

charter. The traction company, electric light company and other local monopolies directed their efforts to first securing defeat of the proposition to frame a charter, and second, in the event of a charter framing proposition carrying, to elect the Knight ticket. At the election the charter proposition carried but the Knight ticket was elected, so that the charter framers were the ones favored by the local monopolies.



The charter framed and submitted contained many of the conventional reform features. The members construed their municipal ownership pledge to allow making adoption of the measure depend on receipt of a two-thirds affirmative vote of the people and put a provision to that effect in the charter. This provision and others were denounced as jokers. One provision, which was said to require strict enforcement of the State laws regarding Sunday observance, further increased the charter's unpopularity.



Manitoba Speaks.

F. J. Dixon, the Winnipeg candidate for the Manitoba legislature who made the Single Tax the most conspicuous feature of his campaign, has, according to mail advices, achieved a notable victory. Of his campaign the Manitoba Free Press of July 11 says:

Perhaps the most spectacular feature of the election is the return of F. J. Dixon, Independent candidate in Centre Winnipeg, by a majority of over 1,500, far the largest majority ever achieved in the history of Manitoba. It is interesting to recall that Premier Roblin, in his usual "knightly" speech, predicted that there wouldn't be "even a smell" left of Dixon after July 10th.

And this in a district deliberately gerrymandered by the Conservatives for the purpose of defeating the Liberal candidates. [See current volume, page 639.]



Canada and the Hindus.

A crisis occurred on the 19th in the contention over the landing of Hindus at Vancouver. Canada undertook to exclude them by a law that admitted only such as came direct from India, there being no direct line of ships between the two countries. Gurdit Singh, a Hindu leader, with 350 Sikhs, attempted to prove the right of a British citizen to pass to and fro in any part of the Empire by going in the Japanese ship Komagata Maru direct from India to Vancouver, where they arrived May 23. The Dominion authorities refused them admission, and their case was carried to the court of appeal, which decided adversely on the 6th. The captain of the Komagata Maru was ordered to take the Sikhs—who had been confined on the ship for three months—out of the country. But his pas-

sengers refused to let him raise steam; and when, on the 19th, he appealed to the port authorities for protection, one hundred and sixty policemen and immigration officials attempted to board the ship but were prevented by a shower of coal, iron bars, pieces of machinery, hatchets and clubs. The government has instructed its agents to deport the Hindus on the Empress of Japan on the 23rd. [See vol. xvi, p. 1166.]



Anti-German Militarism Will Not Down.

Echoes of the army trouble in Alsace-Lorraine continue in the charges of the brutality of officers to men. It is charged by critics that the government, by its nominal punishments, encourages the officers in excessive severity. Socialists in particular have used this weapon to gain favor with the people. Rosa Luxemburg, a Polish Jewess, and one of the most intrepid critics of the government, was sentenced last winter to one year in prison for anti-militarist agitation. The specific offence was that of inciting German soldiers to refuse to fight in case of war with France. Before being called upon to begin serving her sentence she delivered a fresh and much stronger indictment. She was again brought to trial for criminal slander of the army. But when she presented a list of 1,013 witnesses, mainly former soldiers, the government adjourned the case. As this action was taken in spite of the protests of Rosa Luxemburg the Socialists and other anti-militarists look upon it as a defeat of the government, in that it was a confession that her charges were true.



English Affairs.

The Amending bill, supplementary to the Irish Home Rule bill, passed the House of Lords on the 14th, and was returned to the Commons. Before its final passage another amendment was added, empowering the king, by an order in council, to suspend the operation of the Home Rule act until a commission should report on the constitutional relations of Ireland to the other parts of the United Kingdom. [See current volume, page 686.]



Tension has been at high pitch during the week, with the interest centered mainly about the cabinet, and the negotiations conducted between it and the Unionist leaders. Little progress, however, was made. Mr. Redmond and the Irish members declared most emphatically that they would prefer to give up the present Home Rule bill entirely rather than to yield to the Lords' amendments excluding Ulster. The King, by the advice of the cabinet, called a conference of the leaders of the several factions to meet at Buckingham

palace on the 21st. Premier Asquith and Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lloyd George, will represent the government; the Marquis of Landsdowne and Andrew Bonar Law, the opposition; John Redmond and John Dillon, the Irish Nationalists; and Sir Edward Carson and Captain James Craig, the Ulstermen. The announcement of the conference by the Prime Minister in the Commons provoked bitter protests from the radical extremists, who charged that it was a plot on the part of the government to gain time, and prevent the organization of the Ulster provisional government until after the adjournment of Parliament.



The action of the King in attempting mediation has been the subject of sharp criticism, but upon the whole was thought to offer the most promising means of averting civil war. The Laborites felt slighted at not being invited to participate in the conference, and at a party meeting passed a resolution protesting against the King's issuing such a command "regarding any matter of political controversy as being undue interference on the part of the Crown and calculated to defeat the purposes of the Parliament Act."



Proportional representation again received recognition in connection with the Home Rule bill when the Lords amended the Amending bill to provide that Irish constituencies should be so arranged as to elect at least three members by proportional representation. This was done with a view to giving Protestants representation in Catholic territory.



Mr. Asquith in announcing the government's program in the Commons said the House would be asked to deal with the Irish Amending bill, the Indian budget and the House of Lords resolutions, in addition to the necessary financial business, before prorogation. He said he hoped the session would end in August.



Woman Suffrage in Great Britain.

Woman suffrage, especially the workers' demand for the franchise, has been a very prominent note in recent British politics—a note not drowned even by the noise of Home Rule and Budget disputes. Premier Asquith's reception of the deputation of five London East End working women on June 20 was considered a most important public event, both because the women so forcefully presented their case and because the Prime Minister's reply was interpreted as an unbending from his hitherto stiff opposition to the enfranchisement of women. The demand of the delegation which had been elected at great public meetings was for an immediate government measure granting the vote

to every woman over twenty-one years of age. After an able argument by their leader, Mrs. Scurr, for the vote for women as the only effective means of giving them a voice in the management of their own and their children's lives, each of her four women companions told why she herself in her situation, and thousands like her, needed the ballot. As reported in *The London Nation*:

One woman produced two brushes from her pocket and showed the Prime Minister how she had to fill the holes with bristles—two hundred holes for 2d.—and it took her nearly two hours to fill one brush, though she worked with the skill of forty-three years' practice. The brush then sold for half-a-guinea. Others described work at cigarette packing, sewing, and the labor of keeping house for oneself and husband and six children on 25s. a week. But the most touching story was told by a woman who had been driven from a jam factory because she refused to yield to the foreman, and had then taken in—"naturally, of course, sir"—a girl who had yielded and came with her baby. "But sooner than take the food out of my children's mouths, she went out one day, and I never see her again till three days afterwards, when she and the baby was dragged out of the river." Another woman exclaimed: "We women perform the dignified service of motherhood—even statesmen has mothers, I suppose, sir—and yet we're not allowed a voice in the making of the laws, and the law says we're not the parents of our own children!"

Mr. Asquith listened with deep attention to these accounts of personal experience and answered gravely that he was glad to hear directly from the East End working people of their great need for social legislation. He reminded them that already Parliament had done something for the sweated women, but admittedly not enough. He promised "careful and mature consideration" of their case; and closed with the following declaration regarding the sort of enfranchisement they asked—a vote for every woman over twenty-one:

On one point I am in complete agreement with you. I have always said that if you are going to give the franchise to women, give it to them on the same terms as to men. Make it a democratic measure. It is no good paltering with it. If the discrimination of sex does not justify the giving of the vote to one sex and withholding it from the other, it follows a fortiori that the discrimination of sex does not justify and cannot warrant giving to women a restricted form of franchise while you give to men an unrestricted form of franchise. If a change is to come, it must be democratic in its basis.

The (London) Nation—Liberal and strongly pro-suffrage—made extended editorial comment upon the interview, hailing it as a token of change of heart in Premier Asquith. [See current volume, page 538, 612.]



The working woman's practical need and demand for the franchise was again expressed when the Women's Co-operative Guild—a democratic organization whose annual Congress in June is re-