

encies of debate' was drowned in the tumult." When A. J. Balfour, leader of the Opposition, replied to the speech the Premier was unable to make, he received a quiet hearing. Mr. Asquith issued to the newspapers a summary of his speech, the conclusion of which was in line with his letter to Mr. Balfour quoted above.

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#### Canadian Reciprocity.

In the Senate of the United States on the 22nd, the reciprocity agreement with Canada was adopted. [See current volume, page 677.]

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Senator McCumber of North Dakota offered a free list amendment, which was voted down, 64 to 16; Senator Cummins of Iowa offered an amendment on iron and steel, and one on oilcloth and linoleum, both of which were voted down 64 to 17; Senator La Follette's wool schedule amendments were voted down 64 to 15, and his cotton schedule amendments 63 to 15. Then Mr. La Follette offered an amendment making wood pulp and print paper free of duty for all the world, but it got only 11 votes. Senator Bailey of Texas moved to put cotton bagging and cotton ties upon the free list, but lost it by 61 to 17. Other proposed amendments were defeated by about the same division.

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It was evident that no amendment was disposed of upon its own merits, the controlling issue being simply for or against putting obstructions in the way of the reciprocity agreement. All the Democrats present, except Bailey (Texas), Clarke (Ark.) and Simmons (N. C.), voted for the agreement, including Gore, Owen, Hitchcock, Kern, Shively, Martine, O'Gorman, and Pomerene. Among the progressive Republicans who voted against it were Bourne, Bristow, Clapp, Nelson, Cummins and La Follette. Lorimer of Illinois also voted against the agreement; but Guggenheim, Penrose, Root and Stephenson voted for it. Republicans voting for it numbered in all 21, while those voting against it were 24; Democrats voting for it were 32 and those against it 3.

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This agreement, which now awaits the President's signature and Canada's acceptance, came out of a conference with Canada under the Payne-Aldrich bill, upon an invitation of President Taft extended to Canada March 30, 1910. The Canadian representatives arrived at Washington January 7, 1911, and reciprocity negotiations formally began January 8th. They were concluded January 21st. President Taft sent the agreement to the Senate January 26th, and January 28th McCall (Republican) introduced a reciprocity bill in the

House. It passed the House, 221 to 93. February 14th, with 78 Republicans and 143 Democrats for it and 87 Republicans and 6 Democrats against it. March 4th the Senate adjourned without action. April 4th, Congress convened in extra session and April 12th the Democratic leader, Underwood, introduced the bill which passed the House April 21st by 267 to 89—64 Republicans and 203 Democrats for, and 78 Republicans and 11 Democrats against. April 24th the Senate finance committee received the House bill, and June 13th reported it without recommendation. June 14th the Senate debate began, and July 22nd the Senate passed the bill by 53 to 27.

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#### The Singletax in Missouri.

According to an editorial in the Chicago Tribune of the 22nd—

if the Initiative and Referendum League and the Single Tax League of Missouri succeed in their present intentions the voters of that State will have an opportunity at the next election to adopt or reject Henry George's theory as a basis of taxation. The amendment has been drawn up and this fall petitions will be circulated in every Congressional district for signatures asking that the matter be put upon the ballot. The Leagues have organized in several of the large cities and many of the smaller towns. The amendment proposes to put property into four classes. The first includes every kind of personal property which does not belong to public service corporations. No property of this class will be subject to taxation after 1913. All improvements on real estate are included in the second class. After 1913 all owners will be entitled to an exemption of \$3,000 on the value of their improvements, and by 1922 a sliding scale will cut off taxes on all improvements. All lands except those now exempt from taxation or the rights of way of public service corporations go into class three. No property in this class shall ever go untaxed. The property of public service corporations comprises class four. This property, real and personal, is to be assessed at its true value and the price it would bring at a voluntary sale, and a levy on one-half that value is to be made. But whenever these corporations accept regulation of their charges, and the values of the franchises be so reduced that the companies shall make only a reasonable return on the actual value of their physical holdings, further exemptions may be made. It will be seen that the amendment contains some variations on the George theory, variations made necessary by modern conditions of business and the relation of corporations to the State. The poll tax is abolished and no license is to be collected from any business not requiring police regulation. The State Board of Equalization is to give way to a State Tax Commission. The Georgeites are said to have done a great deal of missionary work in Missouri in the last year, and there is little doubt that they can get the amendment on the ballot; but a measure embodying such radical changes in taxation methods will not be hastily adopted by any community.