being relieved of the threatened aggression of Russia from the north; for the Russo-Chinese treaty providing for the evacuation by Russia of Manchuria (vol. iv., p. 823, and vol. v., p. 10), now officially made public, contemplates a complete relinquishment. As the treaty is summarized from Washington—
Russia agrees to restore the civil administration of Manchuria, without re-

serve, to the Chinese empire; to evacuate Manchuria completely, so far as military or civil control is concerned, within one year from the date of the treaty; to remove her army, except a small force for guarding the Russian railway, within one year, withdrawing a part of the troops in four months, another part in eight months and the final quota in twelve months; and to surrender all claim to exclusive railway and mining privileges in Manchuria, pledging herself and China to the "open door" principle in that province.

There is, however, a reservation attached to the treaty, which declares that if the Chinese government should violate any of the terms stipulated as conditions of this evacuation—

the Russian government will not hold itself bound either by the terms of the Manchuria agreement or by the declarations previously made in connection with the matter.

Russia, herself, is disturbed by internal commotions. There are fears, apparently well grounded, that the democratic revolt which found expression 20 years ago in the assassination of the czar has revived. The cruelly oppressive and arbitrary actions of the government for the suppression of personal liberty, bore fruit on the 16th in the assassination, by a student named Balsahonstt, of M. Sipraguin, the Russian minister of the interior. At first this was believed to be only an ordinary crime, but the conduct of the Russian authorities indicates that they believe it to have been political, and this is the belief also of persons familiar with Russian affairs and who are in sympathy with the victims of Russian autocracy. Following the assassination of the minister of the interior comes reports of the attempt upon the life of the governor of Warsaw, and also stories of peasant revolts in the south. But the censorship of the press is so much more perfect in Russia than in other countries that no really trustworthy or adequate reports of conditions there are obtainable.

Supplementing the vague reports of democratic conspiracies in Russia are reports of open defiance to her authority in Finland, a country which she has undertaken to assimilate (vol. i., No. 48, pp. 4, 9; No. 50, p. 11; vol. ii., No. 54, p. 10; No. 57, p. 6; No. 58, p. 1; No. 59, p. 7; No. 61, p. 10; No. 69, p. 1; No. 75, p. 10; No. 77, p. 10; vol. iii., p. 778; vol. iv., pp. 617, 666). A dispatch from Helsingfors to the Lon-

don Times, received on the 21st, reports that on the 18th, in a levy of recruits from the Helsingfors district, out of 857 summoned only 56 appeared. The remainder absented themselves as a demonstration against the Russian army edict. On the same day, for some venial offense of the populace the Cossacks charged the public in the Senate square and in the adjoining streets. They used their knouts indiscriminately, and the chief sufferers were cripples, aged persons and children. Some men resisted the Cossacks and many persons on both sides were wounded.

The disturbance in Belgium, explained last week, is reported to have completely subsided. The debate in parliament on the proposed reform in suffrage qualifications, to abolish plural voting and establish manhood suffrage on the principle of "one man one vote," which began on the 16th, was continued on the 17th. There was very little excitement on the 16th, but on the two following days the excitement was intense. A move was made on the 17th to close the debate on that day, but this was so violently resisted by the Socialists that the conservatives receded, and it was unanimously agreed to fix the hour of closing debate at six o'clock on the 18th. When that hour arrived a vote was taken, and the proposal to revise the constitution by abolishing the plural vote, which gives the conservatives control in the government, although numerically they are a minority of the people, was defeated. As the vote was 84 against revision to 64 in its favor, it would appear that the Clerical or conservative party, which has 85 votes in the chamber, was practically a unit against the reform; and that all the other parties—having an aggregate of 67 votes in the chamber—were one with the Socialists in its support.

Immediately after the commencement of this vote a riot occurred at Louvain, 20 miles from Brussels. The strikers there appear to have thrown up barricades and to have invited an attack by the military, which was made with fatal results. But this occurrence and one somewhat similar at Bruges were the only indications of a serious disposition to convulse the country in civil war. The principal leader of the Socialists, M. Vanderelde, a member of the chamber of deputies, urged pacific methods, saying that an unarmed people could not

contend with a fully equipped military force. He and other leaders of his party were waited upon on the 19th by the leaders of the Liberal party, who urged an abandonment of the general labor strike which had been called in furtherance of the suffrage movement. The suggestion was favorably received, and on the 20th the general council of labor issued a manifesto to the workmen, advising that the strike be abandoned. Accordingly work was generally resumed on the 22d. At this time some 300,000 men had struck work. The spirit of the movement and the significance of the termination of the strike are best indicated by this quotation from a newspaper interview on the 18th with M. Vandervelde:

The defeat in the chamber is a triumph for the country. What the government has arbitrarily refused today will be realized by the Belgian people to-morrow. The Catholic party ignores the popular will, and if the King be wise he will show that he is King of the Belgian people. The days for street barricades are over. We rely on moral force, and therein lies our strength.

Across the channel, and still the wearisome story of arbitrary government goes on. The English ministry have revived the old-time drastic British policy of governing Ireland. A disturbed condition in Ireland was indicated a month ago (vol. iv., p. 809), in connection with a debate in parliament on Irish landlordism. At that time, although the ministry were evidently disposed to put down the United Irish league, the opinion prevailed that coercion should be avoided until it could be seen whether the new land purchase bill which they were then putting through parliament would have a conciliatory effect. They seem now to have changed their policy. The chief secretary for Ireland, Mr. Wyndham, admits that there is comparative absence in Ireland of crimes against the person; but he asserts that intimidation and boycotting are intolerable. For that reason, the British government caused the lord lieutenant of Ireland to "proclaim" nine Irish counties and the cities of Cork and Waterford as under the coercion act. This he did on the 16th. It means that in these places public meetings are forbidden and trial by jury is suspended. Autocratic domination takes the place of constitutional government.

John Redmond, the Irish leader,

speaking in the commons on the 17th, denounced this action as a step in an infamous conspiracy in England to foment crime in Ireland where none now exists. He entreated the ministry to recede from their arbitrary policy, but warned them that if they continued it they would be met face to face and with blow for blow. A call for sympathy and support from the Irish in America has been made by Redmond and Dillon.

Even at home the British ministry threatens unjust exactions and is arousing in consequence a widespread bitterness of public sentiment. For one thing the education bill now before parliament would compel non-conformists to pay direct taxes for the support of denominational schools. To protest against this measure an enormous mass meeting was held at St. James's Hall on the 14th, at which prominent men, including clergymen and members of parliament, declared their determination to resist if the measure passes.

But the tariff tax on breadstuffs, proposed by the ministry, as reported last week, is creating most excitement throughout the country. On the "budget," which included this measure, the ministry applied the closure in the Commons on the 23d, and the bill was thereupon passed by a vote of 283 to 197. In the course of the debate the chancellor of the exchequer predicted that the advance in the price of bread, which had been from one cent to two cents a loaf higher since the budget announcement, would decline as soon as trade had adjusted itself to the new conditions.

Peace negotiations in the South African war, for the prosecution of which these food taxes in Great Britain are imposed, have come to no conclusion beyond a decision of the Boer leaders to submit terms of peace to their followers in the field. Press dispatches—which, however, cannot be relied upon, owing to the British censorship—told on the 17th of a hitch in the negotiations at Pretoria. The same untrustworthy source of information gave out on the 18th that Great Britain had refused on the 16th to modify its offered terms, and that on the 17th a basis of peace was agreed upon. It then came out authoritatively on the 18th, through Mr. Balfour on the floor of the Commons, that arrange-

ments for a Boer referendum had been made. Mr. Balfour said:

In conformity with the pledge I gave to the House a day or two ago, it will be proper for me to say that Lord Milner and Lord Kitchener, while refusing an armistice on military grounds, have agreed to give facilities for the election and meeting of representatives of the various commandos to consider the position. The Boer leaders have left Pretoria to carry out this plan. It is not expected that communication will be resumed in less than three weeks.

The Boer leaders left Pretoria at nine o'clock at night on the 18th. Their departure is regarded in Boer circles in Amsterdam as evidence not of a coming settlement through the referendum, but of a collapse of the peace negotiations.

Meanwhile military operations are not stayed, except that the British say they are obligated not to attack the Boers on the days set apart for the referendum. A fight is reported on the 11th in which the British lost 1 killed and 4 dangerously wounded. In two others, on the 20th, their loss was 6 killed and 17 wounded. A large inclosing movement by Gen. Hamilton was reported on the 22d as having been concluded, but results were not given.

The investigation into the facts regarding the British army supply post at Port Chalmette, near New Orleans (p. 9), which Col. Crowder of the U. S. army began about two weeks ago, under orders from President Roosevelt, was concluded on the 19th; and on the 21st Col. Crowder made an informal report to the President. He is understood to be preparing his official report. The nature of his findings has not been disclosed. It has been variously reported, in some papers as in favor of the British and in others as against them.

Another gigantic trust, in process of formation for more than a year (vol. iv., pp. 56, 73, 697), is authoritatively announced as completed. It is a combination of six of the leading trans-Atlantic steamer lines—the White Star, with world wide connections; the Dominion, to Liverpool London and the Mediterranean; the Leyland, to Liverpool; the Atlantic Transport, to London; the American, to Southampton; and the Red Star, to Antwerp. The organizer, of course is Mr. Morgan. The merger was predicted