

to carry out successfully the noble mission devolved upon you by restoring peace, quite and esteem to your unhappy land, so sorely visited by a succession of internal storms, and by raising it again after the severe fall which it recently sustained in the eyes of the civilized world through the heinous and universally reprobated crime. Your majesty may rely on my support and friendship in executing this task and you may be convinced that it will always be my heartfelt desire, as it is your own, to maintain and strengthen the friendly and neighborly relations which have existed so long between our two countries.

Italy is the only other Power which has as yet recognized the new king.

The German elections, the approach of which was announced and the character of the campaign described last week (p. 152), came off on the 16th and a great victory was won by the Socialist party. Though full election returns are not yet at hand, this party has probably raised its representation in the Reichstag to 80, and its total vote to nearly 3,000,000. It is known positively that 53 seats have been gained by the party. The most pronounced Socialist local success was in Essen, Krupp's town, where the Socialists increased their vote from 4,400 to 22,705. The Centrist party increased its vote there from 20,103 to 35,864. In Saxony the Socialists win 18 seats out of 23, and for the remaining 5 they have polled enough votes to entitle them to contest at the second elections. They polled 100,000 votes over all other parties in the Saxon kingdom. The Berliner Tageblatt accounts for the general result by the influence of the food question, and accepts it as a disapproval of the new tariff law. The programme upon which the Socialists made the campaign was as follows:

- (1) One vote for every adult man and woman; a holiday to be election day; payment of members;
- (2) The government to be responsible to parliament; local self-government; referendum;
- (3) Introduction of the militia system;
- (4) Freedom of speech and freedom of the press;
- (5) Equality of man and woman before the law;
- (6) Disestablishment of the churches;
- (7) Undenominational schools, with compulsory attendance and gratuitous tuition;
- (8) Gratuitousness of legal proceedings;
- (9) Gratuitous medical attendance and burial; and
- (10) Progressive income tax and succession duty.

The returns reported up to 11 o'clock at night on the 17th from 204 districts gave the following results:

Socialists	53
Centrists	82
Conservatives	30
Alsations	6
National liberals.....	6
Free conservatives.....	6
Independents	3
Poles	14
Scattering	4

In 177 other districts it was certain at that time that second elections would be necessary, no candidate having received a majority over all as required by the German election law. This accounts for 381 districts out of the 397, leaving 16 still to be heard from.

In France the Senate adopted a bill on the 12th, by a vote of 220 to 45, which would reduce the term of military service from three years to two. This is to redeem one of the principal pledges of the ministerial programme made at the last elections. The financial budget for 1904 was laid before the Chamber of Deputies on the 16th. It estimates a deficit of \$1,162,000. To meet this the finance minister opposes the issuance of bonds or the imposition of new taxation, and what he proposes is to renounce the reciprocity treaty with Brazil, thus permitting the restoration of the duties on Brazilian coffee, and to reach the wealthy classes with income taxes, one feature of which is a tax on tenants of 4 per cent. on the rent they pay.

The protection question raised by Mr. Chamberlain (p. 150) had another day in the British parliament on the 15th, this time in the House of Lords. The Chamberlain scheme was attacked by Viscount Goschen, Liberal-Unionist, in a strong free trade speech. Lord Lansdowne, the secretary of state for foreign affairs, while he spoke cautiously, showed a leaning toward Mr. Chamberlain's ideas; but the Duke of Devonshire's speech was regarded as leaning the other way. On the 17th the same subject was again before the Commons. The Liberals moved to adjourn in order to obtain further light upon the position of the ministry on the preferential tariff question, the governor of New South Wales having telegraphed Secretary Chamberlain an endorsement of the policy indicated by himself and Premier Bal-

four in their recent speeches. Opposing this motion Mr. Balfour said he had nothing to withdraw and denied that he had raised false hopes in the colonies. The only thing that might make the colonies regard their hopes as false, he said, would be if the opposition came to power and carried out their implied intention to abandon the colonies to the trade discriminations of the whole world. Chamberlain followed, saying that Balfour expressed the opinion of the whole ministry when he said the colonies ought to be secured in their right to enter into closer fiscal relations with the mother country. He added: "We contemplate a policy of closer trade relations between them and ourselves." It is believed that these speeches forecast a reorganization of the ministry along the lines of Chamberlain's policy. Balfour defied the Liberals to move a vote of want of confidence. The motion to adjourn was defeated by 252 to 132.

The House of Commons went into committee of the whole on the 15th for the consideration of the Irish land purchase bill (p. 38). This work was expected to consume considerable time. The question of fixing a minimum price is regarded as being one of the most vital and most contentious points of the bill. Generally speaking, the landlords favor a fixed minimum price, and the tenants desire to be in a position to secure their holdings at the market value, unaffected by any statutory limit as to price. On the 16th an amendment offered by John Redmond, which sought to abolish the minimum price at which the landlord may sell, even though landlord and tenant might agree to a lower price, was discussed. The ministry opposing it the amendment was defeated by 41 votes.

On the American side of the Atlantic labor strikes are holding public attention. The most notable new one is that of the hotel and restaurant waiters at Chicago. It began on the 4th in a demand for higher wages, shorter hours and recognition of the waiters' union, and spread by degrees through hotels, restaurants and clubs. Offers of arbitration were made by the employers' union, but the waiters refused to submit the question of unionism to arbitration. They also refused to deal with the employers' union as a body, on the ground that it affiliated with an or-