

that the results of their fight for reform may be set aside by the courts.

—The United States is quarantining against bubonic plague from Porto Rico, Cuba, and certain other West Indian localities. Seventy men and four officers are fighting the plague in Porto Rico, and twenty-five men and five officers are guarding the exits from the island. Rats, which with their fleas are regarded as the plague carriers, are being systematically exterminated at all United States ports. [See current volume, pages 611, 659.]

—A contract between the South Park Commissioners and the Illinois Central Railroad, for adjusting property interests on the Lake Shore at Chicago, was approved by Judge Honore on the 10th as having duly conserved the rights and interests of the public and as being "in all respects a fair, equitable and reasonable agreement." The city took no part in the proceeding, and Judge Honore denied an application for an appeal. [See current volume, pages 133, 555.]

—The track and field section of the Olympic games at Stockholm closed on the 13th with the following standing for the athletes from the different nations: United States, 85; Finland, 27; Sweden, 24; Great Britain, 14; Canada, 7; South Africa, 5 (including the winning of the "Marathon" race); France, 4; Germany, 4; Greece, 4; Norway, 2; Hungary and Italy, each 1. An American Indian, James Thorpe, of the Carlisle Indian school, proved himself easily the greatest all-round athlete of the world in the Decathlon, which provided a variety of tests of speed, strength and quickness. There will be three weeks more of sporting events, including military riding, rowing and yachting. [See current volume, page 659.]

—Petitions signed by 11,000 voters have been filed with the Secretary of State of Maine, invoking the referendum on a ballot law passed by the legislature last April in special session. This makes the third successful attempt to invoke the referendum since the Direct Legislation amendment was adopted by Maine in 1908. In both of the former cases, the obnoxious act of the legislature was annulled. The act attacked in the present instance was passed for the alleged purpose of correcting defects in the election laws which came to light during a close contest over the repeal of the prohibitory amendment to the Constitution last September. This act was denounced by the Republican State convention last Spring, and the State committee was instructed to resort to the referendum; so the necessary signatures were procured through the Republican party organization—the first partisan attempt to invoke the Maine referendum. The act was passed by a Democratic legislature.

—Wholesale atrocities in the rubber industry in the Putumayo district in Peru, committed by native agents of a British rubber company against the Indian inhabitants, were given official publicity by the British foreign office on the 12th, through their issuance of reports to that office made by Sir Roger Casement, British Consul-general at Rio Janeiro, who more than two years ago was deputed by the British government to investigate rumored outrages. On the basis of the first Casement reports the governments of Great Britain and the United States

made active representations to the Peruvian government, urging reform of the abuses in the rubber district. Repeated demands having had practically no result, public sentiment throughout the world is appealed to by the publication of the Casement reports. The charges include slavery, torture and murder. According to the dispatches the returns show that the 1,200 tons of rubber collected in twelve years produced from \$5,000,000 to \$7,500,000, and entailed the death of 30,000 Indians whose bones are scattered through the forest and have made places resemble battlefields.

PRESS OPINIONS

The Forward Movement in British Politics.

Pall Mall Gazette (Unionist) June 28.—Mr. Lloyd George is preparing for a gambler's throw to re-establish his position in his party. We sketched his ideas in outline yesterday, and the "Daily Express" today has a very useful review of the sources from which they are drawn. The new policy is, in fact, a development of the Singletax proposal of Mr. Henry George, the American writer, which suggested the extinction of rent by taxing the landlord up to the full value of his land. . . . The whole thing is a party move, of course—a "little liver pill" to remove the torpor from which Liberalism is beginning to suffer. But Unionists must do more than meet the new movement with shouts of execration and cries of "Thief!" If Unionist candidates when tackled on the land question are "as helpless as a beetle on its back," the fault is their own. They have an infinitely better chance to become familiar with the intricacies of the land question than their opponents, and far more to gain from a solution on the basis of a wider distribution of ownership. In this matter we must be fearless and not too tender of the interests of mere wealth. An estate in land is a form of property which has special duties not to be divorced from its rights, and these duties consist, in the main, of a recognition of the rights of others. The merciless exploitation of the needs of leaseholders in towns and the denial of access to the land for the humbler classes in the country are real wrongs. The Unionist Party must set itself to think out and proclaim a drastic, but practical and equitable policy of land reform.



London Daily News (progressive Liberal), June 28.—The time for tinkering, as the "British Weekly" said yesterday, has gone by, and those who bear in mind the interview we published last month with Mr. Lloyd George and what has been said and written on the subject since, will be assured that when the Government next addresses itself to the question of the land, it will do so in earnest. We have two main reforms to achieve. Town housing has to be put on a basis on which slums will be a source, not of profit but of loss to the owner. Rural housing has to be so developed that it can neither be throttled by the land monopoly nor permanently prohibited by the fact that, as a pure investment,