

be worked out to bridge us over the period required to get authority to operate. I believe in municipal operation and want to bring it about as soon as possible; whether we buy or build I shall press a referendum that will enable us to operate, but while we are working for municipal operation, let us either buy and rehabilitate or else build, so that we may have something to operate when the time comes.

That is the situation in a nutshell, and the newspaper agents of the traction ring knew it when, with false headlines, deceptive editorials and fraudulent news dispatches, they undertook to make the public believe otherwise.

Death of Tom Bawden.

Tom Bawden, Detroit's optimistic fighter for the single tax, died of acute indigestion on the 13th, after suffering more than a year. He was in his time an engineer, a merchant, a Methodist exhorter, and finally a devoted agitator and popular expounder of the economic doctrines of Henry George. He confined his work pretty closely to Detroit, where he published the *Common Wealth*, and was well known as a speaker on the campus until public speaking there was forbidden, and then on street corners where speaking was not forbidden. That Mr. Bawden had a large share of public confidence in Detroit was evident from the vote he polled under the Australian system at the Democratic primaries last Fall. He was near the head of the list as a candidate for the legislature, but of course was defeated at the election along with the rest of his ticket. All the Detroit papers give liberal space and kindly comment to the reports of Mr. Bawden's death. The *Times* is exceptionally just. "For all that he did," says the *Times*, "with voice and pen toward the bringing in of this new era of justice and light; for all that he did in the hope of serving his brothers by emancipating them from the yoke of oppressive economic ills; for his courage and independence in fighting on the very frontiers of truth, if for nothing else, Tom Bawden deserves the kindly recollection of his fellow men. While the majority of men were too busy, too timid or too dull to deflect a

hair's breadth from the beaten path, he was striking out into new areas of truth and boldly proclaiming it." He was a man who always did unflinchingly what he believed to be right.

TOLSTOY AND GEORGE.

Of all living men, he whose words command most attention is Leo Tolstoy; of all publications, that which reaches the widest circle of readers is the *London Times*. That these two great forces should be combined to aid in spreading before the world the doctrine for which Henry George wrought and died—and in so few years after his death,—that this should come to pass, is more than George himself, with all his faith, hope and optimism, could have fairly dreamed of.

The extraordinary letter on the land question, entitled "A Great Iniquity,"* which Count Tolstoy published in the *Times* of August 1st, will, more than any event since Henry George's death, draw the attention of thinking men, the world over, to the supreme importance of the land question.

It is pretty generally known that Tolstoy, some years ago, wrote a brief letter expressing his approval of the theory of the Single Tax, and his reverence for the genius of Henry George. Again, in his "Resurrection" it will be remembered that he expressly introduces the teachings of George in showing their influence upon his hero's development. The present letter is an amplification of the question in relation to present conditions in his own country.

The great Russian expresses the belief that the Russian people are to lead in the solution of this problem. Whether or not this shall prove to be true, his letter will have an immense influence in emphasizing the importance of the problem and in stimulating the Single Tax movement everywhere. The publication will surely excite special interest in Great Britain at the present time, where the taxation of land values in cities and towns seems on the point of becoming a party issue, the Liberal leader having expressly declared himself in favor of such taxation. Although Tolstoy hopes Russia may

* Reproduced in its entirety in this issue of *The Public*. See Miscellany.

lead a far more sweeping land reform, the fact that he declares in the emphatic way in which he does in the *Times* letter, that Henry George was right, that the land question is the fundamental question, and that, under existing governmental conditions, the single tax is the true method of settling it—such a declaration, coming from him, will have an influence far beyond the impression one may receive from the brief notices which the newspapers have ventured to give. How plainly true it is, that "of all indispensable alterations of the forms of social life," to quote Tolstoy's language, "there is in the life of the world one which is most ripe, one without which not a single step forward in improvement in the life of men can be accomplished," and that this alteration, "not the work of Russia alone but of the whole world," is the abolition of the world-wide iniquity of property in land.

There are two men in America, both admirers of Tolstoy, whose comments on this letter many of their own admirers would be most interested in reading. One of these is our foremost man of letters; the other our greatest political leader. As both are editors, perhaps the wish may soon be gratified. At any rate we may trust that each will speak his mind when and where to do so would be most fitting and effective.

J. H. DILLARD.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

AUSTRALIA (see p. 198).

Corowa, N. S. W., July 7th.—Federal politics has taken a sudden and unexpected turn. To make the position clear, I shall summarize the history of the present Parliament.

When the House was elected in December, 1903, it consisted of three nearly equal parties: Protectionist, led by Deakin, the prime minister; Labor, led by Watson; and Free Trade, led by Reid. Deakin publicly declared that such a situation was unworkable, comparing it to three elevens in a cricket field.

In April, 1904, the Deakin ministry was defeated, and Watson formed a Labor government. After a few months, by means of a coalition between the Free Traders under Reid and a majority of the Protectionists, under Deakin, the Watson ministry was defeated.

Reid then formed a coalition ministry of Free Traders and Protectionists in equal numbers. Deakin was

offered a portfolio giving him equal power with Reid, but he declined, though he promised the new ministry his support. The chief point of agreement in the coalition was that the fiscal issue should not be raised during the life of the present Parliament.

As some Protectionists deserted Deakin and formed a loose alliance with the Labor party, the Reid ministry had a majority of only two. The session ended in December, 1904.

During the recess efforts were made to form a coalition between the Labor party and the Protectionists. This was supported by the Melbourne Age, the strongest Protectionist paper in Australia. But most people thought Deakin would keep his promises to support the Reid government, and not raise the fiscal question. On June 24th, however, Deakin made a very puzzling, indefinite speech, which was almost universally taken to mean that he intended to abandon the Reid ministry, and to raise the fiscal question.

Accordingly, when Parliament opened for the second session, on June 27th, the Governor General's speech proposed only one measure, a redistribution-of-seats bill. The Reid ministry intended, after the bill was disposed of, to dissolve the House. But Deakin, after protesting he had been misunderstood, and had not intended to withdraw his support from Reid, moved a hostile amendment to the address in reply. This was carried, the Reid government being defeated by 17 votes.

The Governor General, nevertheless, refused a dissolution, and Deakin has now formed a Protectionist ministry, several members of which were among those who had deserted him when the coalition with Reid was formed.

So the position is very similar to that which existed when the Parliament was first elected. There are again "three elevens in the field." As Deakin's following is now somewhat smaller than it was then, he will be more than ever at the mercy of the Labor party, which holds the balance of power.

No coalition has been formed between Deakin and Watson.

State elections were held in South Australia in the beginning of June. In a local house of 42 members the Labor party increased its members from 6 to 16. As all the Labor candidates advocated socialism, the issue was practically socialism vs. anti-socialism.

The Melbourne City Council owns and operates an electric plant which is an example of successful municipal ownership. The business is managed by a committee of the Council, which lights the streets and supplies electricity to private people for light and power, making charges in all cases

just as a private company would do. For the year ending February 27th, 1905, the committee reports a credit balance of over \$50,000, although the street lighting had been improved without increase of charge to the Council, and the rates to private people had been reduced from six to four cents per unit.

ERNEST BRAY.

NEWS NARRATIVE

Week ending Thursday, Aug. 17.

The Norwegian referendum.

Pursuant to resolution of the Norwegian Storting (p. 276), the people of Norway voted, on the 13th, upon the question of dissolving the Sweden-Norway union. The vote aggregated 321,519. This may be regarded as a full vote, the entire voting population of Norway at the elections of 1903 having been 457,551. The result reported on the 14th was 321,358 (over 70 per cent of the voting population) for dissolution, and only 161 in opposition. Accordingly, the Storting has been summoned to meet on the 21st to give the referendum effect by taking the next step toward repealing the act of union.

The Russian national assembly.

Although it had been understood that the Czar was to issue on the 21st a call for a national assembly (p. 295), the call has not yet been issued. The latest report regarding it came from St. Petersburg on the 13th. At that time its publication was still expected.

Echoes of the Russian Zemstvos congress.

Through the Moscow correspondent of the London Standard, the full text of the declaration of the congress at Moscow of Zemstvo and municipal representatives (p. 276) has been published. It is signed by 172 delegates from Zemstvos and 112 delegates from municipalities, and, according to the London Speaker of the 29th, it—

is a ruthless analysis of the promises contained in the ukase of December 1904, and the contributions that have been made to their fulfillment. As an indictment at once of the sincerity and the statesmanship of the government it is overwhelming. It shows how, in every direction where the Czar had promised legality and freedom, the lib-

erties of individuals and associations were still further subjected to official caprice and administrative tyranny. It ends with a number of conclusions of which the last affirms that the congress has taken upon itself the task of realizing with all possible speed the reforms that the Czar has neglected and the transition of Russia to a constitutional form of government, and calls upon all true Russians to take action of the most decisive character.

Before adjourning, the congress decided to invite on the next occasion members from those regions where local self-government has not yet been introduced.

Another Russian outbreak.

Revolution at Riga was reported from St. Petersburg, on the 10th, to have supplemented previous revolutionary outbreaks (p. 247). Riga occupies third place among the seaports of Russia and second among the Baltic seaports. Also an important industrial center, its chief manufactures are railway cars, machinery, lumber, leather, candles, tiles, glass and tobacco products. Its population is about 300,000, nearly 50 per cent of which is German, and it is situated on the Duna, about ten miles above its mouth in the Gulf of Riga, and 363 miles southwest of St. Petersburg. It is the capital of the government of Livonia and the seat of the governor-general of the Baltic provinces. "Ablaze with revolution," began the St. Petersburg dispatch regarding Riga, and, continuing, it reported: "Red flags are floating from factories and public houses. Neighboring Baltic cities are joining in the movement against the government. Business houses are closed and Cossacks and workingmen are shooting each other in the streets." Nothing further has been reported, but whether because the outbreak has been suppressed or because dispatches are censored it is impossible yet to say.

Russian-Japanese peace negotiations in the United States.

The second joint meeting of the Russian-Japanese peace envoys (p. 295) took place at Portsmouth on the 10th. On this occasion the Japanese submitted in writing a statement, not in detail but in principle, of the terms they exact of Russia. The Russian reply was submitted in writing at the third meeting, on the 12th. At the