

the American Government is massing men and ships near Vera Cruz and other ports leading to the interior with a view to preserving order when the government falls.



Germany and Its Army.

The courtmartial that considered the charges against the commanding officers in the Zabern garrison has returned a verdict of acquittal. Charges of arbitrary subversion of civil authority and of individual brutality were substantiated by good witnesses, and were tactily admitted by the judge-advocate, when he sought to mitigate the court's rigor by asking a sentence of seven days' imprisonment for Colonel von Reuter, and three days' imprisonment for Lieutenant Schad. But the court, recurring to the almost forgotten decree of 1820, which authorized the military commander to assume control whenever in his judgment it was necessary, approved the very acts that the Imperial Chancellor, Von Bethmann-Hollweg, in December declared to be unquestionably illegal. [See vol. xvi, p. 1212; current volume, page 1.]



This is a triumph for the army, but it is likely to end in arousing the people. The parties that put through the vote of nonconfidence in the Reichstag at the time of the trouble in Alsace between the garrison and the citizens are lining up in defense of constitutional principles. Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg is again defiant of his liberal critics, which means a further tightening of the lines between the people and the military.



Chinese Affairs.

Parliament was formally dissolved on the 11th by proclamation of President Yuan Shi Kai. This is the end of a Parliament that from lack of capable leaders and a coherent policy has been impotent from the beginning. The supreme control now rests in the hands of the President and the administrative council. The council was established by Yuan, November 12, and consists of 71 members made up from governors of provinces, military men, and members of the cabinet. President Yuan's latest proclamation says that Parliament will be reconvened in due course of time. [See vol. xvi, p. 1114, current volume, page 37.]



Z. F. How, founder and managing director of the Commercial Press, Shanghai, is reported assassinated on the 11th. He was an active, aggressive man who from a small printing office is said to have built up the finest printing house in Asia. Many educational works have been issued from this house, which have contributed toward the enlightenment of the people.

South African Labor Trouble.

Scarcely was the conflict between the whites and Hindus of Natal brought within bounds, with a prospect of peaceful solution, than the embers of discord in the Johannesburg mining region were fanned into flame, and the strike extended into the other mining camps, with a general strike imminent. The trouble already includes the railway employes; and the other unions are balloting on the question of a general sympathetic strike. Not only the miners of the Johannesburg district, but the various trades in the city have voted to go out. The strike of the Johannesburg branch of the typographical union is taken to mean the people of Johannesburg will have no newspapers. The grievance of the railway men is due to the policy of retrenchment of the South African railway company, which has led to the discharge of men. The men claim this is a move to reduce wages. [See vol. xvi, pp. 661, 1164.]



The government has ordered a general mobilization of troops, and it is estimated there are now 20,000 armed men on the Rand, many of whom saw service in the Boer War. Attempts to dynamite railroad bridges and other railroad property have been followed by orders to the guards to shoot to kill.



Coincident with the general unrest is the outbreak of 900 natives who escaped from the compound of the diamond mines at Jagersfontein on the 9th, when fifty negroes and two whites were killed. A second outbreak occurred on the 10th, resulting in the killing of seven and the wounding of thirty-six natives. This uprising is independent of the trouble at Johannesburg, and is said to be due to the killing of a Basuto by a white overseer.



The Labor War.

Governor Ferris of Michigan began on January 6 his investigation of conditions in the copper mine strike district. He first called on Sheriff Cruse of Houghton County for information. Sheriff Cruse reported that he had at the time 220 paid deputies throughout the county and between 1,500 and 1,600 others, who were employed and paid by the mining companies, but had been appointed by him. Only four of whole number, he said, were gunmen, furnished by the Waddell-Mahon strike-breaking agency. Some of the deputies were members of the State militia. Sheriff Hepting of Keeweenaw County reported that he had about seventy deputies, some of whom were employed by the mining companies and included in these were nineteen gunmen. Prosecutor Lucas of Houghton County told the Governor that the Waddell-Mahon strike breakers had mis-