

RECORD OF POLITICAL EVENTS.

[From November 6, 1899, to May 10, 1900.]

I. THE UNITED STATES.

FOREIGN RELATIONS. — By a series of conventions a **settlement of the Samoan controversy** has been attained. On November 7 the United States, Great Britain and Germany agreed to submit the claims arising from the bombardment of several Samoan villages in April, 1899, by British and American warships, to the King of Sweden as sole arbitrator. On the following day came the announcement of a treaty of partition, signed by Great Britain and Germany, which rescinded the Act of 1889. In return for territorial compensation received elsewhere (see p. 369), Great Britain relinquished its share in Samoa to Germany and the United States. According to this arrangement Upolu and the other islands west of the 171st degree of west longitude fall to Germany, while the United States becomes the owner of Tutuila and the adjacent islands east of the meridian named. A convention embodying these results was ratified by the United States Senate on January 16. — Of great importance in the relations of Great Britain and the United States was the **proposed modification of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty**. Under the influence, apparently, of the sentiment both in Congress and in the country at large, in favor of the construction and absolute ownership by the United States of a canal across the isthmus, a treaty was signed February 5, by Secretary Hay and Lord Pauncefote, in which Great Britain renounced all right to joint construction, ownership or maintenance of such a canal, while the United States agreed to unite with Great Britain in guaranteeing the neutrality of the passage and to invite other nations to join in this guaranty. Opposition to the neutralization was at once manifested in many circles, and the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, in reporting on the treaty, March 9, proposed an amendment providing that the neutralization clause should not preclude "measures which the United States may find it necessary to take for securing by its own force the defense of the United States and the maintenance of public order." Thus far the requisite two-thirds majority has not seemed obtainable for the treaty, either in its original or in its amended form. — Another treaty with Great Britain, signed March 2, 1899, relating to the tenure and disposition of private property, the Senate agreed to sanction March 22, 1900, but only with the amendment that no British subject may hold property in those states which deny such a privilege to aliens. — A reciprocity treaty with Italy was concluded February 8, and the time for ratifying that with

France was extended a year (March 21). Negotiations for a treaty of this kind with Germany were suspended, in view of the threatened exclusion of American live-stock products from that country (see p. 373). Some diplomatic friction with the Ottoman government has arisen, in relation to the protracted non-payment of claims arising out of the Armenian massacres. A formal demand for payment was made April 24. — Among international transactions of less importance were parcel-post conventions with Guatemala and Venezuela, and extradition treaties with Peru and the Argentine Republic. — Aside from the ratification of The Hague Peace Conference treaty by the Senate, February 5, an additional stimulus was imparted to the preservation of peace and friendly competition in the development of commerce by an **international assurance of the open-door policy in China**. In the course of a correspondence, begun by the United States early in September, 1899, and concluded March 20, 1900, pledges were obtained from Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia, Italy and Japan, that existing commercial privileges, secured by treaty, shall not be prejudiced by the act of any power claiming a "sphere of influence" within the Chinese Empire.

THE DEPENDENCIES. — In his annual message President McKinley described the work of regenerating Cuba, dwelt upon the grave responsibility assumed by the United States in becoming surety for the future of the island and asserted that American control was maintained with the intention of keeping ultimately the obligation imposed by the joint resolution of 1898 (see RECORD for June, 1898, p. 367). Whether the ties binding the new Cuba to the United States are to be "organic or conventional," the destinies of the island, said the President, "are irrevocably linked with our own." He promised that, as soon as the suffrage should be determined, steps would be taken to commit the municipalities to native administration. Regarding the Philippines, the President strongly urged the retention of the archipelago, and suggested that the establishment of civil government should proceed from the municipal to the provincial, and thence to the central, organization. He recommended the grant of legislative relief for the political needs of Alaska, and made a strong plea for action that should correct the anomalous situation of Hawaii. Lastly, he dwelt upon the unfortunate condition of Porto Rico, political and economic, and called for the creation of a civil government. Moreover, since Porto Rico had lost its preferential markets in Spain and Cuba, without corresponding benefit from its annexation by the United States, "our plain duty," he declared, "is to abolish all customs tariffs between the United States and Porto Rico." — In order to deal with questions relating to the dependencies, several **new congressional committees** were established. In the House a Committee on Insular Affairs was put in charge of the territory acquired from Spain, together with Tutuila; while Cuba and Hawaii were left under the control of the committees on Foreign Affairs and Territories, respectively. The Senate, however, established four new committees — namely, on Coast and Insular Survey,

on the Pacific Islands and Porto Rico, on the Philippines, and on Relations with Cuba. — In Congress attention was chiefly centered upon **legislation for Porto Rico**. On January 3, Senator Foraker, Chairman of the Committee on the Pacific Islands and Porto Rico, reported a bill to create a civil government in Porto Rico. According to its provisions, the constitution and laws of the United States were extended to Porto Rico, and the inhabitants of the island were recognized as citizens of the United States; with representation by a delegate in Congress. As to tariff relations, the bill provided for absolute free trade between Porto Rico and the United States. Shortly afterward Mr. Payne, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means in the House, introduced a bill extending to Porto Rico the customs laws of the United States. Opposition in the Republican ranks immediately developed, based on the contention, first, that the principle of protection to industries of the United States was infringed and, second, that free trade with Porto Rico would establish a dangerous precedent when the determination of trade relations with the Philippines should be necessary. After a vigorous debate in the House, the Committee on Ways and Means, taking the position that the revenue for the island would be inadequate under a system of free trade, reported a substitute, fixing the customs rates on goods going from the United States to Porto Rico and the reverse at twenty-five per cent of those imposed by the present tariff law. Forthwith a constitutional question arose as to whether this proposition was compatible with that clause of the constitution which provides that all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States. The Democrats maintained the historic doctrine of their party, that the constitution extends *ex proprio vigore* to the territories, and insisted that the imposition of a customs tax contravened not only the constitutional provision just cited, but also the provision which prohibits the levying of an export duty. This view the Republicans combated with the assertion that the Constitution could not apply to the insular territories, except by an act of Congress specifically so providing, and that, while the effect of the treaty with Spain was to put the United States in the possession of Porto Rico, it did not thereby "make the island either a state or a territory, but a *dependency*." The imposition of a nominal tariff, it was pointed out, would leave undisputed the absolute right of Congress to legislate for the dependencies at will. In the House a vigorous minority among the Republicans declined to approve the position taken by their colleagues and contended that, apart from constitutional prohibitions, considerations of justice, good faith and expediency alike demanded the establishment of free trade. In order to win over enough of these "insurgents" to pass the bill, it was ultimately modified so as to provide for a duty of only fifteen per cent of existing rates, to be in force for but two years. In this form it was adopted in the House, February 28, by a vote of 172 to 161, four Democrats voting in the affirmative and six Republicans in the negative. In the Senate this bill was incorporated in the Civil Government Bill, already under consideration

and was ultimately adopted by a vote of 40 to 31 (April 3), six Republicans standing out for free trade. In its new form it passed the House, 161 to 153 (April 11), nine Republicans voting with the opposition, and was signed by the President, April 12. As enacted, the law declares the inhabitants of the island "citizens of Porto Rico, and as such entitled to the protection of the United States"; substitutes for the proposed delegate in Congress a resident commissioner; and for the support of the civil government levies the proportionate tariff rate of fifteen per cent upon commerce between Porto Rico and the United States for a period of two years, unless in the mean time the legislature of the island shall establish a system of local taxation. It also provides for the reciprocal imposition of internal revenue taxes, in addition to the tariff rates, upon commodities manufactured in both the United States and Porto Rico. Arrangement is made for the redemption of the insular currency; and the statutes of the United States (except those relating to internal revenue), so far as they may be applicable, are extended to the island. The form of government outlined is as follows: A governor and an executive council appointed by the President, one-half the council to be Porto Ricans; and a House of Delegates, elected under a restricted suffrage and constituting, with the council, the insular legislature. On April 16 the President appointed as the first civil governor Mr. Charles H. Allen, Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Pending the enactment of this measure, President McKinley sent to Congress an emergency message, recommending the appropriation to the immediate expenses of the island of all money collected or to be collected as duties on products of Porto Rico in the ports of the United States. This proposition was designed to meet the attacks made upon the tariff bill, as unjust to the islanders and as wrongly postponing the regulation of their affairs. A project embodying the President's recommendation was promptly passed by both houses and became law, March 24. Congress also adopted a joint resolution, April 30, which made the grant of corporate franchises for public utilities in Porto Rico contingent upon the approval of the President. — A bill for the **establishment of a territorial government in Hawaii** came up in the Senate in February. It provided for the recognition of citizens of Hawaii as citizens of the United States, authorized them to be represented by a delegate in Congress and extended to Hawaii the internal revenue, customs and maritime laws of the United States. Having been passed by the Senate, March 1, it was taken up for discussion in the House. Efforts to strike out the clauses extending the constitution to Hawaii, and to provide for a resident commissioner instead of a delegate in Congress, met with defeat. After the adoption of certain amendments prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors, limiting the amount of land which a corporation may hold, extending to Hawaii the alien contract labor laws of the United States and providing for the substitution of American for Hawaiian silver coinage, the House also approved the measure, April 6. The Senate accepted the amendments, and the President signed the bill, April 30. — **The government**

of Cuba has remained in charge of the military authorities. General Brooke was superseded as governor-general, December 13, by Major-General Leonard Wood, whose earlier successful administration at Santiago commended his appointment to Cubans generally. The membership of the cabinet was immediately increased by the addition of special departments for agriculture and public instruction. Greater regularity, also, in the discharge of duty and heightened responsibility in the selection of subordinates were demanded of the cabinet officials. General Wood then proceeded to appoint a series of commissions, composed of Americans and prominent Cubans from all parts of the island, to revise the legal and judicial system, to reorganize the municipalities, to reform the methods of taxation, and to investigate the management of the prisons. Friction between the military and civil authorities, moreover, engaged the attention of General Wood. The action of General Ludlow, military governor of Havana, in summarily fining a newspaper for malicious attacks upon the administration, occasioned the issue of an order, January 19, which declared that the methods of military government should not be employed unless the civil agencies proved incapable of maintaining the public peace. But when General Ludlow differed with the civil governor of Havana province over their respective jurisdictions in the city of Havana, the governor-general sustained the former's contention that the military power was superior to the civil within the limits of the city proper. General Ludlow has since been recalled and the military departments of Havana and Pinar del Rio consolidated. The purpose of General Wood to maintain respect for his authority has been made evident by the summary dismissal of the fiscal of the supreme court for advising that body to protest against the vigor of the American officials in pressing the trial of certain Cuban appraisers, accused of fraud in the Custom House at Havana. For collusion with strikers the mayor and the chief of police at Cienfuegos were removed from office. Finally, in order to curb the excesses of newspapers, the powers of the police court in Havana were increased, April 13; but, out of deference to the wishes of his cabinet, General Wood consented that two civil judges should sit with the American army officer who constituted the court for the trial of such cases. Other administrative measures were: An extension of the American public school system; the establishment of an insular treasury; the allowance of an appeal to the governor-general in doubtful cases of classification at the custom house; an extension of municipal autonomy, through the curtailment of the powers conferred upon the civil governors of the provinces; the abolition of the administrative court of appeals instituted under the Spanish law; the creation of correctional courts in all the large municipalities; and provision for the severe punishment of perjury. A census of the island was taken in November and showed the following results: 187,826 native white males of legal age, 96,083 Spaniards, and 127,300 colored. In February the Mayor of Havana rescinded the ordinance forbidding the display of the Spanish flag (see last RECORD, p. 739). — Officially, at least, the **suppres-**

sion of the revolt in the Philippines has been achieved. The slowness of the advance in northern Luzon (see last RECORD, p. 741), due to the almost impassable roads, balked the design of the Americans to capture Aguinaldo. But Tarlac, the insurgent capital, was occupied November 12; and this was followed by the liberation of thousands of Spanish prisoners and the capture of various members of Aguinaldo's family, cabinet, congress and military staff. Thereafter the operations of the insurgents degenerated into little more than incessant guerilla warfare. The progress of the Americans northward continued until about the middle of December. Aparri, the extremity of Luzon in this direction, was reached, and all the important centres of population were garrisoned. The only serious misfortune encountered by the Americans was the killing of General Lawton by a Tagal sharpshooter, December 18. Active operations having been transferred to the southern part of the island, the suppression of rebellion in the province of Cavité was followed by the occupation of the hemp-producing country. Here, as in the northern section, pursuant to orders from the President, ports were thrown open to commerce and civil governments instituted, wherever feasible. Elsewhere than in Luzon American dominion has been extended without force of arms, save in Panay and Mindanao; still, even in these islands, comparative pacification had been attained by the close of the year. The inclusion within the Philippine group of a number of islands in the vicinity of Borneo called forth a rather factitious protest from Spain, on the ground that they lay outside of the limits assigned by the treaty of Paris; but the United States repelled the claim, for the reason that the language of the treaty implied the cession of all territory in this quarter of which Spain had held the sovereignty. On March 27 the establishment of the Philippines as a military division, and its partition into four departments, marked officially the belief of the United States that the insurrection had terminated. The military courts have since treated guerilla warfare as brigandage and inflicted punishment accordingly. — In the realm of civil administration orders were promulgated legalizing civil marriage, removing certain restrictions upon internal traffic and appointing a board of Filipinos and Americans to formulate a general plan for municipal government. An order embodying this plan was promulgated March 29. — The final report of the Philippines Commission was submitted February 1. The commissioners advocated the creation of a system of government on the principle that the islands should form a political unit, rather than a confederation. The frame of government should consist of a Governor-general and Cabinet, a Senate and a Chamber of Deputies, the Senate should be half appointive and half elective, and the Chamber wholly elective on a restricted suffrage. And to represent the interests of the Philippines the presence of a delegate in Congress was urged. Other recommendations were: an assurance to the natives of the full enjoyment of civil rights and immunities; a liberal measure of local self-government, under the supervision of American district commissioners; preference to natives over Americans

in every case of equal qualifications for office, and the application of the merit system to appointments; independence of the insular finances; reduction of the tariff, as a stimulus to foreign trade; the establishment of public education and the sale of property claimed by the religious orders. The commissioners reported that the general sentiment among the Filipinos was favorable to ultimate independence of the United States. Following a suggestion of the commission, the President, February 6, intrusted the provisional government of the Philippines to a **new board of civil commissioners**, headed by Judge William H. Taft, of Ohio, the other members being Judge Henry E. Ide, of Vermont, Mr. Luke E. Wright, of Tennessee, Prof. Bernard Moses, of the University of California, and Prof. Dean C. Worcester (of the former commission). Early in April, General Otis was relieved of command in the Philippines at his own request, and the military division was assigned to General MacArthur. — The ravages of the hurricane of last summer, the uncertainty as to the island's political status, with the accompanying administrative confusion, and the continuance of the tariff isolation (*cf.* above), combined to render the **economic situation of Porto Rico** deplorable and to produce a positive deficit in the revenues at the end of January. In order to alleviate the general distress, an extension of six months was granted, January 19, on the foreclosure of mortgages; and the abolition of certain superfluous offices was decreed, March 3. — In **Guam**, polygamy, concubinage and slavery (peonage) have been officially abolished. On February 12, the island, together with Tutuila, was placed under the jurisdiction of the Navy Department.

INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION. — In order to relieve a **stringency in the financial market** during the last months of 1899, which was attributed largely to the withdrawal from circulation of money paid under the revenue act of 1898, the Secretary of the Treasury redeemed about \$20,000,000 worth of United States bonds, anticipated the interest due upon \$5,000,000 more of the same, and increased the number of depository banks for government funds, as well as the amounts placed in them. Replying to a resolution of inquiry from Congress, Mr. Gage denied that any favoritism had been shown to the national banks and defended the diversion to them of public revenues from the sub-treasuries, as a precaution in behalf of the business world against the evil just described. At the close of nine months of the fiscal year the surplus in the Treasury had risen to \$54,000,000. — A treaty concluded by the Dawes Commission with the Cherokee Nation, April 12, provides for the allotment of their territory, the payment of their public debt and the grant of United States citizenship upon the receipt of their title deeds. — For the purpose of promoting the general efficiency of the military system, the Secretary of War, February 20, ordered a board of officers to prepare plans for the establishment of an Army War College. A few weeks later the Secretary of the Navy created a Naval Board, of which Admiral Dewey was made president.

CONGRESS. — The first session of the Fifty-sixth Congress opened December 4. Vice-President Hobart having died November 21, Senator Frye of Maine, the president *pro tem*, assumed the chairmanship of the Senate; David B. Henderson, of Iowa, was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. The chief instances of contested seats were: in the Senate, that of W. A. Clark, of Montana, charged with bribery in procuring his election; and in the House, that of B. H. Roberts, a polygamist from Utah. In view of the fact that the credentials of Roberts were regular, the question arose, whether he should be expelled after he had taken his seat or be excluded forthwith. An active public sentiment against Roberts was manifested and the House finally declared in favor of immediate and summary exclusion, by a vote of 302 to 31. In the case of Senator Clark, after a long investigation, the Committee on Privileges and Elections resolved unanimously to declare the seat vacant; but no further action has yet been taken by the Senate. — **The President's message** advocated a series of financial measures (incorporated in the Senate bill described below); legislation on the subject of trusts; the appointment of a commission to study the economic conditions of China; an enlargement of the navy; and the extension of the jurisdiction of the federal courts over international cases, where ultimate responsibility rests upon the federal government. — The subjects that consumed most of the session were the status of the dependencies (see above) and the **adoption of the gold standard**. Within the first week bills on the latter were introduced in both Senate and House. As the Senate bill was substantially the one enacted into law, a recital of its chief provisions follows: (1) A declaration that the gold dollar is the unit of value, and that all forms of money are to be maintained at a parity with it; (2) the establishment of a gold reserve fund of \$150,000,000, to be preserved if necessary by the issue of bonds, and to be employed for the redemption of United States notes (greenbacks) and treasury notes; (3) the gradual substitution of silver certificates for the treasury notes; (4) the refunding of the national debt by two per cent bonds running thirty years; and (5) modifications of the law as to national banks, so that hereafter the minimum capital shall be \$25,000, the banks may issue notes up to the par value of their United States bonds deposited in the Treasury and the tax on their circulation shall be one-half of one per cent. In the debate upon the bills, opposition, as of old, was directed mainly at the adoption of the gold standard, at the discretion vested in the Secretary of the Treasury to increase the national debt for the maintenance of the gold reserve and at the refunding principle, as tending to defer the payment of this debt in order to enable the national banks to issue more currency. On December 18, the House passed its bill, 190 to 150, eight Democrats voting in the affirmative; and on February 15, the Senate adopted its own bill as a substitute, 46 to 29, two Democrats voting in its favor, with an amendment declaring that the act was not intended to preclude the establishment of bimetallism by international agreement. The

measure, as agreed to by the conference committee, was on March 6 passed in the Senate, by a vote of 44 to 26, and a week later in the House, by 166 to 120. — The only other important measures which have thus far been acted upon are a bill to establish a commission for the purpose of investigating the economic situation of Eastern Asia, with an amendment providing for the exclusion of members of Congress from executive appointments (passed by the Senate, March 24); a bill providing for the construction of an isthmian canal through Nicaragua and Costa Rica, under the auspices of the United States and subject to its absolute control (passed, 225 to 35, by the House, May 2); and a bill to reorganize the army, by making the line and staff interchangeable and by creating an artillery corps as a separate branch of the service (passed by the Senate, May 4). — Among the many propositions which have not gone beyond the reference and discussion stage may be mentioned: a bill to subsidize the merchant marine (House); a bill to give to the federal courts jurisdiction over cases concerning violation of the treaty rights of aliens (House and Senate); a bill to establish an executive department of commerce and industry (Senate); and a bill to improve the consular service (House).

THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY. — The Supreme Court has decided: that the constitutional guaranty of the liberty to make contracts does not limit the power of Congress so far as to prevent it from legislating upon the subject of contracts in restraint of interstate or foreign commerce, and that an agreement between corporations which prevents competition in public bidding for contracts violates the anti-trust act of 1890 (*Addyston Pipe and Steel Co. vs. United States*, December 4, 1899); that a bill signed by the President during a recess of Congress is valid law, if so signed within the ten days allowed by the Constitution (*La Abra Silver Mining Co. vs. United States*, December 11, 1899); that the refusal of a state court to enjoin a local board from maintaining a high school solely for white children, while failing on account of insufficient funds to maintain one for colored children, does not exclude colored persons from the equal protection of the laws (*Cumming vs. County Board of Education*, December 18, 1899); and that the grant of priority to creditors residing in the state, over those who reside out of it, is a violation of the constitutional provision for the equal privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states (*Blake vs. McClung*, January 8, 1900). The decision in the case of *Maxwell vs. Dow*, rendered February 26, deals with several points of constitutional law. According to the opinion of the court, the privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States do not include the right of trial by jury in a state court for a state offense; and the fourteenth amendment has not made operative upon the state courts all the provisions contained in the first ten amendments, because the language of a constitutional amendment is to be interpreted in connection with the circumstances under which it was adopted, and for the purpose of realizing the plain object involved in such adoption.

STATE ELECTIONS.—Including Kentucky, seven out of the ten states which held general elections, November 7, chose the Republican candidates. The election contest in Kentucky engaged the attention of the entire country. On the face of the returns, W. S. Taylor, the Republican nominee, was elected governor by a majority of 2383 over his Democratic opponent, William Goebel; and the board of election commissioners, instituted under the so-called "Goebel law," awarded the proper certificate to Taylor, who assumed the duties of the office. The constitution of the state, however, authorizes the legislature to decide contests over the election of governor and lieutenant-governor, and party feeling became so intense that several bodies of militia were stationed at Frankfort, the capital. On January 30, Mr. Goebel was shot and fatally wounded by an assassin, whereupon the Democratic majority in the legislature immediately declared the dying man invested with the governorship. This action was met by a proclamation of the *de facto* governor, asserting Kentucky to be in a state of insurrection, and ordering the legislature to meet in London, an obscure town of Republican sympathies in the mountainous region. The Democratic members refused to obey the proclamation and proceeded to hold legislative sessions at Louisville till February 19, when they returned to the capital. Since that time practically two governments, accompanied by much confusion yet by comparatively little violence, have been maintained in Kentucky. After the United States circuit court had refused to intervene, an agreement was reached between the parties to refer the contest to the state courts, and thence by a writ of error to the Supreme Court of the United States. The former declared that they had no right to review legislative action which was in accordance with the constitution of the state. On April 16, therefore, an appeal was laid before the supreme court, based upon the claim that the decision of the Democratic majority in the legislature to disregard the certificate of the legally empowered election board was contrary to "due process of law," as prescribed by the federal Constitution.

STATE LEGISLATION.—In Mississippi a constitutional amendment establishing an elective judiciary was ratified by popular vote. The legislature of this state adopted a resolution for a constitutional amendment which alters in favor of the white population the basis on which the school fund is distributed. The legislature of Georgia rejected a proposition aimed at the constitutional disfranchisement of the negro by drastic educational tests. As to political measures, New York forbade the solicitation of money from candidates for office; New York, Massachusetts and Iowa rejected woman suffrage; California declined to invest the governor with the power of summary removal; and Iowa authorized the use of voting machines. Attempts to abolish the death penalty met defeat in New York and New Jersey, and the latter refused also to allow the substitution of life imprisonment in capital crimes at the option of the jury. Social legislation was framed in New York, providing for the punishment of persons who live on the earnings of prostitution and for the restriction of

common law marriages ; in Ohio, enacting that a uniform compensation be given to men and women engaged in the same kind of work ; in Georgia, prohibiting the employment of children in factories. Maryland sanctioned a bill to reorganize the county school boards, and South Carolina failed to establish compulsory education. — Acts involving **discrimination against the negro** were adopted in Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia, compelling the use of separate accommodations in railway coaches for whites and blacks, in the state last named the provision being extended to steamboats. — Acts concerning **taxation** were passed in Texas, levying impositions upon certain occupations, with the incidental object of suppressing cotton exchanges and brokerage ; in Virginia, creating the office of commissioner of valuation of personal property and incomes ; in New Jersey, imposing a tax upon the gross receipts of the holders of municipal franchises ; while in New York a bill to tax mortgages and deposits in savings banks failed of passage. — By **judicial decision** the following acts were declared unconstitutional : that of Maryland, prohibiting certain corporations from selling goods to employees (November 23) ; that of Nebraska, creating a state department of insurance (December 19) ; that of Minnesota, levying an inheritance tax (February 15) ; that of New York, fixing the price of mileage tickets (March 10) ; that of Virginia, just enacted (see above), establishing a commission of valuation (March 30) ; and that of Ohio, forbidding the discharge of workmen on account of affiliation with a labor union (April 5). (For legislation respecting cities see **Municipal Affairs**.)

THE TRUST QUESTION. — **Anti-trust legislation** has been proposed in many legislatures. In Virginia and South Carolina, bills of the drastic sort, modelled upon the recent statute of Texas (see last RECORD, p. 746), were rejected. In Mississippi, however, a bill of that type became law. — **Decisions** of the federal courts were uniformly hostile to the indiscriminate warfare of the legislatures against trusts. For example, the district court of Kansas, November 27, declared unconstitutional, as amounting virtually to confiscation, a law of that state vesting a "court of visitation" with autocratic powers of control over corporations. The circuit court in Illinois similarly, January 29, held an anti-trust statute of that state, which exempts agricultural products from its operation, to be a contravention of the fourteenth amendment. Legislation concerning department stores, moreover, has been subjected to unfavorable judicial decisions. The supreme court of Illinois, December 18, invalidated a municipal ordinance prohibiting the sale of certain commodities in such establishments ; and the supreme court of Missouri, February 20, affirmed the unconstitutionality of an act taxing these stores out of existence. On the other hand, the state courts in Texas, Missouri, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana sustained the anti-trust laws of their respective states. — A somewhat radical **trust conference** opened at Chicago, February 12, and effected the organization of a body, to be known as the American Anti-Trust League. The platform includes nationalization of various public utilities and the aboli-

tion of protective duties on trust products. — The **Industrial Commission** submitted to Congress, March 1, a preliminary report, recommending that the widest publicity in the affairs of corporations be insured by a system of government inspection and that a general enlargement of powers be conferred upon the Interstate Commerce Commission.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS. — A recently ratified amendment to the state constitution transferred the functions of the county supervisors within **New York City** to the municipal assembly; and another, supplemented by legislation, facilitated the preparations for an underground railway system, by increasing the financial capacity of the city and by extending the jurisdiction of the rapid-transit commissioners to the several boroughs. Ground for this railway, of which the cost of construction will be \$35,000,000, was formally broken March 24. In accordance with the recommendations made by the Mazet legislative committee, January 15, a commission to revise the municipal charter was provided for by law, and the city was prohibited from entering into a contract with a private water company. Too great readiness on the part of the corporation counsel to confess judgment against the city, under the so-called "prevailing rate of wages law," occasioned the passage of an act to check this practice. — Maladministration in the municipal government of **Chicago**, where, as in New York, the evils of facile confessions of judgment were apparent, has been revealed in a practically bankrupt treasury. This condition an improved method of book-keeping and a recent decision of the supreme court of Illinois, removing restrictions upon the power of taxation, have tended somewhat to relieve. — The opening of a canal between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River, January 2, to drain the sewage of Chicago, caused the state of Missouri to apply to the Supreme Court of the United States for an injunction to prevent the pollution of the river from that source.

LABOR AND CAPITAL. — Numerous strikes and lockouts in **Chicago** have been the most conspicuous fact under this head. Of these the most important has been that involving the building contractors and the Building Trades Council, acting in behalf of the workmen. The question at issue was not so much the hours of labor, the scale of wages or the recognition of individual unions, as the attitude of the Trades Council. In consequence of the strikes called by this body, and instigated, it was said, to some extent by certain minor contractors who desired to exclude from Chicago building material prepared elsewhere, the general contractors resolved, in November, that they would no longer submit to interference by the Council as to the amount, methods or materials of labor. After two months of fruitless negotiation, the contractors formally notified the Council of the rules of work and rates of wages to be enforced. A general lockout followed, affecting over 50,000 men. In retaliation the labor leaders have sought to bring about sympathetic strikes in all the large cities of the United States and Canada. Since compromise has been rejected, the situation resolves itself into a matter of endurance. Of late

the strikers have resorted to violence, causing death in four cases and severe injury in over a hundred others. Meanwhile the prevalence of this and similar industrial conflicts caused the serious consideration of projects to remove certain manufacturing plants altogether from Chicago. In St. Louis also the employees of the street railway lines went on strike early in May, for an extension of the control of their union over the system of employment. The strike has been attended by several riots. — Judicial opinions on the subject were rendered, one by the supreme court of New York, January 5, denying the right of a labor union to force a man out of employment because he refuses to change his industrial affiliations; and the other by the chancery court of New Jersey, December 4, holding that, while it is lawful for men to strike and to persuade others to do so, the means adopted must never be coercive.

LYNCH LAW. — Incidents under this head in the Southern and Western states have numbered forty-two, of which thirty-four of the victims were colored. The offenses included only eight for which summary execution has been the rule. Revolting cruelty was displayed in the treatment of a negro charged with murder in Maysville, Kentucky, whom, December 12, a mob tortured and then burned at the stake. — Race disturbances took place in Virginia and South Carolina, resulting in the death of one white man and several negroes. — In order to abate the evil of lynching, Governor Longino of Mississippi recommended to the legislature the passage of a law to authorize the person injured by a mob, or in event of his death his heirs, to recover heavy damages from the county where the outrage occurred. As enacted, the law differs from the governor's suggestion, in that the suit for indemnity is to be tried before a jury from the locality to be affected by the imposition of the penalty. Some progress, however, has been made in procuring the condemnation of mob rule by juries. Although a federal jury in Indianapolis awarded but five dollars damages for insufficient protection to a prisoner, two white men in Texas were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for lynching three other whites. The jury in this case was obtained only after more than two thousand persons had been rejected from the panel. — It is interesting to note, furthermore, that a **plan to deport negroes** from Georgia, where they have suffered considerably during recent years, to other states has been frustrated by the white farmers themselves, who, realizing the indispensability of negro labor, threatened to lynch the agents concerned in the plan and practically compelled the railroads to cease furnishing trains for emigrant negroes. — A conference of Southern white men assembled at Montgomery (Alabama), May 8, to discuss the negro problem. The most notable solutions offered were the repeal of the fifteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution and the separation of the white and black races, by deporting the latter to the dependencies.

II. FOREIGN NATIONS.

EUROPEAN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.— By the terms of the convention of November 8, effecting the **partition of Samoa** (see p. 356), Great Britain agreed to withdraw its claims to the territory, in consideration of the cession by Germany of the Tonga Islands and Savage Island, together with Choiseul and San Isabel in the Solomon group. The Germans took formal possession of their share of Samoa, March 14. In addition to this ready adjustment of the Samoan difficulty, the visit of Emperor William to Queen Victoria, November 20, under the existing circumstances, was regarded as betokening an unusual degree of official friendliness between Germany and Great Britain. Popular excitement in Great Britain was kindled against France, however, by offensive caricatures of the Queen, published by irresponsible Parisian journals, but it did not affect apparently the official relations with that country. — The ratification by the United States (February 5) and Germany (March 28) of the convention regarding international arbitration, drawn up at the Peace Conference (see last RECORD, p. 749), completed the sanction of all the great powers represented. Certain amendments, made in March, to the existing arbitration treaty between Germany and Austria-Hungary were designed to obviate pretexts for political prosecutions, and hence provided that a person extradited should not be punished for an offense other than that upon which the request for extradition had been based.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.— The substance of the **Queen's speech** at the opening of Parliament, January 30, was a request for money to carry on the war in South Africa. During the course of the debate that followed on the address to the throne, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman criticised the conduct of the government in dealing with the Boer republics, but promised the support of the opposition in prosecuting the war to "vindicate the integrity of the empire." The speech of Lord Salisbury was devoted rather to satirizing the alleged imprudent concessions made to the Boers by the Liberal party under the Gladstone ministry, than to presenting a cogent explanation of the many reverses that the British arms had recently encountered (see p. 378). But, although certain utterances of Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour outside of Parliament made it apparent that the government had underestimated the military efficiency of the Boers, and called forth severe strictures even from Conservative sources, still the results of several bye-elections to Parliament demonstrated the popular unwillingness to discredit the administration seriously at present. In Parliament an amendment to the address to the throne, censuring the ministry for its lack of "knowledge, foresight, and judgment," was defeated February 6, by a vote of 352 to 139. — **The military preparations for the war in South Africa** absorbed the energy of all classes, from the royal family down. A stimulus was imparted to the general activity by an