

By the 11th the Republican soldiery had been almost entirely withdrawn from the streets of Lisbon, the people had resumed their business occupations, and perfect tranquillity prevailed. General amnesty to all military and naval offenders was promulgated on the 12th. On the same day the Archbishop of Lisbon, Monsignor Tonti, who bears the title of Patriarch, tendered his allegiance to the Republic; and a telegram was received from President Comtesse of Switzerland announcing the recognition of the Portuguese Republic by the Republic of Switzerland. José Relvas, the new Minister of Finance, in an interview on the 12th, reported by the Associated Press, said that one of the first acts of the government would be to impose obligatory secular education. At the same time the Republicans would fully recognize liberty of conscience. They did not desire to destroy religious sentiment, but only would oblige the priests to confine themselves to spiritual matters. Speaking with reference to financial conditions, the Minister said that the government intended to readjust taxation and make the colonies bear their own administrative charges. This, he added, would meet a third of the existing deficit without injuring the colonies, the preservation and development of which would be of supreme interest in Portugal's policy.

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The members of the Portuguese royal family left Gibraltar (p. 968) on the 16th; King Manuel, his mother the Queen Amélie, and his uncle the Duke of Oporto, embarking on the British royal yacht Victoria and Albert for England, and the King's aged grandmother, the Queen Maria Pia, leaving on the Italian warship Regine Elena for Italy.

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#### British Leadership in Land Value Taxation.

Alexander Ure (vol. xii, p. 1071; vol. xiii, p. 89), the member of the Asquith Government as Lord Advocate for Scotland, is described in a London letter to the New York Tribune of the 11th as "the most obnoxious radical in the sight of titled landholders and Tory squires." Proceeding with its description of Mr. Ure, the Tribune says:

He is the apostle of land reform who converted the Chancellor of the Exchequer and became responsible for the new Budget taxes on land values. Lampooned, derided and denounced as the ally of the proletariat and the enemy of private property, he has earned the rancorous hatred of land owners and has also succeeded in arousing the enthusiasm of advanced radicals. He speaks with the fervor of conviction, and when on a public platform and in close touch with the masses he is an orator. Land taxation is his hobby, and he rides it hard and fast. Probably the Lord Advocate is a long way in advance of his fellow Ministers, who find it impossible to argue with him and to control him. Nothing could be more unconciliatory than his recent speech at Dollis Hill, in which he declared

that the valuation of land now in progress was not an end in itself, but only a means toward a general revolution in taxation. The hands of the clock seemed to have been turned back, and Henry George was again in England—a voice crying in the wilderness.

The land owners have formed a union for the avowed object of carrying on a determined agitation for the repeal of the land taxes. Mr. Ure, rising on tiptoe and speaking in his shrillest treble, warns them that they will fail, for the land taxes will never be repealed when the country has found a vast reserve of wealth which can be dedicated to the needs of the masses. When the valuation has been made by skilled and intelligent experts the Budget taxes can be collected, but that will be only a small matter. The principle will be widely extended when the valuation has been obtained, and in time all rating and taxing will be removed from buildings and improvements and placed upon the land itself. The result will be that the great monopoly of ownership will be broken down, the land will be free, and men will be encouraged to make a profitable use of it and to spend money upon it in labor and material so as to multiply the resources of the whole community. The radical advocate's sortie in the direction of a single tax on land is resented by Tory squires as a premeditated and wanton attack on private property. In place of tapping a new source of revenue ministers are reproached for proclaiming confiscation

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Mr. Ure, the Lord Advocate [for Scotland] who spoke at a land demonstration in Gladstone Park, Dollis Hill, on [September 24] alluded to the taxation of the future. He was anxious, he said, to lift all taxation from men's labor, and to lay all rating and taxation by-and-by upon land alone. There was no man or woman in that gathering, however young and healthy, he continued, who would live to see the day when the land taxes were repealed. They would, however, live to see the day when the principle would be extended far more widely than it is now.—The Daily Mirror (London).

by taxation. Mr. Ure has attempted to popularize his ideas of land taxation by practical illustrations. He has referred to an estate of 92 acres, with a capitalized value of \$28,500, which was recently in market. The owner who had been paying rates [local taxes] on an agricultural rental of \$955, refused an offer of \$160,000, and declared that he would not consider any purchase price under \$225,000. Having stated his case Mr. Ure brings in the principles of the Budget with telling effect.

Mr. Ure and his radical followers are not silenced by evidence that the land owners have been hard hit and are thinking of disposing of their estates. "The breaking up of the big, unmanageable estates is what is wanted!" they exclaim joyfully. "The Budget is doing its work scientifically and the people are in the way of getting land on easy terms." Radicals like Mr. Ure are likely to overstate their case, but they have the popular side of a question in which audiences are deeply interested.

Mr. Ure, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Churchill and the other vote winners on the Liberal side have a live issue in the next canvass—one which the people want them to discuss. It will not be difficult for them to prove that land will be cheapened by taxation\*, the problem of housing working people solved more easily in this way, and a practical measure found for relieving the burdens of rate payers.

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#### The British Conference on Land Value Taxation.

Advices by mail regarding the conference at Manchester on land value taxation (p. 947) enable us to reproduce the principal resolutions.

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On the subject of the relationship of land values to free trade, housing and unemployment, at the public meeting at Memorial Hall on the 1st, presided over by L. W. Zimmerman, the following was the resolution adopted:

That this conference of advocates of the taxation of land values hereby declares its unflinching adherence to the principle of Free Trade, meaning thereby the complete freedom of trade from all taxes and restrictions, whether imposed for protective or for revenue purposes; is of opinion that the true principle of Free Trade must be carried out to its fullest extent, both as affects agriculture and manufactures, by the removal of all existing obstacles to the unrestricted employment of industry and capital; and further declares that the only just and expedient method of effecting this policy, is by the exemption of all improvements, and all the processes of industry from rates and taxes, and the substitution for them of the direct taxation of the value of all land, a value which is due entirely to the presence, growth, industry, and expenditure of the community. Further, this meeting agrees that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime

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

The adoption of the resolution had been preceded by a discussion, led by Fredk Verinder, who read the paper specially prepared by him for the International Free Trade Congress recently held at Antwerp (p. 870), and which he briefly outlined from the platform at Antwerp. This paper, printed now in pamphlet form,\* will receive attention in a later issue of The Public.

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The other principal resolution was adopted after a discussion introduced by the Lord Advocate for Scotland, Alexander Ure, K. C., M. P., a member of the Asquith Government. The subject of the discussion was in these terms:

Land Valuation and the Finance Act in relation to Local and Imperial Taxation; with special reference to the Memorial on Land and Taxation Reform recently presented to the Government by 143 Members of Parliament.

This meeting was held on the 30th at the Manchester town hall, and here too the chairman was Mr. Zimmerman, who is one of the leading Liberal party officials in Manchester, and president of the Manchester League for the Taxation of Land Values. Following is the resolution adopted:

That this conference of advocates of the taxation of land values desires to express its gratitude to the Government for the 1909-1910 Budget, conveying as it does an inspiring message of hope and encouragement to the progressive forces at home and abroad; it especially recognises and appreciates the principle of the separate valuation of land; it earnestly urges the Government to continue this policy by making land values available for public needs and freeing industry from the grip of land monopoly; it hails the Budget as the dawn of a new era for our Country, and urges that the valuation of the land be completed with all possible speed and be made accessible to the public; that a Budget tax on the land values so ascertained be levied to provide a fund towards the cost of such public services as education, poor relief, main roads, police, and asylums, and in substitution of the remaining duties on the food and comforts of the people, and further expresses the hope that at the earliest possible moment the local rating authorities throughout the country be empowered to raise their local revenues on the land values basis, with a view to relieving houses, factories, machinery, farm buildings, and other improvements from the present grievous and ever-growing burden of rates. Further, this meeting agrees that copies of this resolution be for-

\*It was the New York Tribune from which this London correspondence is quoted, that recently "proved" editorially, the New Orleans Picayune accepting the "proof" (see The Public of Sept. 30, page 924), that the land tax made land dear.

\*"Free Trade and Land Values." By Fredk. Verinder, General Secretary English League for the Taxation of Land Values. Price one penny (two cents). Land Values Publication Department (of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values) 67 West Nile street, Glasgow, and 376 and 377 Strand, London, W. C.