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## INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

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### WASHINGTON TAX REFORM LEAGUE.

Bellingham, Wash.

The Washington Tax Reform League stands for such a change in our system of taxation as will encourage instead of discouraging industry. For example, in British Columbia wild land pays four to ten times as much tax as does similar improved land. This encourages development; creates a demand for labor; makes steady employment at fair wages. It benefits everybody but the speculator. In Nebraska they exempt from taxation for "planting out" trees. In Washington we should exempt from taxation for blowing out stumps.

As a matter of fact we put fines upon people who develop the country. A farmer who goes into the forest and puts \$1,000 of improvements on his own land, usually adds several thousand dollars to the value of adjoining wild land—for he shows what it will produce. Yet we put a fine upon him while we allow the land speculator to pocket unearned thousands. The wageworker is also interested; for, the world over, dear land means low wages, while cheap land means high wages.

As secretary of the Washington Tax Reform league I wish to get the names and addresses of three tax reformers in every Grange, Farmers' Union and Trade Union in the State of Washington. Send me at once your name, post office address and the number of your Grange or Union.

W. H. KAUFMAN.



### A CORRECTION.

The increase in the capital stock of the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad Company (11.82 per cent), mentioned in my articles in *The Public* of October 6 and 27, at pages 1018 and 1096, was the increase to 1896, not to 1906, as erroneously stated. The increase from date of incorporation (1869) to June 30th, 1906, was a fraction less than 67 per cent. The error of statement signified nothing substantial; it only gave further emphasis to the substantial fact that the dividends in the lean years ending in 1875 were \$4,871,334.37 more on \$89,428,300 capital than the dividends of the fat years ending in 1906, on \$149,197,800 capital stock.

LEVI STEVENS LEWIS.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, November 7, 1911.

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### The Chinese Revolution.

The native section of the city of Hankow seems to have been retaken from the insurgents by the Imperialists, and has in large part been burned

to the ground. Reports of general massacres of the inhabitants of Hankow by the Imperial troops come by way of Peking. Elsewhere the revolution has proceeded swiftly but almost bloodlessly, one city after another being occupied by the revolutionists, often simply by a change of officials. Shanghai was so occupied on the 3rd. No resistance was offered on the part of the Imperial representatives. After taking over the municipal government the revolutionists informed the foreign consuls that a provisional republican government had been established. [See current volume, page 1120.]



By the 3rd the National Assembly had completed a draft of a proposed constitution, and by Imperial decree this draft was accepted by the Throne on the same day. As summarized in the dispatches the draft contains the following principles:

1. The Emperor shall reign forever.
2. A person of the Ta Ching dynasty (the great pure dynasty, the same being the name adopted by the ruling family) shall be Emperor inviolable.
3. The power of the Emperor shall be limited by the Constitution.
4. The order of succession to the throne shall be prescribed by the Constitution.
5. The Constitution shall be drawn up and adopted by the National Assembly and will be promulgated by the Emperor.
6. The power of amending the Constitution shall belong to Parliament.
7. The members of the upper house shall be elected by the people from among those particularly eligible.
8. The Parliament shall elect and the Emperor shall appoint the Premier, who will recommend the other members of the cabinet, who also shall be appointed by the Emperor. The Imperial princes will be ineligible for the office of premier or members of the cabinet or administrative heads of the provinces.
9. If the premier, when impeached by Parliament, does not dissolve Parliament he must resign. One cabinet shall not be allowed to dissolve Parliament more than once.
10. The Emperor shall assume direct control of the Army and Navy, but when this power is used in connection with internal affairs, the Emperor must observe special conditions to be decided by Parliament.
11. Imperial decrees cannot be issued to replace the law except in the event of urgent necessity; in which case they may be issued in accordance with special conditions.
12. International treaties shall not be concluded without the consent of Parliament, but a treaty for the conclusion of peace or a declaration of war may be made by the Emperor if Parliament is not sitting, the approval of Parliament to be obtained afterwards.
13. Ordinances in connection with the administration shall be settled by acts of Parliament.
14. In case the financial budget fails to receive