

the organizers of the meeting, appealed for silence in order that they might hear the speaker's message. This appeal was acquiesced in apparently, but hardly had the speaker begun when the tumult arose again. Lloyd-George finally secured order enough to proceed, though with some difficulty. Deploring the tactics of the disturbers as calculated to create reaction against the cause, he said: "If this chance to get what they desired was thrown away, it would be entirely owing to the folly or lunacy of some of those who to-day had felt they had been helping the cause." He assured his audience that there was a majority in the cabinet and the Liberal party in favor of woman suffrage, and that a suffrage clause would be included in the government's franchise bill, which, however, could not be introduced until the eve of the dissolution of Parliament. He added that the time of dissolution had not yet arrived, though the end of this Parliament was not so distant as some people thought.

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Reforming the British House of Lords.

A growing popular hostility to the House of Lords, because it represents little but the hereditary private interests of its members and is an obstacle to progressive legislation, has influenced that body to take steps for its own reform. Its first step was the appointment of a special committee of its own members with instructions to suggest a plan; and on the 3d, according to the cable dispatches, this committee reported. As cabled—

The committee finds it undesirable that the possession of a peerage should of itself give the right to sit and vote in the House of Lords, and it recommends that qualifications should be the main test for admission. It then sets forth that all hereditary peers should be formed into an electoral body for the purpose of electing 200 of their number to sit and vote as the "Lords of Parliament," not for life, but for a single parliament; that the Spiritual Lords of Parliament be reduced to ten, to be elected by the bishops; the two archbishops sitting during the tenure of their Sees, and the other eight for the duration of each Parliament; that Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have official representatives in the House of Lords; that a number of hereditary peers, estimated at 130, possessing certain qualifications, should sit without the necessity of election; these to include men who have held the post of cabinet minister, viceroy, Governor General of Canada, and governor of the larger colonies, and naval and military officers of high rank, and that twenty years' service in the House of Commons shall entitle to a seat among the peers. This plan will give the reformed House of Lords about 350 members—namely, three peers of the royal blood, 200 peers to be elected, about 130 qualified hereditary peers, ten spiritual lords and five judges. The report adds that the committee feels that the party in power in the House of Commons should be able to count on a substantial following in the House of Lords, but as opinions as to the best means of ar-

ranging this object are so diverse it is unable to make any recommendations.

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Responsible Government Demanded in Germany.

Ministerial responsibility to the people instead of to the crown was debated in the Reichstag on the 2nd, as a development from the recent excitement over the Emperor's indiscreet London Telegraph interview (pp. 801, 820). Dispatches state that the debate was notable for the unanimous view expressed by all the Liberal parties, and supported by the powerful Center party, that some change in the constitution was desirable. The motions brought in, however, varied considerably in their phraseology, and because of the existing party jealousies it is not regarded as probable that an agreement regarding a final formula can be reached for a long time yet.

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Until the last day or two the Kaiser has remained in seclusion since the sudden and wholly unexpected popular outbreak against his irresponsibility. He was ostensibly nursing a cold, and is assumed to have been acquiring new points of view upon his autocracy and prerogatives. He is described as seeming to be very much depressed.

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The Emperor of Austria's Jubilee.

Austria and Hungary celebrated on the 2nd the sixtieth anniversary of Franz Josef's accession to the throne of Austria. He became King of Hungary eighteen years later. The announcement that it had been semi-officially declared he would make (p. 850) in regard to the transference of his duties to his heir, the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, was not made, and signs are noted of greater effort on the part of the aged Emperor to control the present aggressive attitude toward Turkey and the Turkish suzerain provinces, for which his heir and the ministry are in fact responsible, and to which the peace-loving and just old man finds himself unreasonably committed.

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The Revolution in Haiti.

The Negro-French republic of Haiti occupies the western half of the second largest island of the West Indies, while the Negro-Spanish republic of Santo Domingo (p. 471) occupies the eastern half. Haiti has been independent since 1804, following the struggles in which Toussaint l'Ouverture established Haitian nationality, and is now governed under a constitution passed in 1889. The revolution reported during the past fortnight (pp. 831, 851) seems to have been precipitated by the fact that the seven years' electoral term of President Nord Alexis was due to expire next May, and changes in the presidential incumbency in