

was combined a system of plural voting. Two votes are allowed to heads of families thirty-five years of age, and to other men possessing a certain property qualification, and three votes to men holding certain diplomas or other proofs of superior education. The electoral system was again revised in 1899, when proportional representation was introduced, but plural voting remained. The Socialists have constantly agitated against it, and in 1902 attempted another general strike, which failed. They demanded universal adult suffrage for all men and women twenty-one years of age."

In the month of June last a general election took place, resulting in a gain for the Centrid party over both Liberals and Socialists. Upon this the present agitation began, for which the most careful preparation had been made.

The issue in this contest is clear. On one side numbers only count; on the other, the elements of possession of property, of education, and the stability of family life, are represented. Some sort of compromise may perhaps be agreed upon, but the victory is with the Socialists, and has been gained by the skilful use of that most potent weapon—the strike.

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#### *AN ANCIENT LAWSUIT.*

Among the claims against the United States Government which the International Tribunal now in session will be called on to adjudicate, is one that has been pending over a hundred years. It arose prior to the war of 1812, and though the justice of the claim has been on more than one occasion admitted by executive and judicial functionaries of the United States, and Presidential messages have been sent to Congress recommending its payment, yet for some reason or another the necessary appropriation to liquidate the demand has never been made by Congress.

The facts of the case are simple and have also a somewhat farcical element. A certain vessel named the *Lord Nelson*, belonging to British subjects, was plying her ordinary trade on