SUNDAY MORNING

EDITORIAL The German General Election

On Friday of this week, Jan. 12, the German Empire will elect a new Reichstag of 397 members. It occupies the same position in the German political economy that the house of commons does in the Canadian, and the house of representatives in that of the United States. The imperial legislative functions are vested jointly in the Reichstag, and in the Bundesrat, which represents the individual states of the German Empire, and comprises 61 delegates appointed. by the governments of the states for each session. Its functions are chiefly those of a confirming body, the it has the right to reject measures passed by the Reichstag, and has besides a limited initiatory power which it occasionally exercises. Members of the Bundesrat have the right to speak in the Reichstag on any question in which the state they represent is directly interested. The latter body is elected by universal suffrage and ballot for a term of five years, and of its 397 members, 236 are elected from Prussia, 48 from Bavaria, 23 Saxony, and the remainder the other states in equal proportion. ranging from 1 to 17. Members are paid an allowance of \$750 per session, with a deduction of \$5 for each day's absence.

The last Reichstag was elected in January, 1907, and at its meeting the strength of the parties and the number of votes recorded for each party was as follows :----

	Votes.	1000
104	2,145,000	
60	1,069,000	1.4
56	1,716,000	
50	1,311,000	
	3,260,000	
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	56 50 43 28 27	104 2,145,000 60 1,069,000 56 1,716,000 50 1,311,000 43 3,260,000 28 745,000 27 500,000 25 481,000

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During the five years from January, 1907, the only party that has increased its representation is the Socialist, which gained ten seats at the expense of all the others. From the table it will be observed that while the Socialists polled 3,260,000 votes, they only secured 43 members, as against 104 Clericals elected by an aggregate vote of 2,145,000. This remarkable disparity is accounted for by the distribution of rural and urban constituencies in Germany. Since the electoral districts were formed 40 years ago, when they were supposed to contain, roughly, 100,000 inhabitants each, there has been a very large migration of the rural population into the cities and towns. No redistribution, however, has been made, and there is now a great disparity between the value of a rural and an urban wote. For example, Berlin was originally allotted 6 members, based on its population of 600,000 in 1871. The population within the city limits is now 2,000,000, while its membership remains unchanged.

The nine generally recognized parties assumed their present shape in 1887 when they settled down to definite programs of policy. Certain of them usually act together-others retain a more indepen

THE TORONTO SUNDAY WORLD

IN AN AWKWARD FOSITION

1912-the year of the United States presidential elections opens with a recrudescence of the Roosevelt boom. The former occupant of the White House a few months ago took pains to ask a personal friend and supporter, the editor of a Pittsburg newspaper, to refrain from men-tioning his name as a presidential possibility; while Son-in-law Nicolas Longworth has assiduously declared, apparently of his own indepen-dent volition, that Mr. Roosevelt will not be a candidate.

Roosevelt

Despite the ex-president's attitude, however, the Roosevelt boom will not subside and with the approach of the day on which a candidate of the Republican Party will be selected the proba-bility increases that the American nation will in November march to the polls to vote for Teddy and the Big Stick.

Why this cry for Roosevelt? Didn't he hand-pick a successor who would develop and carry out My Policies?

But Taft-it can't be disguised-has failed to make good. He appears to be a man of splen-did aims and resolves who lacks the personal power to sway the nation's rulers and effect reforms. Hence it is that the pe ople turn from him to the occupant of the editorial chair of The Outlook. The American people want a man who Does Things and no man has so completely ful-filled the expectations of the masses as Theodore Roosevelt.

Sam Hughes' 40,000

Hughes is evidently determined to prove himself will use the Light that is in him, the worthy of Field Marshall "Bobs" admiration. If

the heart of "Bo r" it is having the young taught how to shoot. Of course, drilling either by remaining in that into which, tains the military is not shooting, but it r ually amounts to the spirit, and con same thing. Now, in the abstract, drilling and military exercise can do nobody any harm. It is both entertainment and healthful occupation for the young idea. But it also fosters thoughts of war, thoughts of combat, thoughts of strife, and of this Ancient Wisdom have arisen breeds the spirit of do and dare. Some people all the religions and all the sects, nor object to this kind of thing. It cannot be denied can there be any other origin for all that they have some show of reason on their side. that will be. As an old scripture says: It must be remembered, however, that argument "He who is confirmed in this belief can be advanced against everything under heaven, come to pass." May we be found on the earth, or in the waters below the earth, stedrast, immoveable, even as it is and with some show of justification. .

Regarding the forty-thousand-strong military

CRUSTS & CRUMB Albert Ernest Stafford

JANUARY 7 1912

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A religion in the making is surely believe that their form of religion think that all things are as they were from the beginning and will so coninue to the end. The older the form the more devoutly do its adherents resard its authenticity. Mohammedlooks but lightly on Christian Science. Christianity regards Mohammedanism as an interloper 600 years its junior. Buddhism, 500 years older still looks on Christianity as a dear child. The Brahmans go back for milenniums earlier and dispute for priority with Zoroastrians, the Chaldeans call it, or into the fulness of and the Egyptians, and the immortal in record of the Vedas claims a still more hoary precedence. Behind even these stands the monumental Book of Dzyan, its existence still doubted by scholars whose cherished theories it all upsets, but whose fragments when and wining God." He defined as "the departure from earth of the individual spirit which beaven where it will enjoy bliss." "Forever" is of course or age-enduring. In the visthey are permitted to reach the public mind carry the profoundest conviction. All the great scriptures of the world draw their inspiration from its symbols. "The Voice of the Silence." little volume in which some of its wisdom is rendered into English by H. P. Blavatsky, was a favorite study of Lord Tennyson, as it is the devotional manual of hundreds of mystics. The ore of the Book of Dayan is recorded in symbols, and none but the initiated can read that archaic language, the Sengar, as it called. But there is an-Lieutenant-Colonel the Honorable Samuel other record open to every man who ecord of his own past and the Light

takes up its kitten, cat the lim as a monkey does its m same dispute under other i familiar to Christians with of his own soul. And out of that there is one thing more than another that delights record and by that Light every man lists and Atrians do not differ from the cat and chooses one of the existing religion

Ramanand, in the fourte he is born, or by joining another; or tury, was one of the great of Ramanuja, and he had t else he embraces the world religion of ciples of whom the chi and it was his successo Theosophy and affirms that the there be Gods many and Lords many, for founded the Sikh polity. Both and Nanak were reformers. sought for a religion which shou him there is but one God and one Lord, one faith, one doctrine, one eternal the common truths of Mohammedanism. Kabin life, one everlasting law, and that out and self against the whole superstition, rejecting every dist of caste, religion and sect, an demning idelatry and everythin proaching to it. He was in can there be any other origin for all Foaching to it. He was in Hindu Protestant. The Gurn Nanak Bedi was born in 146 Laliore, in the Punjaub. He d For a century mained a purely religious written.

of inoffensive Puritans. In of the great emperor, Akbar camps for the lads of the country that the Minis-ter of Militia proposes to hold during the coming summer, there is much in the suggestion to delight was born, and it stands in the minds of the cadets and successor. Ram Das the cadets and scouts individually and collective-ity. Whether parents and heads of families will Protestantism as mere sectarianism or Amritsar, the pool of imm schism, and neither Roman Catholics was Akbar's son Jehangir, ly. Whether parents and heads of families will have equal cause to be pleased cannot be fore-told and must be left to follow the event. Boys are not men, and it is a question whether in bring-ing such hosts together a percentage of harm as well as a percentage of good will not accrue. On the whole, to the majority, it is probable it will prove an enjoyable outing. But, if to any corn-siderable proportion evil in some shape or form cism. The one objection urged by advocates of peace at any price will be the inculcation of the afore-referred to military and aggressive spirit. Even the scout movement has not been without its harm, popular as it has proved. Boys previ-ously good have learned bad habits. In some cases health has suffered. But such things must ously good have learned bad habits. In some cases health has suffered. But such things must be, as dear old Kaspar puts it, "in every famous victory." It is thus a question whether in the aggre-gate Colonel Sam Hughes' intention will prove beneficial or not. It is probable that a consensus of opinion will be in its favor. Still other points of view must not be overlooked, and it is more than likely many lads whose parents have a con-scientious objection to excess of militarism will defy parental authority in order to be with their

dent attitude. Acting with the straight Conservatives are the Imperial Party and the Anti-Semites, described as Agrarians, Protectionists and Reactionaries in every sense of these words and they stand together on all matters concerning national defence. In 1887 their combined strength in the Reichstag was 122 seats-the lowest place they have occupied was in 1903 with 90 seats. In 1907 they were 112 strong and polled their best aggregate of 2,050,000 votes. The Centre or Clerical Party represents the interests of the Roman Catholic Church and this directs its policy. Their membership since 1887 has steadily remained at about 100, altho the number of voters has increased from 1,516,000 in 1887 to 2,145,000 in 1907. From its character the Centre Party is not likely materially to diminish or increase. On the other hand the National Liberals that in the early years of the Reichstag constituted nearly half the house have now only a remnant of their original importance. Their Liberalism is of a shadowy description and appears to offer little that can secure popular support.

Next come the Radical sections which united in 1907 and increased their representation from 36 to 50, polling in that year 1,311,000 votes. They are described as possessing an admirable program, as far as it goes, but to be without energy, doctrinaire rather than practical and with little of the inspiration, the initiative or the creative power associated with British Radicalism. German Radicals are said to suffer from the lack of a great leader, a constructive statesman who can influence the Reichstag or the government in favor of Liberal legislation. Still further to the left of the house sit the Socialists who now again command the attention not of Germany only, but of the whole civilized world. The one question being asked is what additional voting force this election will bring them. The growth of German Socialism has been the leading feature in recent European history. To the first Reichstag only one Socialist was returned and in subsequent parliaments the numbers were in their order 19, 12, 9, 12, 24, 11, 35, 44, 56, 81, 43. The drop from 81 in 1903 to 43 in 1907 resulted from a combination of the other parties against the Socialists-after 1907 other to seats were captured, making their strength at the dissolution 53. But the increases in voting strength are more significant than the representation. In 1871 the Socialist Party received 102,000 votes, by 1874 they had risen to 352,000 and three years later to nearly 500,000. Then came hostile government action causing a recession to 424,000 in 1878 and to 312,000 in 1881. The tide turned again with 550,000 in 1884. rising three years later to 763,000. At the election of 1890 came the tremendous spurt to 1,427,000; in 1893 it rose to 1.787.000; the se-cond million was topped in 1898 and in 1903 the third million.

Will the election of January 12 see the fourth million? Observers on the spot do not consider it unlikely and if that figure is reached the Socialists' vote will be almost double that of the combined Conservative parties and equal to that of the combined Conservatives and Clericals. It is the unequal distribution of constituencies that alone prevents the Socialist Party from holding at least a third of the Reichstag representation. As matters stand the, to public usefulness for eleven months and two Socialists confidently expect to increase the number of their membership to 100, thus placing them on a practical equality with the Clerical Party. There can be no question that the government regard the prospect with disquietude and it will render the Prussian Government less inclined than ever to modify the indirect system of electing members to the chamber of deputies which enables the landed proprietors and men of wealth to secure an absolute majority in the chamber.

The Conservative Wave

There was nothing uncertain about those elections in the Province of Prince Edward Island on Wednesday except the size of the Conservative majority. The Liberal opposition was reduced to two members.

The balance in respect to the number of prorinces is now with the Conservatives. Nova Scotia, of the three Maritime Provinces, is still. held by the Liberals, and that party is also strongly entrenched in Quebec; while two western provinces, Saskatchewan and Alberta, are likewise Liberal. The Conservatives hold the other five provinces of the Dominion.

The Sifton government in Alberta is believed to be verging on collapse. It contains the seeds of disintegration, and it may not survive another session. With the Conservatives in control of federal affairs the forces that held the Liberal governments together in the two new provinces have weakened considerably. It's the season for Conservative rejoicing. And look at the trend in Great Britain. A turn-over is about due there.

Our Exhibition Buildings

The management of the Canadian National Exhibition have issued a handsome little brochure! giving Earl Grey's speech at the opening of the last exhibition. If that speech had been delivered at any other time than when the hubbub of Toronto's big festival is on, there are several things in it that would have attracted more attention than they have. Earl Grey has a tremendously practical side and therein lies much of the cause for the admiration that is his. People of to-day have passed the spread-eagle period and delight in common-sense.

Among other suggestions made by Earl Grey is one to the effect that permanent use should be made of the art building, the women's buildhistory building. "It seems a pity," says his lord-ship, "that these buildings which belong to the city, should be in commission only for one fortnight in the year instead of being the permanent university of the people."

The earl is right: it is a pity not only that the buildings mentioned, but that all the two million dollars' worth of structures, should be closed weeks in each and every year.

A large hall for the conventions, horse and cattle shows, indoor sports, flower shows, dog shows, promenade concerts and so on, was promised long ago. Altho hundreds of thousands of dollars have been expended on buildings since then, the hall has not only not been forthcoming, sociated with him in this splendid project, to but it appears further away than ever.

of opinion will be in its favor. Still other points defy parental authority in order to be with their mates. Of a certainty games will be played and encouraged, among them it is to be hoped, the colonel's old hobby, lacrosse, altho his worthy brother, James L., has not shown that energy in , favor of the national pastime that might have been favor of the national pastime that might have been expected, considering the prominent part he took in the same game in his student and earlier teach-ing years. If the inculcation of the spirit of the true sportsman goes hand-in hand with instruction in military ethics and requirements there can be little objection to the colonel's "warlike" move-ment. All the same it is a matter for argument

The Hydro Lights

It is satisfactory to note that Toronto's Hydro-Electric department has received instructions ing, the school exhibits building and the natural from ratepayers to go ahead and complete the system. Demands are arising from several sections for new styles of poles and globes, and these

According to Sikh psychology coul is a scintilla of the divine

And there is the ideal implied in the an immortal essence emanating wonderful prayer of a great mystic: "If there be in Thy Eternity before Thee, some One Body, or kingdom of Thy Children, not a division, not a the Absolute itself. "It is the all object of the individual soul to united with the fountain of light which it has emanated, and to b tribe, not a party, but one that in-cludes all, one that by principles and absorbed in it. As long as it he reached this goal it is unhappy, separated from its Source, preme." What hinders the retu the soul to the eternal founts light? The answer is that du union with the body, the soul has come impure, and subject to nation, the coming and going. was ever proclaiming that the that I may be qualified for admission amongst that central, all-related, all-embracing people. Or, if it be rather for Thy glory, and for the good of all, that I be kept watching daily at the gates, and waiting at the posts of the doors of the least and outermost man-sion of Thy Eternal House, then my ouly prayer is, Father, Thy will be my heavent. Amen."

tions for new styles of poles and globes, and these might very well be encouraged. For instance, Rosedale and other high-class residential sec-tions advocate the burying of the wires and the erection of ornamental poles and clusters. Eventually Toronto must grapple with the problem of burying all wires. There must be an end to the disfigurement of the landscape with problem of burying all wires. There must be an end to the disfigurement of the landscape with unsightly poles and wires, and a beginning might well be made in the better residential sections. In a year or two Toronto will be one of the best-lighted cities on the continent. The Hydro lights have fulfilled the expectations of the pub-lic as well as of Hon. Adam Beck and those as-sociated with him in this splendid project, to whom we must continue to give full credit.