

at hand, in which defeat was highly probable, if not inevitable. Under his leadership the Radicals were extremely restive, the divisions in the party became more pronounced, and after the election, when Lord Rosebery had gone out of power, Sir William Harcourt fastened all eyes upon himself, and greatly consolidated his influence in the party by his brilliant leadership of the divided Liberal minority. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that Lord Rosebery has found his position untenable. There is talk in some quarters of an attempt, by a vote of confidence, to persuade him to resume the formal headship of the party, but it is very doubtful whether such an effort would be successful. The natural candidates for the party leadership are Sir William Harcourt, Mr. John Morley, and Mr. Asquith.

The enthusiasm with which the Czar has been received during the past week in Paris has been so extraordinary that its significance has not failed to impress Europe. Paris for the week has practically been France. Probably never before in its history have the provinces poured their population into the capital in such vast numbers. The throngs which have packed the streets whenever the Czar has moved have been really representative, not of Paris, but of the French people. In ceremony, decoration, and attention of every sort France has given the Czar such a welcome as no ruler in modern times has received from any other nation. That welcome does not mean, as some German and English newspaper writers have hastened to explain, an abandonment of the principle of republicanism; it simply indicates the joy of people who have been isolated in Europe at finding themselves once more in close alliance with a great Power and restored to their proper place and weight in European affairs. Outsiders have hardly understood the isolation in which France has been for two decades, and the keenness with which the iron of diplomatic solitude has entered into the soul of France. It is very natural, therefore, that the French should show their characteristic exuberance of expression in welcoming as a friend the most powerful ruler in Europe. That the Czar has been immensely impressed by his welcome is beyond question, and that what appears to have been a friendly understanding has been imperceptibly pushed on into something more definite and important is also beyond question.

A very important report has recently been published bearing upon the financial relations between Great Britain and Ireland. In 1894 Mr. Gladstone appointed a Commission to investigate the relative capacity of Great Britain and Ireland to bear taxation, and the result of these investigations has stirred up no small amount of controversy, and is likely to have a decided influence on the Irish question. Mr. Gladstone's Commission was doubtless appointed in furtherance of his second Home Rule Bill; but its report, coming at a time of Unionist ascendancy, cannot of course pass into legislation, though in some respects it may create opinion which the Conservative party must reckon with. The assumption upon which a majority of the Commission agreed at the outset, namely, that for purposes of the inquiry Great Britain and Ireland were to be considered as separate entities, naturally finds no sympathy among Conservatives and Liberal-Unionists; but there is a consensus of opinion that two very important conclusions are established by the report. These are, first, that Ireland is a much poorer country than either Great Britain or the United Kingdom as a whole, and, second, that its taxable capacity is not more than one-twentieth that of Great Britain. It hardly needed the

investigations of a Commission to gain the first conclusion, but a decided clearing away of confusion and prejudice will result from the second. During 1893-94 Ireland paid into the Imperial Treasury two and three-quarter millions sterling more than she would have done if taxed in proportion to her capacity. The upshot is that both Home Rulers and the Government party find encouragement for their respective principles. Here is ample proof, say the former, that Ireland should manage her own taxation, at least in so far as it would not imperil the fund contributed for Imperial purposes. The Unionist reply is that no separate jurisdiction should be granted, but that the poorer districts of Ireland, and of Great Britain as well, should be assisted by the richer, and that the whole scheme of taxation for the United Kingdom should be amended by provisions calculated to bear upon the rich and poor districts according to their taxpaying capacity. A readjustment like this would, it is contended, be an additional bond of union, and should be carried into effect. At any rate, the Unionists seem determined that their political opponents shall not secure any advantages from the publication of the report, and they may be spurred thereby into a measure of equitable adjustment which otherwise might be delayed for many years. At the same time the friends of Home Rule will not be slow to incorporate the lesson of these revelations with their other demands, and to press upon their Liberal allies, for reasons of party advantage as well as general justice, an increased support of the Irish cause.

The news that the British Guiana Legislature has granted a concession for the construction of a railway through part of the territory in dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela, while it indicates an aggressive spirit on the part of the British colony, does not necessarily endanger the negotiations for a settlement of the boundary question. If, indeed, the attempt should be made actually to build the road, serious complications might follow. It is, however, quite unlikely that the English Foreign Office will permit any such unwise action as would break the present *status quo*. Nothing definite as to the long-expected agreement between the United States and Great Britain on the Venezuelan question has been made public. Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British Ambassador to the United States, was in conference at London last Saturday with Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain, and press dispatches say that a settlement of the question may be reached in two or three weeks. President Cleveland's Boundary Commission has resumed its arduous labors, and it is stated that a report may be expected from the Commission before the end of the year. The instructions given to the Commission in effect direct it to state the correct boundary-line between Venezuela and British Guiana. It has lately been suggested, however, with a good deal of force, that it is quite competent for the Commission under these instructions to report that there is not sufficient evidence to prove conclusively the existence of a definite boundary-line; that the various lines on charts, references in documents, explorers' and settlers' declarations, and the claims of either side, are too confused to establish a true boundary; and that no such line has ever been in fact authoritatively established. This would be equivalent to saying that the question was one that could properly be settled only under an arbitration commission authorized by the two parties to the dispute, and that it would be unwise for the United States to assert the validity of the claims of either party until such an arbitration had taken place. If the Commission find that their investigation leads them to this conclusion, it can certainly do noth-

ing else than state the conclusion. Their instructions do not compel them to define that which does not exist.

The "Review of Reviews" calls attention to a valuable article in the "National Review" on social reforms in New Zealand. The writer, Agent-General Reeves, makes clear the extent to which his colony has carried progressive taxation. The income tax is levied only on incomes exceeding \$1,500 a year. Between that sum and \$6,500 the tax is five per cent. On larger incomes it is ten per cent. The land tax, also, is not levied upon persons of small means. Persons owning less than \$2,500 worth of bare land are exempt from the tax, which rises as high as one and one-quarter per cent. on holdings worth more than \$1,000,000. In the taxation of owners of mortgaged lands, the amount of the mortgage is deducted, and the tax upon it is assessed to the owner of the mortgage. For the further relief of mortgagors from their hardships during recent years, the Government lends money on farms, up to three-fifths of their value, at five per cent. The farmers must pay six, but one per cent. goes to the extinguishment of the debt. The average rate of interest on American farm mortgages is seven and one-half per cent. Mr. Reeves devotes considerable attention to the workings of women's suffrage—a measure which he heartily favors. In support of it he says:

"The rush of the women on to the electoral rolls; the interest taken by them in the election contests; the peaceable and orderly character of these contests; and the unprecedented Liberal majority, returned by the polls, are all matters of New Zealand history. So is the fact that most of the women voters showed no disposition to follow the clergy in assailing the national system of free, secular, and compulsory education. That they clearly pronounced in very many cases for temperance reform is true. That they were by no means unanimous in favor of total prohibition is true also. On the whole, the most marked feature of their first use of the franchise was their tendency to agree with, rather than diverge from, their male *entourage*."

One of the last reforms in New Zealand has been the codification of the law. All of these radical measures are the work of the last five years. Mr. Reeves is certainly justified in claiming for his colony a pre-eminence in the boldness of its social experiments.

The New York "Evening Post" reports the results of recent explorations in South Africa by Dr. George F. Becker, of the United States Geological Survey, who has just returned from making an examination of the Transvaal gold-fields for a private American company; we quote:

"Within fifteen miles of Johannesburg," said he, "on what is called the main reef series, there is an amount of gold, practically in sight, estimated to be worth \$3,500,000,000, or nearly as much as the entire volume of gold coin now in the world. I say 'practically in sight,' because the gold is extraordinarily uniform, as uniform as coal in an ordinary deposit, as shown by shafts which have been sunk to a depth of 1,800 feet, and diamond drillings which have gone much further."

A former assistant of Dr. Becker gives a still more extraordinary statement, and if his interest in the gold-fields suggests that his testimony be taken with caution, the fact that he is now engaged in gold-mining there gives reasonable assurance that he possesses peculiar opportunities for knowledge. "This American mining expert says that, to the best of his knowledge and belief, the gold deposit, instead of being thirty miles long—the region now in sight—is practically 1,200 miles long, except that in the rest of the region later deposits, like coal, have come in over the gold. This, however, will not prevent economical mining, but will simply delay getting at it." If these statements prove correct, it is probable that a considerable depreciation in the bullion value of gold will result, which would at

once make the pressure for bimetallism less and the re-establishment of it without involving a commercial revolution more practicable. Indeed, while it is highly improbable that gold and silver would again come together except as the result of a general remonetization of the latter metal, it is not absolutely impossible. It would be curious, as well as instructive, if the Almighty should take this means of proving that he has the power, which has been denied him, of making a silver dollar equal to a gold one, and at the same time teaching us that questions of gold and silver, about which we get into such heats, are not the most vital ones, and are by no means left so exclusively to our settlement as we have imagined.

According to a Canadian dispatch, the Minister of Education for Ontario, the Hon. G. W. Ross, intends to submit to the provincial legislature at its next session a measure for the establishment of technical schools in the manufacturing towns of the province. This is to be done as an equitable extension to mechanics and artisans of the privileges which the province has already granted to those who are being educated for the various professions. To this end the money now appropriated to mechanics' institutes will be transferred and form part of a fund for the technical schools. Sufficient legislative grants will also be necessary, so that the youth of the province may have a chance to study the rudimentary principles of the various trades. It is stated that Mr. Ross intends soon to visit the leading technical schools of New England, with the object of studying the best methods in vogue therein. If this measure becomes law, a substantial addition will have been made to the already fine system of education in force in Ontario.

The elections in Florida and Georgia resulted in Democratic victories, as expected. In Florida the Republican party had virtually disbanded four years ago, when it put no electoral ticket in the field. This year the equal division of the Democratic delegation to Chicago on the currency issue led some Republicans to claim the State as doubtful, and an effort was made to bring out the old Republican vote. The managers of the Republican National campaign, however, after looking over the field, refused to forward the necessary funds to pay the poll-taxes of the negroes (\$2 each) and other expenses essential to a full registration. The result was a practical collapse of the Republican campaign. Only about one-third of the old Republican vote was polled. The Democratic vote was considerably greater than in 1894, but somewhat less than in 1892. The Populist vote—always small in Florida—was this year smaller than usual. In Georgia there was no Republican ticket in the field. The issue, as has been previously stated in these columns, was the proposed prohibition of bar-rooms throughout the State. The Populists arrayed themselves on the side of prohibition, and the Democrats against it. The Democrats contended that the present local option law, under which prohibition was already established in three-quarters of the counties, restricted the bar-rooms as much as was practicable. At the beginning of the campaign the Republican State Committee virtually threw its influence on the side of the Democrats by voting to take no part in the campaign. Subsequently—influenced, it was said, by the desire of Northern managers to decrease the Democratic plurality—the Republican Chairman advised the negroes to support the Populist candidate. This advice, however, does not seem to have been widely followed. In the white districts the Populists, or rather the supporters of prohibition, seem to have polled an unusual majority of the vote. Even in the city