

his pulse was 100, with respiration at 32. On the 3rd—the fourth day after the operation—his condition was better than on any previous day, so much better that he sat up for two hours talking with his physician and members of his family, and smoked two cigars in the course of the day. He was smoking a cigar at 2 o'clock in the morning of the 4th. He spent the greater part of this day—the fifth after the operation—propped up in a chair, smoking sparingly, and sleeping; and his diet was extended so as to include eggs and toast. On the 5th he was reported by the papers of the 6th to have suffered from “slight inflammation of his left ankle, which was injured in a railroad wreck two years ago;” but his general condition was described by the physicians as “perfect.” His condition since then has steadily improved. His discharge from the hospital, however, is not expected soon. Owing to the rapidity of Mayor Busse’s recovery from an operation so serious, and usually slow to heal when the patient is a fleshy person, as in this case, certain rumors gained currency which are at once described and disposed of by an editorial in the *Inter Ocean* (Republican) of July 9. Quoting letters to the editor, the *Inter Ocean* editorially said:

In response to these and many other similar communications, the *Inter Ocean*, in justice to all concerned, feels obliged to say: The report that Mayor Busse was shot in one of his joints, namely, his hip joint, has been brought repeatedly to this office and has been investigated by this office. No proof whatever has been found to support it. As far as this newspaper knows, Mayor Busse has not been shot in a hip joint or in any of his other joints. As far as this newspaper can ascertain, Mayor Busse had appendicitis and is recovering from appendicitis. Regarding the weirdness of the bulletins from the Mayor’s bedside, the *Inter Ocean* has nothing to say. As it is not a medical expert, it relies on the given word of Dr. Murphy and Dr. Evans, who are fit and eminent gentlemen in their profession. Any explanation of the peculiarities and inconsistencies of these bulletins must be sought elsewhere. They exist, but they are beyond us. The *Inter Ocean* makes these statements in the hope of relieving itself of the messages that come to it in increasing numbers daily on the subject in hand. Can’t a Mayor have his appendix cut out in Chicago without exciting all sorts of suspicions and inspiring all sorts of surmises?

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#### Colombia Disturbed.

The republic of Columbia (p. 61) in South America, adjoining Panama, is in a disturbed condition. The President, General Rafael Reyes, whose term would not normally expire until 1914, left suddenly for London on June 10. Since his departure General Jorge Holguin has been functioning as acting president. On the 4th Gonzales Valencia was proclaimed president by a portion of the army stationed at Barranquilla, but Valencia has himself disavowed this revolutionary

movement. Acting President Holguin has put the whole country under martial law.

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#### Arbitration in South America.

A boundary dispute of long standing between the republics of Peru (vol. ix, pp. 493, 561, 802; vol. xi, pp. 134, 259, 437) and Bolivia (vol. ix, p. 825; vol. xi, p. 437) has been in the hands of President Alcorta of Argentina for adjudication. President Alcorta’s decision was given out on the 9th, and was immediately received with satisfaction by the Peruvians, and with great dissatisfaction by the Bolivians. The contested territory—the Acre district recently purchased by Brazil (vol. ix, p. 1091; vol. x, p. 514; vol. xi, p. 259) from Bolivia for \$10,000,000—is divided by the arbitral decision almost equally between Peru and Bolivia, with some advantages in favor of Peru. The Argentine and Peruvian legations at La Paz, the capital of Bolivia, have been violently attacked, and the city has suffered from general rioting.

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#### Nationalism Makes Advances in Persia.

The Persian Nationalists, long confined in their operations to the neighborhood of Tabriz, and in April apparently in desperate straits (p. 419), have nevertheless gained instead of losing strength, and have been wielding a powerful influence, wringing from the Shah in May, as already reported (p. 469), a second constitution. The Shah has appeared to be demoralized. Russia has been preparing to intervene, ostensibly in behalf of the foreigners resident in Persia; and the advance of Russian troops (p. 419) was declared by the English foreign secretary, Sir Edward Grey, in the House of Commons on the 5th, to be with the full consent of the British government. Shipadar-Je, one of the Nationalist leaders, announced on the 5th, as his ultimatum, that the Russian troops must leave Persia, and that a new and more liberal ministry must be formed by the Persian government. In the meantime the Nationalists had been drawing nearer and nearer to Teheran, and in skirmishes had defeated the Shah’s Cossacks. At five o’clock on the morning of the 13th they entered the city by three gates. They found the Cossacks massed in the central square of the city, and some fighting followed. But the populace everywhere enthusiastically welcomed the Nationalists, and a form of order, with street patrol, was quickly established. No attempts were made to interfere with any of the legations, and the lives and property of foreigners were found to be in no way endangered.

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#### Fiscal Politics in Germany.

Later advices somewhat clarify the fiscal situation in Germany (p. 636), which has resulted in

the resignation of the Chancellor, Prince von Buelow. Eight months ago the Imperial Ministry introduced a fiscal reform measure, one provision of which proposed an inheritance tax upon direct heirs, including widows and children. As previously reported this proposal was defeated on the 24th of June by 194 to 136. Because of that defeat, and of the new grouping of parties which it disclosed, Prince von Buelow resigned as Chancellor, and the fiscal legislation was thereafter conducted by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg.

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Financial necessities prophetic of an enormous deficit, forced an adjustment of some kind; and on the 10th the original measure, greatly modified, was adopted by the Reichstag. As adopted it greatly increases the burdens of indirect taxation: higher taxes on beer, tobacco and brandy; higher duties on coffee, effervescent wines, cordials and teas—the tea tax being quadrupled; stamp taxes on checks, dividend coupons, stocks, bonds, etc. These are samples of Conservative tax reform in Germany. There is also a tax on real estate transfers. The National Liberals, the Radicals and the Socialists voted against the amended measure.

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In connection with the tax on real estate transfers, a resolution is adopted by the Reichstag which requires that a bill be introduced by April 1, 1911, formulating a method for the taxation of the unearned increment of land values. A ministerial memorandum on this subject had been submitted to the Reichstag on the 15th of June as embodying the views of the treasury department. This memorandum declared that a measure for the taxation of increased land values for purposes of Imperial finance would not be feasible at present, because it would interfere with municipal taxation. In summing up the results of the investigation of the treasury department, however, the memorandum declared that the taxation of unearned increment is justifiable, and is very suitable for local purposes, but cannot be considered for the purposes of the present Imperial finance reform, as it is still too obscure both in theory and practice to enable the scheme to be worked out within the time at the Government's disposal. It is apparently in deference to the final suggestion that the Reichstag has now directed the Government to bring in two years hence, a measure for unearned increment taxation.

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#### The British Suffragette Movement.

New tactics for securing a hearing were adopted by the London suffragettes (p. 663) on the 7th. The Pankhurst faction, led by Mrs. Pankhurst, approached the King, but were ejected from the palace grounds. Some suggestion was, however,

secured from the King, and as a result the Home Secretary gave the deputation a hearing on the 8th. After reading the petition and listening to arguments he promised to forward the petition to the King. Meanwhile the Despard faction obtained access to the Prime Minister at the front door of his residence as he was entering, on the 9th, and he accepted their petition. The police court on the 9th decided against the suffragettes arrested on the 30th (p. 663) and sentenced Miss Pankhurst to a fine of \$25 or imprisonment for a month. The same sentence was imposed on Mrs. Haverfield, daughter of Lord Abinger. Notice of appeal was given. On the 12th fifteen suffragettes who in the course of a raid on the House of Commons June 29 broke windows with stones hidden in brown paper parcels went to prison for a month rather than pay fines. The suffragettes who presented the petition to Mr. Asquith were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. They refused on the 12th to pay fines, and were sentenced each to three weeks' imprisonment. They are refusing to eat, and are resisting the efforts to force them to change their street clothing for the prison garb, and are ignoring the prison rules of silence. The right of petition is involved in these cases.

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#### British Land Values Taxation.

The weekly cable letter of T. P. O'Connor, M. P., as it appears in the Chicago Tribune of the 11th, describes the contest in the House of Commons over the financial bill (p. 635), as having brought on a collision between the Liberal party and the Labor party on one side, and the Irish party on the other,—a collision which at one point reduced the Ministerial majority to a dangerous minimum. As Mr. O'Connor explains, however, Lloyd-George is anxious not to antagonize the Irish party, and the Irish party is "anxious to support his land taxes so long as they do not hurt Ireland." In further explanation of the land values taxation issue, Mr. O'Connor says in this letter of the 10th:

The hope of the tariff reformers [protectionists] was that they could prove that taxation could not be further increased without a tax on imports, which they describe as a tax on the foreigner. The other economic reason which works against the land tax is the enormous number of persons who are interested in house and in building property near towns. Added to all this element there is that mighty landed interest which, ever since William the Norman created the feudal land system ten centuries ago, has been the chief and most powerful factor in the government of England. That class gathers around it not merely all the men and women of ancient birth, but also vast numbers of the nouveaux riches. The big capitalists of London are as fierce against the land taxes as the nobleman of the most ancient and purest descent; Lord Rothschild walks arm in arm with Lord Derby; the one only removed by two