

A bill repealing the Irish (p. 11) Coercion act of 1887 passed its second reading in the House on the 8th, by a vote of 201 to 7. Mr. Birrell, Chief Secretary for Ireland, strongly supported the measure, declaring the Coercion act to be unconstitutional and intolerable. He maintained that Ireland as a whole was law abiding, and said that any attempt to govern Ireland by coercion would be political insanity.

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The by-elections occurring on account of the cabinet changes (p. 109) have been a strain on Liberal prestige. At the election at Wolverhampton on the 5th, to fill the vacancy in the House caused by the elevation of Sir Henry Fowler, Chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, to the peerage, the Liberal candidate managed to retain his seat by a majority of 8 in a total vote of 9,020. In the last election Sir Henry Fowler had a plurality of 2,865. Winston Spencer Churchill, defeated at Manchester (p. 109), stood again at Dundee, in Scotland, which has been Liberal for a quarter of a century. After a short, sharp contest, in which the Labor party used arguments relating to the industrial depression, and the suffragettes adopted bell-clanging tactics for breaking up the meetings of the unconverted candidate, Mr. Churchill won on the 9th, with a greatly reduced Liberal plurality. The vote stood: Winston Spencer Churchill (Liberal), 7,079; Sir George Baxter (Unionist), 4,370; Mr. Stuart (Laborite), 4,014; Mr. Strymeour (Prohibitionist), 655. Mr. Churchill was doubtless aided by the announcement in the budget of the day before, that the duty on sugar was to be remitted, for Dundee is the center of the jam industry.

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The Douma Debates the Jewish Question.

During a debate in the Douma (p. 110) on the 8th, on the question of recruits for the Russian army for 1908, Mr. Zameslovsky urged the exclusion of Jews from the army, adducing the pernicious influence of the Jewish anti-government propaganda with the rank and file of the army. Mr. Krupensky moved to strike Jewish recruits from the conscript list, imposing upon them instead a poll tax in favor of the invalid pension fund. Mr. Roditcheff (vol. x, p. 856), the Constitutional Democratic leader, in an impassioned defense of the Jews, branded Russia's treatment of them. During his speech he was interrupted constantly by angry rejoinders. The dispatches report him as declaring that the congestion in the Ghetto pale and the inhuman treatment of the Jews for centuries were the criminal causes of Jewish bodily defects. The sole remedy he declared was to lift the disabilities of the Jews. He ridiculed the complaint that the Jews were re-

sponsible for Russia's catastrophes. They were forbidden to join the corps of officers of the army or navy, he said, and they were in nowise guilty for the defeat of the Russians at Mukden and in the battle in the Eea of Japan. Mr. Roditcheff contrasted conditions in Russia with those in Great Britain, where generals and admirals of Jewish extraction had attained distinction.

NEWS NOTES

—The new young King of Portugal, Manuel (p. 133), took the oath to support the constitution on the 6th, and was formally proclaimed sovereign of Portugal and the Portuguese possessions.

—The most destructive of a series of tornadoes (p. 110) extending from Gainesville, Texas, to southern Wisconsin, wrecked nine villages in Oklahoma and two in Illinois on the 11th. The number of known dead is ten.

—The second International Conference on State and Local Taxation (vol. x, p. 804) is called to meet in Toronto, Canada, from the 6th to the 9th of October next, under the auspices of the National Tax Association, of which Allen Ripley Foote of Columbus, Ohio, is president.

—At the organization of the Milwaukee charter convention, composed of 16 Socialists and 33 delegates from other parties, Carl D. Thompson, Socialist, was elected temporary secretary, and Messrs. Berger and Welch, Socialists, were assigned to the committee on plan of procedure.

—By referendum vote just completed, the 55,000 miners in the Illinois coal fields accept by a majority of 10,000 the employment agreement for two years submitted by the joint convention of operators and miners. By this agreement the miners are to pay "shot-firers," a requirement they have long contested.

—The North and West Side street car men of Chicago, by a vote of 4,416 to 96, on the 10th declared for a strike unless certain men who have refused to pay their dues to the organization—are discharged by the company. This decision will be submitted to a special meeting of the union and also to President John M. Roach of the Chicago Railways Company.

—A Philadelphia magistrate, James E. Gorman, has held for trial at the criminal court two policemen—Sergeant Kennedy and Officer Osterhout—for breaking up a Socialist meeting, last month. The Sergeant was held on a charge of inciting to riot in directing the police to clear the hall, and the officer on a charge of assault and battery in obeying the Sergeant's orders.

—A woman suffrage bill has been introduced in the Philippine Assembly (vol. x, p. 1069), and it is believed that it may pass the lower house. It provides that a woman to vote must be 25 years old. A married woman must have the consent of her husband in writing before she will be allowed to cast her ballot. Women under the care of parents must have the parents' consent, also in writing. There