

resolution on the 4th, proposed by Margaret A. Haley, declaring that the Federation—condemns the proposed amendment to Section 14 of the Constitution of Illinois recommended by the State Tax Commission, the chairman of which was John P. Wilson, tax attorney for the corporations, and the purpose of which is to permit the legislature to pass valid laws relieving the corporations of capital stock tax as now provided by law.

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#### Taxation of Unearned Increments in Germany.

The bill in the German Reichstag for the taxation of unearned increments of land for Imperial purposes (p. 84) was enacted on the 1st by a vote of 199 to 93. Cities and other municipalities are allowed to retain 40 per cent of the proceeds of this exaction, and also to levy a supplementary tax on these increments. Socialists and Radicals voted against the bill on account of its unfair exemptions. It exempts the holdings of the Emperor and those of 22 kinglets, as well as great estates of agricultural land. These exemptions had been struck out of the bill at the request of the Imperial treasurer, but were restored on its third reading.

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#### The British Parliament.

The new British Parliament (p. 84), which came together informally last week, was formally opened by King George on the 6th. Only two legislative measures were mentioned specifically in the King's official speech—which is in fact the Ministry's statement. The first of these is reported by cable as follows:

Proposals will be submitted without delay for settling the relations between the two Houses of parliament, with the object of securing an effective working Constitution.

The other was to the effect that legislation will be proposed for insurance against sickness and unemployment.

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When the two Houses had assembled separately, they were addressed by Lord Landsdowne in the House of Lords and A. J. Balfour in the House of Commons, Tory leaders in their respective Houses, both of whom denounced the reciprocity agreement between the United States and Canada (p. 108). The prime minister, Mr. Asquith, explained that the British ministry could do nothing to interfere with the natural trend of events, and stated that he regarded the leveling of tariff walls between Canada and the United States as inevitable. He gave formal notice also of the bill to restrict the veto powers of the House of Lords, and announced the intention of the Ministry to claim the whole time of the Commons until the Easter recess, in disposing of this measure.

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The Labor party members elected James Ram-

say Macdonald as chairman in place of George N. Barnes (vol. xiii, p. 177), who was obliged to retire from that position on account of illness. Mr. Macdonald took the floor in reply in behalf of the Labor party to Mr. Balfour's condemnation of the reciprocity agreement with Canada, describing Mr. Balfour's speech as in this respect the most awkward and colossal blunder he had ever heard in Parliament.

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#### Persia.

Sani-ed-Dowleh, Persian minister of finance (vol. xii, p. 469), and a leading representative of the modern regime in Persia (vol. xii, p. 1039), was shot dead in the streets of Teheran on the 4th. The assassins, two Armenians, escaped. The Chicago Inter Ocean's dispatch says that the assassination has come at a time of considerable political excitement in the Persian capital as a result of a bitter quarrel in parliament over the appointment of American financial advisers. The parliament had voted on the 2nd to engage five financial experts from the United States to reorganize the country's fiscal system. This action was preceded by a dispute as to the nationality of the advisers to be employed, which threatened a split between the ministry and parliament. The ministers for a time supported the original plan to have Frenchmen placed in these posts, and one faction of the chamber of deputies held out for the naming of Swiss advisers. It has been said that Russia and Great Britain favored the choice of advisers from small neutral states.

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#### The Filipinos' Hope.

Manuel L. Quezon, delegate to Congress from the Philippine Islands (vol. xiii, p. 1073), in an address before the Beacon society of Boston on the 4th, declared that what his countrymen most fervently desired is "the right to govern themselves, and to become, without restriction of any kind, a free and independent nation." He continued:

Whether this result shall be most expedited by an international agreement providing for the neutralization of the islands, continued the delegate, or whether the speedier course would be through the establishment of an American protectorate, I do not here pretend to say, but whatever the method selected to bring about this result, the fact remains that the Filipino people look confidently forward to the early realization of their cherished ideal.

It is not too much to say that the material development and prosperity of the island is today seriously handicapped by the uncertainty and doubt regarding the policy of this government towards them.

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#### The Insurrection in Mexico.

The Mexican revolutionists (p. 108) continue to refuse to be put down. On the 31st two passenger