Interest in the elections (the results of which are not known at this writing) is chiefly focused on New York and Pennsylvania. Colonel Roosevelt has continued his aggressive campaign to the very eve of election day, making many speeches and visiting nearly every portion of the State. As the canvass has progressed he has devoted more and more attention to State issues, vigorously attacking Crokerism in the matter of the judiciary nominations and on the score of the "wide-open New York." He has repeatedly promised to do all in his power, if elected to the Governorship, to reform the administration of the canals, and to punish every man found guilty of past wrong-doing. His opponent, Judge Van Wyck, has made very few speeches, and in those has confined himself to the canal issue. His statement of the evils of the present canal management has been cogent and doubtless effective. In the last days of the campaign it has been the evident purpose of the Democratic managers to use every possible effort to get out a heavy "up State" vote for their candidate on the canal question, in order to offset the defections from their ranks in the city of New York which they foresaw would result from the agitation of the judiciary and other Tammany issues. The currency question was prominent, of course, throughout the campaign. The Republicans forced it to the front in appealing to "sound-money" men to elect their candidates to the Legislature which will have the choosing of a successor to the Hon. Edward Murphy, Jr., in the United States Senate. Oddly enough, in New York City the success of the Democratic Congressional candidates (with one exception) may or may not mean so many votes for free silver in the House of Representatives; for nobody knows, from anything that those candidates have said since their nomination, whether they would support free coinage at 16 to 1 or not. The Chicago platform Democrats, having failed to get their ticket on the official ballot, will be counted for Van Wyck and the regular ticket of their party. There is no mistaking the real issue in Pennsylvania, so far at least as the State offices and the Legislature have been concerned. It is Quayism, and that only. It is a case in which National, State, and local politics are inextricably mixed. Some Republicans who wish to smash the Quay machine through the defeat of the machine's candidate for Governor, Colonel Stone, think that the surest way to accomplish this is to vote for the Democratic candidate, Mr. Jenks. Others, fearful of the moralization of their party that might result from the election of a Democrat to the Governorship, prefer to support Dr. Swallow. Thus the opposition to the machine is divided, as it has been in years past. In the election of the Legislature, however, the anti-Quay Republicans have been able to mass their strength more effectively—with what result our readers will know before this issue of The Outlook reaches them.

Outside of Pennsylvania and New York the condition of "apathy" indicated early in the fall by the Maine and Vermont elections seems to persist over a great part of the country. In most of New England there is only a lukewarm interest. Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire are electing Governors, and the Legislatures of the two former States now elected will choose successors to Senators Lodge and Hawley, respectively. The question of "imperialism," while a great deal is being said about it in New England nowadays, plays a very slight part in the Congressional elections. The Democratic platforms condemn the management of the war by the National Administra-
sizing the military skill and brilliant achieve-
ments of General Kitchener, Lord Salisbury
went on to describe him as a "splendid diplo-
matist." In that quiet and apparently inci-
dental way in which English Prime Ministers
often communicate great intelligence, Lord
Salisbury said that the hope expressed by
General Kitchener that the difficulties arising
from the presence of Major Marchand might
be settled by diplomacy had been realized,
and that he had just received information
that the French Government "had come to
the conclusion that the occupation of Fashoda
is of no sort of value." This statement was
received with prolonged cheers and laughter,
and gave the dinner a historic interest. The
French Government has also issued a semi-
official note in which it makes known its de-
cision that, as the result of exhaustive exam-
ination of the whole question, it has deter-
mined not to retain the Marchand mission at
Fashoda. These two statements from both
Governments would seem to put an end to
danger of serious complications; but it is
noted with some interest and curiosity that
the English Government appears to be push-
ing on its military preparations, that the
ship-yards are crowding their work forward,
and that, if appearances are to be trusted,
the navy has been put on a war footing.

The Bahr-el-Ghazal

France's relinquishment of
Fashoda may or may not
be complicated by a claim in the near future
to certain rights in the Bahr-el-Ghazal.
Major Marchand in his advance to Fashoda
claims to have planted five posts of occupa-
tion in this region, though his occupation was
not effective in the diplomatic sense of the
term, as no garrisons were left in charge.
But apart from this there is likely to be a
severe diplomatic contest, if not a war, before
final control of the Bahr-el-Ghazal is settled.
It is a region of large size and very great
fertility, some explorers claiming that its
cotton-growing capacity could supply the
world. The Bahr-el-Ghazal may be roughly
described as the region drained by the river
of the same name. The river is 500 miles
long, has three or four tributaries, and is
itself a tributary of the White Nile below
Fashoda. The region drained by it is in the
center of the continent, and is in the form of
a triangle, one of whose sides is the Nile,
running south for more than 300 miles from
Mokren-el-Bohur to Lado, another westward
from Mokren-el-Bohur for about 550 miles
along the Bahr-el-Ghazal River to the region
called Wadai Darfur, and the third 750 miles
in a southeasterly direction along the water-
shed between the valleys of the Bahr-el-
Ghazal and the Ubanghi. All this region
was acknowledged to be one of the Egyptian
provinces before the Mahdi overran the
Soudan, and M. Hanotaux himself formerly
acknowledged the Egyptian title. Its great
fertility and dense population, besides its
proximity to the Congo Free State, of which
France is supposed to hold the reversion,
will make it a great prize for the contests of
diplomacy, unless the British resolutely assert
the Egyptian title and make its control on
Egypt's behalf a vital part of their policy.
France did not accept the delimitation be-
tween the Bahr-el-Ghazal and the Congo
Free State, and it is understood that this
will be made the basis of opening the whole
question of a new delimitation.

The French Ministry

The composition of the
new French Ministry
seems to promise a conservative and rational
government for France, so far as the Ministry
is allowed to govern. The Prime Minister,
M. Dupuy, has already filled the position
twice, and has filled many other positions in
the Cabinet and out of it. He is a man of a
good deal of courage, and is generally re-
garded as more conservative than his prede-
cessor, M. Brisson. It seems to be taken
for granted that, although he was Prime
Minister at the time of the trial and condem-
nation of Captain Dreyfus, he is favorably
inclined to a revision of the case. The new
Minister of Justice is a trained jurist, who at
one time held a professorship of civil law.
M. de Freycinet, the Minister of War, has
been Prime Minister four times, and is also
believed to be in sympathy with revision.
There has been no change in the Depart-
ment of Foreign Affairs, owing, doubtless,
to the desire to keep the management of the
Fashoda complications in the hands of M.
Delcassé. The Minister of Marine has also
kept his position, probably to insure the con-
tinuation of his policy of enlar^ing and
strengthening the navy. All the members of
the Cabinet are Republicans, and all, save one,
are conservative Republicans; and while the
Cabinet does not include some of the strong-
est men in French public life, it brings to the
service of the State a large amount of trained
ability, and a group of men of unstained character. It is, on the whole, as good a Cabinet as President Faure could probably secure.

French Policy

At the reassembling of the Chamber of Deputies on Friday the new Premier read the ministerial declaration, which opened with a recognition of the difficulties facing the new Cabinet, and proceeded at once to affirm, in the most unequivocal way, the determination of the Cabinet to maintain the supremacy of the civil power as the fundamental principle in a republican State. The Premier declared that the army ought not to be subjected to a campaign of ridicule, and that this end can be secured only when it is taken out of the region of blind political polemics. In regard to the Dreyfus case, the Premier urged that it should be left for the light which would be thrown upon it by the decision of the Court of Cassation, and declared that, whatever that decision may be, it will be enforced by the Government. A very adroit and skillful use was made of the approaching World's Fair in Paris to urge the stilling of internal dissension. As all France is intensely interested in the success of the Fair, this move of the Premier may be regarded as an adroit appeal to French pride and patriotism to put an end, for the next eighteen months, at least, to dissensions, the bitterness of which has seemed of late to imperil the safety of the Republic and excited apprehensions abroad which would certainly go far to limit the success of the Exposition. In the meantime, however, it must be noted that, with the settlement of the question opened by the seizure of Fashoda, and with the retrial of Captain Dreyfus under proper conditions, the real sources of danger to France are likely to be removed before the truce of parties which M. Dupuy suggests is ended.

William III. at Jerusalem

The imperial pilgrimage to the Holy Land has been cut short, either (as was officially given out) by the extreme heat which exhausted the horses and nearly exhausted the royal pilgrims, or by the critical situation of affairs in Europe. Attended by a vast retinue, the Emperor and Empress arrived at Jerusalem, and visited the chief places of interest in its neighborhood. The pilgrimage may be said to have culminated on Tuesday of last week in the consecration of the Church of the Redeemer. The Emperor's part in the service was the reading of the constitution of the church, and an address delivered at the close of the ceremony. In that place, and under the influence of its traditions, he could hardly have spoken other than he did as the champion of universal peace, by declaring that he wished to sound the cry "Peace on earth!" He announced to the Pope by telegraph that, by the intervention of the Sultan, he had acquired the abode of the Holy Virgin at Jerusalem, and had decided to place the ground at the disposal of his Catholic subjects. The piece of ground thus secured, which, according to tradition, was once occupied by the Mother of Christ, is on Mount Zion; and it was a curious feature of the ceremony that both the German and Turkish flags were hoisted above this ground. The story of the Emperor's sojourn in the Holy Land furnishes abundant material for the pen of the satirist; that there is, however, a deeper meaning in it seems to be the opinion of those who are competent to form a judgment; and had it not been for the overshadowing importance of the question at issue between France and England, and the situation in Paris, greater attention would have been given to this extraordinary pilgrimage. The Emperor has now taken his stand beside the Czar as the champion and supporter of peace. It is a curious situation which presents the two great war-lords of modern times as the apostles of peace!

The United States of Central America

A new United States began its history on November 1—the United States of Central America. The new republic was formed by the union of Nicaragua, Salvador, and Honduras. Not only in name, but in almost every essential point, the Constitution of the new nation resembles that of the United States. The negotiations for the union of the three republics have been under way for two years, and last August the Constitution was finally adopted. It is thought possible that Costa Rica and Guatemala may later on join the union. One of the most hopeful signs in the Constitution is seen in the fact that the three Presidents of the three States which are united are not eligible for the office of President at the first election, which will take place in December next.