

demanded other concessions. The two points of view are obvious. The mill-owners feel that they ought not to pay the same amount as before for a reduced amount of work; the wage-earners, on the other hand, hold that the entire purpose of the people of the State in advocating and passing the law was not to reduce what the men considered their already insufficient wage, but to establish a work-day which shall be in time reasonable and humane. Here is a serious question, with much to be urged on each side. It may at least be fairly asked whether, when the State establishes hours of labor, it should not also keep a controlling hand on the adjustment of wages to the new situation. But the matter of highest public moment is that such questions should be settled before there is precipitated a bitter conflict, involving great loss of money, great waste of time and labor, often continued suffering to the workmen, and involving also, in a town filled with fifty thousand workers and their sympathizers, deplorable violence. It is equally certain that the State and city are to be upheld in their sharp and stringent checking of violent demonstrations. When the Italian flag-bearer at the head of the mill-workers' procession shouted to the officer of the militia, "The American flag can go anywhere," that officer did the fit and right thing in first ordering his men to salute the flag, and then ordering them to fix bayonets to enforce his orders.



#### THE GERMAN ELECTIONS

In Germany the Socialists have made a great gain. This has been shown by the elections to the lower house of the German Parliament, the Reichstag. In these elections, which have filled more than half of the three hundred and ninety-seven seats, the most notable feature was the gain of twenty-six seats by the Social-Democratic party, as the organized political body of the Socialists is called. The addition of these twenty-six seats to the fifty-three that the Socialists had in the late Reichstag, with probably more to follow, makes a remarkable showing. These seats represent a popular vote of nearly four and a half million. This enormous vote is, of course, inadequately represented by the Socialist membership in the Reichstag. This is because of the unequal distribution of seats there. Each State elects as many Reichstag representatives as it contains multiples of 100,000, but the representatives

are still apportioned among the voters on the basis of the census of 1866! This means that the German cities, which have grown amazingly during the last half-century, have practically no greater representation in Parliament than they had at the close of the American Civil War. Berlin, for instance, has only six representatives; while on a basis of one to one hundred thousand it should have twenty-five. Since the Social-Democratic party has flourished mainly in the cities—nearly every urban workman is a Socialist voter—half of that party is practically disfranchised. When, despite that limitation, the Parliamentary percentage of increase is at least fifty per cent, while the popular is nearly forty per cent, then the advance of democracy is indeed impressive.



#### WHAT THE GERMAN SOCIALISTS WANT

The Social-Democratic programme embraces the following demands:

1. Abolition of plural voting (existing only in Prussia).
2. Local self-government.
3. The Imperial Government entirely responsible to Parliament.
4. Church disestablishment (not an immediately practical reform).
5. Free public schools.
6. Freedom of the press.
7. Lowered cost of living.
8. Lessened military burdens.
9. Gratuitous legal proceedings.
10. Gratuitous medical attendance.
11. Gratuitous burial.

Only the last three demands would seem to be Socialistic; hence the name of the party might, it would seem, be thus emphasized—*Social-Democratic*. Beginning as a doctrinaire party, its members frequently quoting Marx and Lassalle, it has apparently become an eminently practical party. While some of its leaders remain extremists—opposed to private ownership of property, for instance—most of their followers are not Socialists at all in our understanding of that word, but the kind who would be known in this country simply as "Progressives." The significance of the German Socialists' gains is discussed further on another page. The Social Democrats seem to have made their gains at the expense of the Liberals, and especially of the Radical party—the last named being now, for the moment, practically wiped out. Hence, for the first time since the founding of the Empire, Germany is divided, not so much into many political camps—Conservatives, Centrists (the Roman Catholics),

Liberals, Radicals, Social Democrats, Poles, etc.—as into two great camps: aristocracy and democracy.

#### SECOND BALLOTINGS IN GERMANY

The Government's majority, however, in the new Reichstag should be ample; that is, as long as the Conservative-Centrist combination—the "Blue-Black Bloc"—remains unimpaired. While the Government may thus be free to carry out its home policies (though it should head the Social-Democratic protest against taxation), it is probable that, in the ultimate analysis, its foreign policies will really be made easier by the advance of a distinctly anti-jingo, anti-militarist party. Certainly this advance must discourage the bellicose bigots not only in Germany but also in England and France. Such discouragement will be doubly felt if the Social Democrats gain largely at the second ballotings which must be held in nearly half the districts of the Empire. These are necessary because often no candidate receives an absolute majority of the votes cast. A new election must then be held in which the choice is confined to one of the two candidates who have had the highest number of votes in the first day's voting. As it is not unusual to have four or five candidates make a fair showing in a single Parliamentary district, the candidate polling the highest number on the first day does not always win on the second. The minority candidates often combine to beat him.

#### THE POINCARÉ MINISTRY

Not since the establishment of the French Republic has a Cabinet been formed which more brilliantly represents a large number of groups and tendencies than does the Ministry of M. Raymond Poincaré. Something impressive had to succeed the Caillaux Cabinet if the unpleasant impressions made by the charges against its head were to be removed. When Bourse international operations threaten legitimate colonial aspirations, somebody must suffer. Somebody did, and M. Caillaux fell with an eloquent swiftness. It is interesting to observe, however, that the clever M. Clemenceau, who apparently "procured" the Ministry's fall, has not been able also to defeat the Franco-German agreement regarding Morocco. By the unprecedented vote of 440 to 6 the Chamber of Deputies has affirmed its confidence in the Cabinet of the day, whose first

official utterance is that the first duty of the Government will be that of ratifying the Franco-German accord on the subject of Morocco and negotiating an accord with Spain. This will permit France speedily to organize her protectorate over Morocco, which is the logical climax of France's African policy. The declaration continues:

A great republican democracy that seeks to improve its social organization should know above all how to harness its forces of development and submit itself freely to conditions vital to all civilized society. The maintenance of public peace, the rigid repression of crime and offenses against persons and property, and the regular and satisfactory working of the public services belonging to the people constitute the elementary duties of all governments.

The Cabinet also favors a law settling the rights and obligations of public employees; it desires changes in the electoral law granting proportional representation to the political parties, and it would promote the development of the workmen's pension scheme. It promises to defend the public schools against all aggression; it urges rigorous economy in the nation's expenditures and the granting of assistance to the country's commercial activity, while also seeking the development of industry and agriculture. In conclusion, the declaration says that the strengthening of the army and navy will receive special attention. "The army and navy must remain the sacred defenders of the republic and the fatherland. Profoundly pacific as our country may be, it is not always master of all eventualities, and it intends to remain equal to all its duties." Such a programme so outlined might have been expected of such statesmen as the Prime Minister, as ex-Premiers Bourgeois and Briand, and as the others who have been ready to accept minor places in the Cabinet—a striking evidence of patriotic solidarity and self-sacrifice in what otherwise might have been a serious crisis for France.

#### A WARNING TO CUBA

Cuba, like the United States, has before it a Presidential campaign. There, as here, politics rise at such a time to a high point of excitement. It might be wished that the coming campaign in Cuba should be fought out on recognized issues relating to the future progress and advance of the country (the abolition of the national lottery ought to be one such issue), but it must be confessed that at present the struggle looks as if it were