

United States shall have a separate bureau for the distribution of the unemployed and ascertain and distribute information concerning business and professional opportunities; shall license and regulate employment agencies doing an interstate business; shall favor the establishment of free employment agencies in each State, with which the Federal bureau of distribution shall co-operate in such matters as bring employer and employe together; investigate conditions of unemployment and transportation and co-ordinate the work of State free employment agencies in various parts of the country, and also co-operate with organized labor and employers' associations.

John R. Commons of Wisconsin was re-elected president and Frances Kellor of New York secretary. [See current volume, page 1094.]



Singletax Conference at Boston.

The third public advisory but unofficial Singletax Conference of the United States which is to be held upon invitation of the Joseph Fels Fund Commission, will meet at 10 a. m., November 29th, at the Twentieth Century Club, 3 Joy street, Boston, Massachusetts. Open meetings will be held at the same place in the afternoon and in the evening of the same day. On the following day, November 30th, meetings will be held at Hotel Bellevue, the headquarters of the Conference, which is at 21 Beacon street. At 6 o'clock on the 30th there will be a 75-cent dinner at Hotel Bellevue, at which William Marion Reedy of St. Louis, editor of *The Mirror*, is to preside as toastmaster. The local managers of the Conference meetings ask all persons intending to be at the dinner to notify James R. Carret, 79 Milk street, Boston, in time for him to receive the notice before November 28th. An executive session of the Joseph Fels Fund Commission will be held at Hotel Bellevue on the 1st of December, and a public evening meeting for that day is under consideration. [See current volume, page 1085.]



Disorder in the British House of Commons.

To correct the nominal defeat of the Ministry, reported in these columns last week, the Prime Minister moved in the full House on the 13th to rescind the amendment to the home rule bill which the Unionists had carried in committee of the whole during a slack attendance of Liberal members. [See current volume, page 1092.]



Thereupon the Unionists started a riot on the floor of the Commons. Almost unanimously they threatened to make business in the House impossible unless the Ministry would acquiesce in the amendment or abandon the bill for home rule in Ireland; and they so far succeeded, through the

weakness of the Speaker, a Unionist member, as to force an adjournment of the session by riotous disorder. When the session began, say the Associated Press dispatches—

there were packed benches. The Premier's followers gave him a great cheer on his entrance and demonstrated that they were present in force by defeating a motion to adjourn early in the proceedings by a vote of 327 to 218. The substance of Mr. Asquith's motion was that the Banbury amendment be rescinded, "notwithstanding anything in any standing order of this House," and that the order of the House in respect to the home rule bill take effect as if Monday's proceedings had not taken place. The effect of this would be practically to begin again the consideration of the bill at the clause where the Banbury amendment was offered. Andrew Bonar Law, leader of the Opposition, had the floor quickly and inquired whether there was any precedent for the Government's course and whether it would not destroy all safeguards for regularity in the House of Commons proceedings. Amid loud opposition cheering the Speaker replied that he could find no precedent for rescinding a decision of the House arrived at during the passage of a bill. Whether it would destroy the safeguards was a matter on which every member must form his own judgment. There was a long discussion on the Parliamentary points, and then Mr. Asquith rose and said that no notice had been given of the amendment offered by Sir Frederick Banbury and that its discussion was brief. He doubted if the members on either side had appreciated its importance. It would reduce the \$30,000,000 which it was proposed to transfer to the Irish government to \$12,500,000. "If the decision come to Monday remains unreversed," said the Premier gravely, "or, on reconsideration, is found to be the deliberate judgment of the House, it would be impossible for the Government to proceed with the bill. There are two reasons for this. In the first place, a mortal blow would have been struck—"

Mr. Law—"Has been—"

Mr. Asquith—"At the financial arrangements of the bill. Next, I strongly hold that a bill passing this House should receive upon all substantial and vital points the assent of the majority of the House." Mr. Asquith proceeded to point out that last week the Government had a majority of 121 on a question similar to that raised by Sir Frederick Banbury. He argued that there were precedents for the course proposed.

Bonar Law replied that the established rule of the House was a decision once on a resolution. The Government's proposal, he declared, was an affront to the House.

Capt. Craig, Unionist for East Down, . . . moved adjournment, which was defeated, 327 to 218.

Then the storm broke. Sir Frederick Banbury moved that a decision reached could not be reversed at the same session. "The only honorable alternatives before the Government," he said, "are resignation or dissolution." . . .

Lewis Harcourt, Secretary of State for the colonies, attempted to speak. He was on his feet for several minutes. Every sentence was drowned by Unionist shouts and derisive cries. . . .

The Attorney General, Sir Rufus Isaacs, had the same experience.

The Speaker finally adjourned the House for an hour. Immediately it reconvened, Sir Rufus Isaacs was on his feet amid shouts of "adjourn!" The voice of Sir Edward Carson, who led the anti-home rulers in Ulster, arose above the din. "There will be no more business ever in this House," he cried. The Speaker repeatedly appealed for order, and at length declared: "I rule that a scene of grave disorder has arisen and I adjourn the House until tomorrow." A yell of victory burst from the Unionists. The members of the cabinet clustered on their side of the clerk's table. No one moved to leave the House. On the Unionist side was a seething mob. An arm was raised and a document flew across the floor. It struck the Prime Minister on the shoulder. A shower of papers fell among the group of ministers. Mr. Asquith, white and indignant, faced the attack with folded arms. The air was thick with papers and hats. At length the Prime Minister stalked to the door, greeted with yells of defiance and approval. Suddenly the Unionist member, Ronald McNeill, rushed to the clerk's table, seized a heavy volume, and hurled it at Mr. Churchill. There was an ugly rush from the Liberal benches, but the cooler members held back their colleagues. For a moment a battle of fists seemed imminent. Then the voice of Will Crooks was raised in song: "Should Auld Acquaintance Be Forgotten." Others took up the refrain and gradually flowed into the lobbies.

What followed is thus explained by T. P. O'Connor in his cable letter to the Chicago Tribune of the 17th:

It was intended to continue the riot on Thursday [the 14th] and Asquith was resolved to fight if it took all winter. At the last moment notice came from the Speaker that he would propose a compromise, and Asquith then was face to face with the acceptance of this advice or the resignation of the Speaker. The resignation of the Speaker would have involved the election of a new Speaker, and in the present temper of the Tory party that might have taken weeks and perhaps finally have forced the Government into a dissolution of Parliament and a new general election. Thus Asquith had no choice but to yield or face a revolutionary situation, the end of which no man could have foreseen. There is a great difference of opinion among the Liberals as to Asquith's wisdom in accepting this course. All of the fiery Radicals denounce it as a surrender to rowdiness and as a cooling of the flaming fires of the Radical indignation and fighting spirit. The cooler headed men, including all of the Irish leaders, approve of the solution as saving the home rule bill from incalculable dangers and restoring the situation to the normal conditions.

The exact nature of the proposed compromise is not yet reported, but pursuant to it Mr. Asquith was quietly allowed on the 18th to move and the House to adopt a rejection of the original financial clause which the Unionists had amended by springing their surprise. The Ministry is to substitute another clause, but how it will differ from the original does not yet appear.

War, Pestilence and Famine.

While the brief but bitter war of the last month between the allied Balkan states and Turkey apparently draws to a close, war's grim coadjutors—plague and starvation—have begun to play their hideous roles, and not alone to the undoing of Turkey, though that well-nigh vanquished Empire has so far suffered most on all three counts. By the 15th over 500 new cases of cholera were being reported daily in the Turkish army defending the Tchatalja line of forts before Constantinople, and the total number of cases then on hand was put at 6,000. Cholera had also appeared, but with slower advance, among the Bulgarians, as they successively occupied the positions of the retreating Turks. Riza Pasha, the Turkish general commanding the heavy artillery, was attacked by the epidemic on the 16th. By the 17th a thousand cases a day in and around Constantinople, were reported, with a 50 per cent mortality. By the 18th German news was to the effect that the deaths from cholera in the Turkish army had reached the appalling and almost unbelievable rate of 5,000 a day. By the 19th typhus fever had been added to cholera, in the reports from the army, and the shortage in the army's food supplies, noted from early in the war, amounted to famine. [See current volume, page 1092.]



The warfare of the allies has continued to be successful. The Greeks, having taken Saloniki, as reported last week, have occupied the peninsula of Mt. Athos, and have been pressing on to Janina. The Montenegrins have continued to beleague Scutari, and according to an unconfirmed report of the 18th, had captured it. On the 18th, after four days' fighting, Monastir, the second city of European Turkey, surrendered to the Servians, who thereby captured three pashas, 50,000 men and 47 guns. This ends Turkish control in Macedonia, and is regarded as the greatest individual success of the war. The main Bulgarian attack on the Tchatalja line of forts in front of Constantinople has continued, with advance of the Bulgarians, and their successive occupation of various points. The Turkish fleet in the Sea of Marmora has shelled adjacent Bulgarian positions. The cannonading can be heard at Constantinople.



Application to the Powers for mediation, on the part of the Turks, not having met with quick or co-operative response, Turkey applied directly to Bulgaria for an armistice, on the 12th, and a Bulgarian envoy arrived in Constantinople on the 13th. The stipulations of the Bulgarians, as reported by the Vienna correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph on the 16th, rested on the following points:

Included in the first stipulation is the surrender