

was aiming at in the future. In his general report Mr. Damaschke stated that receipts and expenditures of 1910 had risen to 54,000 marks including a special agitation fund of about 9,000 marks and a balance from 1909 of 4,000 marks. Membership had increased by 900. Of public bodies and professional associations but 583 joined the league. These organizations represented about 800,000 men altogether; 450 lecture nights on Bodenreform subjects were held during the time under survey, all over the country; the work of training young men and women of all professions was continued during the winter by the committee at Berlin at a University class room specially put at its disposal; other nights were arranged with University students at their request with addresses and discussions on Singletax questions.

Classes held during the Easter holidays at Berlin were a new feature of last year; lectures were delivered by prominent men of science and political experience, more than 300 students of all parts of the Empire taking part and 101 enlisting as new members of the League. These classes will be enlarged in future.

As to the literature issued by the League there may be mentioned two pamphlets, one on Civic Education and Bodenreform, the other on Women and Bodenreform; 600,000 leaflets were distributed at about 900 meetings and sent to various societies and associations. The Jahrbuch of the Bodenreform maintains its place of high literary standing. Our periodical, "Bodenreform," is published twice a month giving editorial articles on the land question and news of the movement at home and abroad.

In indicating the future policy of the League, Mr. Damaschke spoke of taxation of land on its site value first of all in the Colonies on the basis of the Kiaochow system, but not the less in the whole Empire. The principal step was to be valuation of land. It was hardly imaginable that up to the present no statistics were available as to the wealth of our nation represented by the most precious and by the most indispensable of all necessities—land. The proportionate payments made annually by the States to the expenses of the Empire ought to be levied on the ratio of land values instead of on the number of inhabitants. Since a poll-tax is regarded as preposterous in countries like Turkey and China, it ought to be utterly intolerable in a civilized country like Germany. Taxation of land values ought to be based on self-assessment; any expropriation of land to be converted into public use ought to follow the same lines; it was a plain fact that laws of expropriation in their existing form were far from safeguarding public interests.

The principal subjects discussed at the meetings were in connection with addresses delivered by Dr. Slegert of Cologne on the housing question in its bearings upon provision for infants; by Prof. Oertmann of Erlangen on reform of the laws of expropriation; by the Mayors of Bensheim and Langenfeld on the relation of Bodenreform to small towns, and by Mr. Sembritzki, town councillor of Königsberg, on a tax on land values and its practical application. The main interest was evoked by Prof. Oertmann's lucid and masterly exposition of the present laws of expropriation and their many shortcomings from the point of view of Bodenreform.

The first night Mr. Fels reported to the committee on the work performed by our friends in Canada, Denmark, Australia, England, Sweden and other countries and paid a tribute to Henry George whose books had been translated in all languages of the civilized world. At the formal opening meeting he spoke of being a reformed monopolist and gave illustrations of the advancement of the cause he had noticed on his travels. Above all he quoted the example of Vancouver, where the Singletax in its purest form, though moderate in degree, had taken effect. At the dinner in the exhibition hall he told how he had been converted to Henry George's principles, and pointed to the future when—he hoped in 20 years' time—every monopoly would be regarded not only as obnoxious but also as dishonest.

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That everything went off so well is due in no small measure to Mr. von Schwerin, the president of the Saxony branch, and his local committee.

W. SCHRAMEIER.

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## DEMOCRATIC REORGANIZATION IN PENNSYLVANIA.\*

Pittsburgh, July 23.

The reorganization movement of the Democratic party in Pennsylvania, which was begun last March, culminated in a complete victory last week at the meeting of the Democratic State Central Committee in Harrisburg.

When the reorganization of the party began, the "old guard" controlled 41 members of the Committee and the reorganizers 42. With this majority of one, A. G. Dewalt was deposed as State chairman, and G. W. Guthrie, ex-mayor of Pittsburgh, was elected to fill his place. But so fast has the progressive movement in this State been advancing since, that the reorganizers were able to increase their followers to 56 last week, whereas the "old guard" could gather only 27.

Dewalt, who refused to abide by the decision of the committee last March, although he participated and voted in every action, called these 27 members together in the Casino Theatre for a rump convention, which elected Walter E. Ritter of Lycoming, chairman. At the meeting of the progressives in the Board of Trade Building, G. W. Guthrie was re-elected chairman, and Congressman A. Mitchell Palmer was chosen national committeeman.

The "old guard," which had realized its defeat for weeks, ardently sought a compromise; but the progressives ignored every proposition. This steadfastness of the reorganizers brought forth the bitterest invective from the Brennans of Pittsburgh, and the Ryans and Donnellys of Philadelphia. Their denunciations, however, had lost their old time effect. They had played the role of Penrose assistants too long. At last they were found out.

Then they resorted to all the tricks of the political game. The card with which they hoped to win back a few was their endorsement of Woodrow Wilson for President. Relying on the popularity of this champion of the people among the Democrats of

\*See The Public, current volume, page 581.

the State, they resolved to use it as an asset. For Brennan, Guffey, Donnelly, Ryan and Dewalt to be for Wilson is, of course, a political joke. But the reorganizers were not to be scared by any such move on the part of the regulars. While the Wilson resolution was being read in the rump meeting, the reorganizers were endorsing Wilson for President in the warmest terms. To be sure that there should be no "deal" later, a resolution was unanimously adopted that each Democrat express on his ballot at the primary election his choice for President. Any violation of such instructions by a national delegate, the resolution continued, should be regarded as an act of "perfidy and dishonor."

BERNARD B. MCGINNIS.

## INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

### ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN SPAIN.

Chicago, July 15.

Mr. Antonio Albendin has an article in the Madrid Herald of June 17 on the present state of affairs in his country, commenting upon the attitude of the press and reformers toward the ever-prevailing poverty of the masses. For a brief time during the winter season the papers make much ado over the suffering of the poor, with sensational announcements of people dying in the streets of starvation, and strongly urge that charitable associations make strenuous efforts to relieve the distress. Then they subside and for the balance of the year avoid the subject as if all were going well in the world. Little or no attention is given serious matters by the numerous organizations that expend much energy on matters of minor importance, such as the Association for the Care and Preservation of Trees; the Association for the Improvement of the Condition of Tenants, which ignores thousands of people who are without a roof to cover their heads; the League to Combat Tuberculosis, which entirely overlooks poverty as the primary cause of the disease; and efforts on the part of legislators to assist the poor by proposed "Internal Colonization," on lines of "small holdings."

All of these endeavors are regarded by Mr. Albendin as merely treating effects and ignoring basic causes, and he does not believe that good results can be obtained as it is unintelligent action.

That there may be a better comprehension of the true cause of their economic ills, and that they may know that there is a cure, he recommends that they read "Progress and Poverty," and in verification of the correctness of the theories therein expounded he points to the improvement already manifest in such countries as Denmark, England, Germany, Australia and Canada where the land value tax has been, at least in some degree, applied.

C. L. LOGAN.

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The public life of Charles the First  
Was absolutely shameless.  
At home the matter was reversed;  
His private life was blameless.

—Chicago Tribune.

## NEWS NARRATIVE

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, July 25, 1911.

### The Lords' Veto.

At last the great struggle of the Liberal-Irish-Labor coalition in Great Britain to hold in check the absolute veto powers of an hereditary legislative chamber upon progressive legislation by the popular chamber, approaches a successful close. [See current volume, page 681]

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The climax came on the 21st. At its session of the 20th the House of Lords had passed the House bill, as amended out of shape by the Lords, without division and after only three hours' debate. Thereupon, on the following day, the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, communicated informally to the Tory leader, Mr. Balfour, the substance of an announcement he intended to make in the Commons on the 24th. Following is Mr. Asquith's communication:

Dear Mr. Balfour: I think it is courteous and right, before any public decisions are announced, to let you know how we regard the present situation. When the Parliament Bill, in the form which it has now assumed, returns to the House of Commons we shall be compelled to ask that House to disagree with the Lords' amendments. In the circumstances, should the necessity arise, the Government will advise the King to exercise his prerogative to secure the passing into law of the Bill in substantially the same form in which it left the House of Commons, and his Majesty has been pleased to signify that he will consider it his duty to accept and act on that advice.

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When Mr. Asquith arose in the Commons on the 24th to make his announcement, the opposition, led in this by Lord Hugh Cecil, created and maintained such a disturbance that he could not proceed. "During three-quarters of an hour," the dispatches read, "Mr. Asquith rose at short intervals and read a sentence or two from a manuscript, only to be overwhelmed by jeers, hootings and cries, among which 'Traitor' was the most frequent, but with 'Redmond,' 'Patrick Ford,' and 'American dollar' often distinguishable." Finally, closing his manuscript, he said: "I am not going to degrade myself. I shall simply state the conclusion at which the government has arrived." He then announced the conclusion briefly, but it was not heard above the din of the Tory outcries. Even "the Speaker's pleadings to 'observe the de-