

to be chosen by the seven, and the trustees are given power to fill vacancies.

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Shifting Balances in South-Eastern Europe.

The unexpected and, according to international morals, unwarranted seizure by Austria of the Turkish provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which she was administering under the treaty of Berlin, as reported last week (p. 660), has upset the equanimity of Europe and aroused fear of a general war. Serbia, lying between Bosnia and Rumania, formerly tributary to Turkey, but created an independent nation by the treaty of Berlin, has been especially aroused by Austria's absorption of the two provinces, closely allied by blood and traditions to the Servian people, and which in the shiftings of boundaries might some time have become amalgamated naturally with Serbia, adding greatly to her population, territory and prestige, and giving her the seaports she greatly needs on the Adriatic. In their first fury at Austria's faithlessness to her trust, the Servians proposed to fight Austria for the two provinces, and some acts of violence were committed on the Austrian frontier. But a comparison of the war strength of the two nations—Austria with 409,000 men now available for active service, to Serbia's 27,000—has dampened the Servian ardor. The little mountain kingdom of Montenegro, lying south of Serbia and Bosnia, is in full sympathy with the Servian attitude.

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In this crashing of the Turkish frontiers the island of Crete has eagerly broken away from Turkish suzerainty. Crete, lying south of the Aegean Sea, nearer Greece than Turkey, and with a larger Greek element than Turkish, has always been restive under Turkish control—a control that has diminished during the last years by agreement of the Powers—since 1906 the King of Greece even proposing the High Commissioner governing the island (vol. ix, p. 491). On the 7th the people of Crete announced at the capital city of Canea their union with Greece, and the dissolution of the last ties that bound them to Turkey. The government of Greece has disclaimed any instigation or advance knowledge of this movement, but will probably accede to the Cretan demands if the Powers do not object. It was reported on the 9th that Great Britain had sent a fleet of warships to Aegean waters.

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One of the results of this unsettling of European political stability became manifest when it was reported in London on the 12th that the British government had decided definitely to abandon its policy of reduction of armaments; that

naval construction on a large scale would be resumed immediately, and the army, instead of being further reduced, would be increased. On the other hand the International Socialist Congress in session at Brussels, on the 11th adopted a resolution in favor of the application of the peace program outlined by the Socialist Congress last year at Stuttgart (vol. x, p. 514), for use in event of just such a European crisis. The Stuttgart Congress unanimously adopted a resolution against armaments for conquest and imperialism. It was decided also that should war be threatened the Socialists should bring all pressure to bear in an endeavor to hinder its outbreak, and in case hostilities began they should use all efforts to bring the war to a speedy conclusion.

NEWS NOTES

- Cholera is disappearing from Manila (p. 638).
- The Illinois State Conference of Charities (p. 637) opened at Rock Island on the 10th.
- Forty balloons started from Berlin on the 11th in a long distance endurance race for a cup offered by James Gordon Bennett.
- Further ineffectual applications for registry as voters was made by women (p. 661) at several polling places in New York on the 10th.
- The Charcot antarctic exploration expedition, which sailed from France in the middle of August (p. 494), arrived at Rio Janeiro on the 12th.
- With representation from every State and Territory west of the Mississippi, the nineteenth Trans-Mississippi Congress convened at San Francisco on the 6th.
- United States Senator La Follette announces his intention of publishing, with the editorial assistance of Mrs. La Follette, a weekly paper in support of government by the people.
- Stephen A. Douglas, son of the distinguished Democratic Senator of the same name, and himself at one time a prominent Republican politician, died in poverty at Chicago on the 8th.
- The General Federation of Trades Unions of England issued a manifesto on the 8th, declaring that there are 1,500,000 unemployed in the United Kingdom, with 7,500,000 suffering dependents.
- A wireless conversation lasting three hours was carried on on the 11th between the station on Russian hill, San Francisco, and the Kuhuku station in the Hawaiian Islands—a distance of 2,200 miles.
- The second international conference on State and local taxation (p. 658) met at Toronto from the 6th to the 9th. Among the many valuable papers was one by John Perrie, tax commissioner of Edmonton, Alberta, who explained the land value taxation policy and methods of that province.
- At Chattanooga on the 8th, Sydney C. Tapp of Georgia, and John Maddox of Minnesota were nominated respectively for President and Vice President of the United States, by the Liberal party at its