

ference of the Labor Party at Glasgow on the 29th, where will be announced the result of the poll that has been in process on the question of political action. Under the Trade Unions Act of 1912, the unions recovered the right to levy assessments for political purposes, but with limitations protecting minority members. The union must ballot its members. If a majority are in favor, the levy may be made, but individuals may claim exemption from subscribing, or from having their subscriptions applied to political purposes. The vote of the Miners' Federation, the Northern Counties Weavers Amalgamation, the amalgamated Society of Engineers, and some others that have been announced, has been in favor of political activities; but the total vote will only be given out at the Glasgow Conference. [See vol. xii, p. 1256; vol. xiii, p. 900; vol. xiv, p. 852.]



Little has come of the conferences between Liberal and Unionists on Home Rule. Ulster is less militant but still remains intractable. Rumors of growing friction in the Cabinet over the naval estimates of Winston Churchill serve to revive the hopes of the Unionists. It is suspected that the first lord of the Admiralty is awaiting a propitious moment to return to the Unionist Party. But while the possibility of his desertion is recognized by the Liberals, they profess indifference as to the effect. [See current volume, page 84.]



#### German Affairs.

Rumblings and mutterings over militarism continue to be heard in connection with the clash between soldiers and citizens in Alsace. Colonel Reuter, commanding the regiment that was responsible for the trouble, was acquitted by courtmartial, and has since been raised a grade in the Order of the Red Eagle. The Socialist deputies in the Imperial Parliament who have continued to nag the Government because of its defense of the army, were bitterly denounced by the Chancellor, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, when they put questions to him regarding the Zabern courtmartial. The Chancellor declared them to be "underminers of the throne and preachers of republicanism." Dr. Franck, who introduced the interpellation in regard to the Alsace affair, said the Socialists were grateful for the "mischievous" telegrams passed between the Crown Prince and General von Diemling and Colonel von Reuter, commander of the regiment at Zabern. He concluded by saying: "We are already in the midst of a fight against reaction, and will fight through to the end. The conservatives get their right to rule out of the dust of the past; we get ours out of the necessity of the time. We are the real smiths of Germany's future." [See current volume, page 59.]

Disappointment is felt by German free traders on account of the stand-pat attitude of the Government in regard to a downward revision of the tariff. Dr. Delbruck, Imperial Secretary of the Interior, speaking in regard to expiring commercial treaties, said the Government was prepared to advance duties if foreign countries did anything prejudicial to German commerce.



#### A Correction.

The statement in *The Public* of January 16 at page 58 regarding the charges of graft in Chicago school land purchases, "during Mr. Lipsky's chairmanship of the Sites Committee," was incorrect. Mr. Lipsky writes *The Public* that he never has been chairman of the Sites Committee of the Chicago Board of Education, nor ever "a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, of which the Sites Committee is a sub-committee," but merely "a member of the Sites Committee, because it is customary to have one member of the School Management Committee appointed by the chairman of that committee to act with the Sites Committee to give it the advantage of having some one especially interested in the educational side of the Board's work and assist in the choice of sites." The editors of *The Public* regret the error and gladly make correction.

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## NEWS NOTES

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—Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, High Commissioner for Canada, died at London on January 21 at the age of ninety-three.

—Mayor Mitchel of New York has reappointed Lawson Purdy president of the Tax Board, and John J. Murphy Tenement House Commissioner. (See current volume, pages 36, 37.)

—Colonel George W. Goethals declined on January 25 to accept the post of Commissioner of Police of New York which Mayor Mitchel had offered him. [See current volume, page 37.]

—A disastrous flood in the neighborhood of Los Angeles, California, on January 26, caused the loss of four lives and much property. Washouts on railroad lines are reported and traffic throughout the section tied up.

—The Iceland women have not, after all, gained suffrage on the same terms as men, the *Woman's Journal* reports. Women—and men-servants—cannot vote until they are forty years old. [See vol. xiv, p. 1018.]

—A resolution favoring repeal of the Fifteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution granting suffrage to Negroes, was adopted on January 22 by the lower house of the South Carolina Legislature. [See vol. xv, p. 1185.]

—The Panama Canal now has a depth of thirty feet through the Cucaracha slide in Culebra Cut, and it is announced as Colonel Goethal's intention to