

ation is tending in the same direction. A preference will probably be given to Canadian wheat; and half a million pounds will be granted to the West Indies to tide them over the period of depression until the German and French sugar bounties are abolished.

Other Matters

A firmer policy is to be adopted in Irish affairs, and stringent means taken to abolish the Land League. Ten battalions of English and Scotch militia are to be sent to Ireland at once. The Nationalists have been causing trouble in several counties, and the Crimes Act has been put in force. The Irish temper resents this measure, and, in the person of Mr. John Redmond, sends back the reply that the Irish people will meet the English face to face and give blow for blow.

It is thought that Lord Salisbury will retire from the premiership soon after the coronation. Mr. Chamberlain will likely succeed him.

Lord Rosebery's attempt on the Liberal leadership has quite fallen through, for the time being. There is no doubt, however, that when the Liberal party rises to its future opportunity Lord Rosebery will be the man at the helm.

The plague is increasing in India, especially in the Punjab, where there is also famine.

Australia's revenue for the first half year of the new tariff imposed by the Commonwealth has been unexpectedly buoyant, and it is likely that some reductions will be made. Australia has adopted penny postage.

EUROPE AND THE EAST

On the Continent matters are, more than ever, big with meaning and serious in their possibilities. Severe depression is upon Germany, Italy, Austria, Spain, and in a less degree upon France also. The French elections were held on April 27th. In Paris the Waldeck-Rousseau ministry was overwhelmingly defeated, but was well sustained in the country.—Uprisings have taken place in various parts

of Spain, and the Government has been obliged to resort to reconstruction.—In Italy a general rising of the Socialist forces was prevented only by calling out the troops.—Turkey was never in quite so bad a condition as now. Her finances are deplorable, and the Sultan is in such daily fear of treachery that he has become quite crazed, being guarded by a hundred police. That he is nevertheless planning some remarkable *coup de main* is believed by those who know most of Turkish affairs. Turkey's near neighbors in the Balkan peninsula are also on the verge of serious outbreak. Yet the outbreaks may not come; south-eastern Europe has been unsettled for many years.

A Gigantic Labor Strike

A labor strike of unusual significance began in Belgium early in April. Under the inspiration of the Socialists serious riots took place, in which both lives and property were lost. Brussels was turned into a second Paris of the Revolution, and mobs howled with rage and fury. These riots were aimed at the Government. In Belgium practically only the upper and middle classes have voting privileges, and the working people, in their demands for manhood suffrage, played into the hands of rabid Socialists who plainly seek the dethronement of the present power and the triumph of revolution. The Government debated on the revision of the constitution and decided that universal franchise was not expedient. The Socialists were silenced for the time being, and the striking labormen have in most cases gone back to work.

Germany and Her Neighbors

The Triple Alliance, the parties to which are Germany, Italy, and Austria-Hungary, will be renewed. Fresh terms of agreement have been drawn up, Germany making some concessions to Italy and Austria in matters of trade. The good-will of these two countries is of value to Germany, and she doubtless does well to renew the compact. Germany is anxious to get possession of Holland, and has some prospects of ultimate success. Why should