

warded to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and to all members of Parliament.

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In opening the discussion which resulted in the adoption of the latter resolution Mr. Ure said that—

he was present with the idea of demonstrating how reasonable and necessary was the filling up of Form IV [which requires particulars of ownership, interest, liabilities, etc., and if desired by the person making the return, the particulars of value], unless the land clauses of the Government were to become wholly ineffectual and farcical. He thought, too, that he might have been able to demonstrate, even to landowners, the sweet reasonableness of this revolutionary Government; but the necessity for that had entirely passed away. The agitation had abated, the storm had ceased, and a great calm prevailed, and the fury and frenzy of Form IV had positively died of inanition, in spite of the rather feeble attempt to fan the flickering flames and impart a few faltering breaths to the agitation raised by Mr. Balfour in his foolish telegram to Captain Pretymann, in which he referred to the impenetrable mystery of valuation, and spoke of the movement as likely to fall to pieces of its own weight amidst universal derision. Impenetrable to Mr. Balfour perhaps!

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Joseph Fels in France.

An extension into France of the work in favor of land value taxation which Joseph Fels has promoted in Great Britain, the United States, Canada, Australia and Denmark, is reported in the London Evening Mail of September 20th. It began at a meeting of the newly formed League for the unification of French taxation, held at the Grand Hotel, Paris, on the 18th for the purpose of welcoming Mr. Fels. In responding, Mr. Fels said, as reported by the Mail, that—

as a practical business man he was convinced that no more equitable and effective system of taxation could be devised than that of levying all charges on land-values. It was not a violent measure. Its main effect was to force idle land into use and to stimulate both industry and commerce. He had been the means of inaugurating a movement in Denmark which was meeting with much success. He offered to give a donation of \$250 to the funds of the French League, and to guarantee to duplicate any sum which they raised by their own efforts within a given time. The first work of the League, he pointed out, should be to study local conditions. The existence of a large class of peasant proprietors in France would no doubt call for certain modifications, but the single tax was just, logical and simple, and could be adapted to the needs of any nation.

The chairman of the meeting was George Darien, who remarked that—

It was strange that the idea of imposing all the taxes of a country on all the land value of a country, and on that alone, which was first advocated by the French Physiocrats, should have been perfected by

an American citizen, Henry George, and that it should be another American, Mr. Fels, whose aid would no doubt lead to a re-adoption of the single tax idea in France. Mr. Darien claimed that the unification proposed would ensure considerable economy, would free industry from many charges which at present impeded progress, and would be a benefit to every class of society.

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Railroad Strike in France.

A railroad strike in France, which began on the 11th, was settled on the 15th by concessions to the strikers made through the mediation of the Ministry. The principal fact about this strike which makes it an event of general interest has reference to its character as an "industrial" or "syndical" strike. As explained by Keir Hardie, M. P., in one of the news dispatches—

during the past five years, what is known as "syndicalism" in France and as "industrial" unionism in America has grown in France. It originated in Italy, and is socialistic and in the main anti-political. It seeks the destruction of capitalism by the direct revolutionary "general" strike instead of constitutional, parliamentary, or political methods. By "general" strike is meant strikes on general industrial rather than trade lines. This means, in effect, that a general strike of nearly all trades might accompany every dispute in any particular trade.

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The strike in question began on the privately owned Northern railroad system, and extended to the Western, the Eastern and other government owned systems, besides ramifying kindred vocations. The French government made a military call for men liable to military duty to take the place of strikers, ordering even the strikers themselves to do industrial service as a military duty. Their call was ignored on the ground that proceedings for desertion under the military law could not begin for fifteen days. The Ministry held it to be three, and Premier Briand, distinguished as the first socialist prime minister (vol. xii, p. 730), denounced the strike as revolutionary. On the 15th Paris dispatches stated that—

the directors of the companies involved had agreed to grant a minimum wage of \$1 a day to the employes of all lines running out of Paris, the new scale to go into effect on Jan. 1. The decision was reached at a conference in which the Minister of Public Works, Posts, and Telegraphs took part. The strike was formally called off on the 17th.

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An Appeal for Free Trade.

Deeming this an opportune time, the American Council of the International Free Trade League makes the following appeal to American citizenship "concerning the fundamental injustice of the policy of Protection":

Sixty years ago there was a world movement

towards the reduction of tariffs, and a consequent sense of the inter-dependence of nations. That generous feeling has given place to international jealousies which find expression universally in unprecedented armaments, and, almost universally, in tariff restrictions on foreign trade.

A tendency so general must have its origin rather in feeling than in reason. That the primary meaning of protection is hostility to the foreigner, is shown by the facts that Free Trade is the rule within the confines, however wide, of every Government; that many nations are eager to extend by conquest their Free Trade areas; that protection has so often followed wars; and that the lowering of interstate tariffs is everywhere regarded as a friendly act by which both parties gain. Clearly, economic theory plays but a subordinate part in the adoption of Protective tariffs.

The unworthy and erroneous idea that one nation gains by another's loss, blinds men to the fact that Protection is not less a national than an international wrong. A nation which tries to confer on a few men the sole right to supply its market, is decreeing a servitude to the vast body of its citizens in defiance of their just claims to equal laws and equal protection. Private privilege masquerades as national interest; and in so far as the system succeeds, it cripples the revenue which was its pretext.

A policy which has for its frank purpose the frustration of what has been done to bring the nations nearer together, demands the strongest justification on grounds of expediency. Such justification, we, who belong to this Protective country, declare to be entirely lacking. From experience we affirm that progress in our own country has been in spite of *Protection*; that its burden falls most heavily on those least able to bear it; that by its deliberate disregard of the fact that plenty can only be had at its maximum by international co-operation, it diminishes national capital and profit, narrows the home market, tends to unemployment, depresses wages, and places the Protective country at a disadvantage in the markets of the world; and that the system which confounds with national wealth the gains of the privileged trader, ends in setting up a tyranny which makes a mockery of the popular franchise.

So long as people believe that political independence means industrial severance, they will believe that the prosperity of one nation injures that of another, and that in commerce the interests not of competing capitalists only but of whole nations are hostile; and so long there will be room for perpetual apprehension of war. The moral bearing of Protection in matters international, is unmistakable. International co-operation for the promotion of Protection is not supposable.

Thus we have, on the one side, a great and beneficent principle, wholly necessary to the progress of the race; on the other, a mere policy of questionable material efficacy, but of unquestionably evil moral influence on international relations. The rising power of such a policy is of grave concern to all, and for our country we hereby promulgate the appeal of the International Free Trade League to the Free Traders and the friends of Peace in every country, whether as organizations or as individuals, to join

them in a systematic effort to show that the interests of the nations of the world do not and cannot conflict, and that each will find the surest guarantee of its own prosperity in encouraging the prosperity of all others.

This address and appeal is signed on behalf of the Executive Council of the International Free Trade League, by the Council for the United States of America as follows: Charles Francis Adams, Boston, Mass.; Louis R. Ehrich, New York, N. Y.; A. B. Farquhar, York, Pa.; James Denton Hancock, Venango Co., Pa.; Byron W. Holt, New York, N. Y.; David Starr Jordan, Palo Alto, Cal.; Alfred Bishop Mason, New York; John J. Murphy, New York; Jesse F. Orton, New York, and George Haven Putnam, New York. It is issued from No. 26 Beaver street, New York City, under date of October 13, 1910.

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Roosevelt in Politics.

After his Southern speaking tour (p. 970), ex-President Roosevelt campaigned for Senator Beveridge in Indiana, and on the 14th at Elmira, N. Y., began the campaign for his ticket in his home State (p. 944). He made several speeches in Western New York on that day. The report of a friendly paper, the *Chicago Record Herald*, says of his reception there, that—

the crowds in the early part of the day were not large and there was little cheering. Later in the day the crowds grew larger and there was more enthusiasm.

From hostile sources—we quote from the *Chicago Inter Ocean's* report from Elmira—three-fourths of his "tour in southwestern New York opening the State campaign was a decided frost." At Elmira, continues this report—

he was greeted by two audiences that taxed the capacity of the two theaters, but outside of these hearers there was no crowd in the streets nor any excitement attendant upon his visit. The greeting extended the boss of the Saratoga convention was in striking contrast to the welcome that has been extended him throughout the country. Cheering was only noticeable by the fact that there was no cheering. Sometimes a perfunctory yell would greet his appearance. Sometimes there would be a faint clapping of hands as he bowed his departure. Enthusiasm was totally lacking outside of this city and here it was only mild enthusiasm.

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Municipal Government by Commission in Massachusetts.

The Des Moines plan has been adopted in Lynn, Mass. At a special election there on the 11th the question of a new city charter was voted on. The threefold alternative presented to the voter was (1) the old charter, with mayor and double chamber government; (2) a new charter, with mayor and a single chamber; (3) a new charter with all