

States to the Nicaraguan situation became of increased seriousness with the battle referred to above, for in the final assault on the 5th four privates of the United States marine corps were killed, and a number were wounded. This loss of life in battle when the United States is not at war with any country is expected to bring to a climax in Congress the dispute over the right of this government to intervene in Nicaragua. It is maintained by the Department of State that Admiral Southerland has strictly refrained from interfering in any way between the warring factions in Nicaragua, and has confined himself entirely to opening up railway communication and maintaining it free from interruption, that the large foreign element scattered through the Nicaragua towns might be able to receive food. The Associated Press dispatches thus summarize the State department's justification for the intervention:

An examination of the authorities appears quite clearly to show that one State may without just cause for offense to another State thus interpose in favor of its residents in the other State, and there is not a little authority for the proposition that such interposition by the one State as against the other is a matter of right and indeed duty.

It is related in the dispatches that privation and suffering without precedent in the history of Central American warfare have been endured during the present revolution, foreigners as well as natives having been brought to destitution and many women and children having perished for lack of food. This unusual experience in a tropical country where ordinarily some kind of food may be obtained from the jungle and native crops, is explained by the fact of a disastrous drought which has blighted the crops and dried up the native fruits, so that to keep the railroads open has been the only way of escaping starvation. [See current volume, pages 829, 849.]



The Threatened Balkan War.

The latest ultimatum of the Balkan states to the Turkish government is said to demand for Macedonia, Albania and Old Serbia an autonomy at least as great as that enjoyed by Crete under the guarantees of the great Powers. A few skirmish engagements are reported to have come off on the Bulgarian, Servian and Montenegrin frontiers, and war has been formally declared by Montenegro. Greeks and Bulgarians in the United States are rushing to the port of New York to embark for the seat of the expected war. Among the hundreds arranging to go from Chicago are two men in training at the aviation field at Cicero for military flying. The American government has forbidden the ships bearing the returning exiles to carry ammunition. [See current volume, page 917.]

The great Powers are endeavoring to prevent the war by inducing Turkey to grant sufficiently extensive reforms to satisfy the protesting states. The least that would suffice for this is given in a dispatch from Paris on the 6th, as—

Complete national autonomy for Macedonia.

Christian governors of the provinces inhabited by Christians.

Creation of a local militia and the withdrawal of Turkish troops.

The proposals for intervention not yet fully agreed upon by the Powers, include—

Declaration that the reforms demanded shall not affect the sovereignty of the Sultan nor the territorial integrity of Turkey.

Assurance that the reforms shall be applied not alone to Macedonia, but to the Turkish empire as a whole.

Provision that the demand for reforms be made not in the form of a joint note, presented in writing, but shall be made verbally by the representatives of the great Powers at Constantinople.

Russia and Austria to inform Balkan states that in event of war, hostilities must be confined to the Balkans and that territorial changes must not follow the war.



British Conference on Land-Values Taxation.

A large and representative British Conference was held on the 7th in Caxton Hall, London, under the auspices of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, at which Charles Trevelyan, M. P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, presided. It was specially convened in view of the prominent position the question of taxing land values now holds in Liberal Party politics. There were some 700 delegates from local taxing bodies, and from political, industrial, economic, social and land-reform associations. Additional interest was lent by the recent announcement of Lloyd George, in connection with his proposed investigation into the facts regarding land and local-taxation questions in town and country, that there will be a Liberal campaign on the land question. [See current volume, pages 891, 898.]



Alexander Ure, Lord Advocate for Scotland, moved the first resolution, which was seconded by Josiah C. Wedgwood, M. P., and adopted by the Conference. It declares that—

the value of the land, which is not due to the exertion or expenditure of the holders of the land, but springs from common need and activity, and is enhanced by public expenditure, is the proper basis for rating and taxation, and that the existing system, which imposes the burden on industry and the earnings of industry instead of on the value of land, is unjust, and constitutes a hindrance to social progress.

A resolution endorsing the Memorial to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer,

signed by 173 members of Parliament and presented May 18, 1911,* urging a tax on land values for education, highways, police and poor relief, in substitution for local rates and for taxes on food, was adopted by the Conference on motion of C. E. Price, M. P., seconded by R. L. Outhwaite, M. P. Another resolution, which was moved by E. G. Hemmerde, K. C., M. P., urged a speedy completion of the Imperial land valuation now in process, and its publication, "so that at the earliest possible moment provision may be made for the abolition of rates upon buildings and all improvements, and the adoption of the value of land as the sole standard of local rating." The fourth and last official resolution of the Conference, moved by Joseph Fels and seconded by P. Wilson Raffan, M. P., affirmed the conviction of the Conference that—

the existing deplorable condition of the people in regard to bad housing, low wages, and unemployment in town and country, is directly traceable to the withholding of land from its best economic use, and is further aggravated by the existing system of taxation and rating, which penalizes industry and hampers development.

The same resolution declared the opinion of the Conference to be that—

the just and expedient method of solving social problems is by the exemption of all improvements and all the processes of industry from the burden of rates and taxes, and the substitution of direct taxation, both for local and imperial purposes, on the value of all land, a value which is entirely due to the presence, growth and industry of the people.

*See Public of September 15, 1911, page 956.

NEWS NOTES

—Dr. Belisario Porras was inaugurated President of Panama on the 1st. [See current volume, page 684.]

—Wm. A. Peffer, the United States Senator from Kansas whom the Populist legislature of 1891 elected to that office, died at Grenoble, Kansas, on the 7th, at the age of 81.

—Hamlin Garland was forced to leap from the second story window of his house at West Salem, Wisconsin, early in the morning of the 7th, to escape death from fire. His home and its contents were destroyed.

—The legislature of Vermont on the 2nd, elected Allen M. Fletcher as Governor. This is the second time in the history of Vermont that the choice of a Governor has gone to the legislature. [See current volume, page 873.]

—At the four-day session of the fourth national Conservation Congress, held at Indianapolis last week, Charles Lathrop Pack of Cleveland was elected president. The constitution was so amended as to place the Congress on a permanent basis, with a membership roll, instead of having the delegates

appointed by States, municipalities and organizations.

—The municipal summer dancing pavilion of Cleveland, one of the 3-cent public enterprises of that city, closed its first session on the 5th, with a balance of receipts over expenses to the amount of \$3,000. [See current volume, page 757.]

At the first dinner for the season of the Economic Club of Boston, held at the American House on the 8th, the subject for discussion was "The Regulation of Monopoly versus the Regulation of Competition." William H. Lincoln presided and the following were the speakers: Louis D. Brandeis, Charles Zueblin, Norman Hapgood, Harvey N. Shepard and Prof. Lewis J. Johnson.

—The League of German Landreformers held their 22nd convention, October 4th to 7th at Posen, near the eastern border of Germany. The announcement of a most attractive program was prefaced in Bodenreform by a letter from the League committee urging members to avail themselves of this opportunity to become acquainted with this country way east of Berlin, a part of the Empire too rarely visited by the Germans of the west and south.

PRESS OPINIONS

One Man's Power for Evil.

The Sacramento Bee (Ind.), August 22.—William Randolph Hearst certainly has the ear of the reading public. He owns a big string of dailies in the United States and at least three great magazines—the Cosmopolitan, Hearst's and Good Housekeeping. In England it is known the London Budget and Nash's Magazine are his. And there may be others, both here and abroad. What an immense power for good those publications could be made. And what an immense power for evil they are as Hearst conducts them!



Corrupt Campaign Contributions.

The (Indiana) New Era (dem. Dem.), August 31.—The big fellows have fallen out and are telling truths and untruths about each other. The incidental things connected with this debauchery of American politics are not worth considering. Every man in the country who has taken any time to think over the subject knows that big business and government have been in partnership for the last quarter of a century. They know too that the plutocrats of the country paid for the privilege of plundering the rest of the people. Big business has a way of taking care of its henchmen, whether they are petty city officials or men clothed with great power in the arena of national politics. It isn't a party fault either, but of course the Republicans are vastly more to blame than the Democrats, because they have had more to sell. We ought to get away from calling each other names about these contributions and lend some help to make conditions so that future bribes given in shape of campaign contributions will be useless.