

improvements and personal property are as valuable as their land.

6. Landlord farmers, or those who do not work their farms, and whose improvements and personal property are of less value than their lands.

The first class of farmers, the renters, are, according to the United States census, 35 per cent. of all farmers. If they all paid their rent to the government, instead of to private individuals, it would go to enrich the government, which in this country is the whole people, and they, as part of the people, would get their share of it. They now pay the rent to private individuals and get no share. Evidently they would be helped by the single tax.

The mortgaged farmer differs very little from the renting farmer. He pays in interest what the other pays in rent, and would be benefited as much by the single tax as the renter. This class is 18 per cent. of all farmers.

The third, or wage-working class, would be helped, because the single tax would destroy monopoly of land and render it unprofitable for rich men to hold land out of use. That would enable vast numbers of wage-working farmers to go on farms for themselves, instead of working for wages, which in turn would raise the wages of those who continued in service.

To understand how the single tax would affect the fourth class, we must find how much value of land every person would have if the land were divided up into portions of equal value. The single tax is a method of giving to all citizens their equal share of the value of the land. It is found that if the land were so divided, each person in the country would have a portion worth \$500, or each family a portion worth \$2,500. Therefore, any family now owning a less value of land than \$2,500 would be helped by the single tax, at least to the extent that its present holding is worth less than \$2,500.

The good farmer, or the farmer whose improvements and personal property are at least equal to the value of the land, is the fifth class. How will the single tax affect him? We will illustrate by taking three farmers, A,

B and C, all of equal wealth, but having their capital invested differently, thus:

	A	B	C
Land values.....	\$800	\$1,200	\$1,600
Imp'm'ts on land..	400	200	000
Personal property..	400	200	000
	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600

Let us suppose it is required to raise from A, B and C \$100 in taxes. On the present system they would all pay equal amounts, \$33.33 3, because they are each assessed at \$1,600. But under the single tax they would only be taxed on their land values. Their combined wealth would be \$3,600, and the question would be as follows:
 A.... 3,600 : 800 :: 100 : 22.22.2
 B 3,600 : 1,200 :: 100 : 33.33.3
 C 3,600 : 1,600 :: 100 : 44.44.4

Under the single tax A would pay \$11.11.1 less than he does now, B would pay the same as he does now, and C would pay \$11.11.1 more than he does now.

A was the only good farmer, because he alone had as much value of improvements and personal property as of land. B had three times as much value of land as of improvements and personal property. C had nothing but land. Is it not plain that only the landlord farmer would have to pay more taxes?

To summarize:

	Per Cent.
1. Renting farmers.....	35
2. Mortgaged farmers.....	18
3. Wage-working farmers.....	20
4. Farmers having small land values	10
5. Good farmers.....	12
6. Landlord farmers.....	5
	100

We have had to guess at the percentages of the last four classes, but our guess cannot be very far from correct.

No person will be inclined to dispute that the single tax would help the first three classes, or 73 per cent. of the farmers; and we have proved that it will also help the fourth and fifth classes, or 95 per cent. The remaining five per cent. are not worthy of consideration. The pure landlord is a man who is trying to live by the sweat of his neighbor's brow. He is trying to monopolize the earth. If he be compelled to go to work it will make a better man of him.

J. G. MALCOLM.

NEWS

In France, the ministry has been forced out of office under circumstances that suggest another Dreyfus reaction and indicate at least a temporary victory of the royalist and military factions.

Immediately upon the opening of the chamber of deputies, on the 25th, a bitter speech was made by one of the deputies against Gen. Chanoine, the minister of war. Gen. Chanoine is the third minister of war in the present cabinet, of which M. Henri Brisson has been—from the time of its formation, June 27, 1898,—the premier. M. Brisson's first minister of war was M. Cavagnac, who resigned early in September, giving as his reason that he was in disagreement with the rest of the cabinet regarding the Dreyfus case, he being firmly convinced that Dreyfus was guilty. It was popularly understood at the time that Cavagnac had been influenced by the military ring. He was succeeded by Gen. Zurlinden, whereupon it was given out that a revision or review of the Dreyfus case would be ordered. But Gen. Zurlinden disappointed every one, and the order for revision was still withheld. Owing to Zurlinden's defection, the cabinet could not come to a decision. Two explanations of his conduct were suggested, first, that his army friends had influenced him, and, second, that he had discovered the corruption to be so widespread in upper army circles that he feared to let in any light. Zurlinden resigned when the cabinet decided to refer the Dreyfus question to a commission. He explained that he had made an exhaustive study of the case, and was too fully convinced of Dreyfus's guilt to agree, as head of the army, to any other solution than that of the maintenance of the judgment in its entirety. Then Gen. Chanoine came in as minister of war. It was while he held the office that the cabinet, on the 20th of September, decided to order the minister of justice to submit the question of revising the Dreyfus case to the court of cassation for a legal opinion. This decision of the cabinet was opposed, but apparently not by Gen. Chanoine. At any rate he remained in the cabinet until attacked in the chamber of deputies on the 25th, as stated at the beginning of this paragraph. At the conclusion of the speech attacking him, he excitedly re-

plied. Among other things he declared that he was of the same opinion as his predecessors regarding the Dreyfus case. This declaration caused a tumult of cheers and protests that lasted for five minutes. Resuming, Gen. Chanoine exclaimed that he was the guardian of the honor of the army, and then in an outburst of anger shouted: "I place in your hands the trust I received, and I tender my resignation in this tribune." With that he descended from the tribune and left the chamber.

No sooner had Gen. Chanoine abandoned the tribune than M. Brisson, the premier, ascended it. He was greeted with shouts of "resign!" from the conservative side of the chamber, and with cheers from the radical side. M. Brisson explained that Gen. Chanoine's resignation came as a surprise, for the general had been present at the cabinet meeting which agreed to submit the question of revision to the court of cassation and had not then raised any objection. He asserted also that the ministry was fully determined to maintain the supremacy of the civil over the military power. At this point a recess was taken at M. Brisson's request, to enable him to confer with the president as to Gen. Chanoine's resignation; and upon his return and the resumption of the session he reported that a successor to Gen. Chanoine would be appointed. Attempts were then made in the chamber to discuss "military plots," "insults to the army," etc., causing great confusion, and culminating in a motion censuring the ministry for failure to support the army. This motion was lost by 261 to 274 votes. It was immediately followed by a resolution calling upon the ministry to "end the campaign of insult against the army," which the premier refused to entertain. He was overruled by a vote of 243 to 296. To overcome the effect of this adverse vote, a vote of confidence was moved, but M. Brisson's small majority had now disappeared. The vote of confidence failed by 254 to 286. The Brisson government was at an end, and the ministers left the chamber.

After the departure of the ministers, the chamber adopted a resolution affirming the supremacy of the civil over the military power and calling upon the government to end the campaign of slander against the army. It then adjourned until November 4.

The degree of commercial fear which the political crisis has excited, may be inferred from the fact that rates of exchange on London have risen several points above that at which gold exportation receives an impulse. Money and credits are evidently being transferred in a panic from Paris to London.

The excitement over the fall of the French ministry has completely submerged all interest in the possibility of a war between France and England about the occupation of Fashoda on the Nile. Most of this war talk, except what the newspapers worked up, was probably mere diplomatic bluff anyway; but bluff must take on an appearance of genuineness, and the French fleet had been mobilizing at Toulon, while in England there was much said about calling out the reserves and ordering the White Star and Cunard lines of steamers to hold their subsidized vessels in readiness for immediate service. Gen. Kitchener has arrived in Paris. He came in company with Capt. Baratier, who carries dispatches from Maj. Marchand, at Fashoda, to the French government.

There was reason to believe last week that the deliberations of the joint commission sitting at Paris for the preparation of a treaty of peace between Spain and the United States, would soon reach a satisfactory termination. But no progress has since been made. The delays are due to the efforts of the Spanish commissioners to induce the United States to modify the terms of the protocol with reference to the relinquishment by Spain of Cuba. Spain aims as far as possible to cast responsibility for the Spanish-Cuban debt upon Cuba or the United States; but the American commissioners refuse in any way to depart from the terms of the protocol, under which Cuba is to be relinquished unconditionally. Three joint meetings have been held since our last report. The first took place on the 21st. The time then was devoted to the reading by the Spanish commission of arguments in opposition to the American position on the debt question. This meeting lasted two hours and a half, and adjourned to the 24th, when the longest meeting of the series was held, which lasted four hours and three-quarters. Again the sole question under consideration was the Cuban debt, and the American commissioners are

reported to have made a resolute and final refusal to assume any obligations in Cuba arising out of Spanish contract or guaranty. The second joint meeting adjourned till the 25th. At the third meeting, the Spanish commissioners appear to have made some kind of new proposition, the nature of which is variously stated by different reports. What it was has not been authoritatively nor even intelligibly divulged. This meeting adjourned until the following day.

The evacuation of western Cuba has begun. On the 20th 1,500 Spanish regulars embarked at Havana for Spain.

In eastern Cuba Gen. Wood has issued a proclamation as military governor pro tem., whereby he guarantees to the people the rights of assembly, petition, free worship, free speech, free press, open courts, the sanctity of property, and generally all the guarantees of freedom which in this country are secured by bills of rights.

The Cuban assembly held its first session on the 24th, at Santa Cruz del Sur. A majority of the delegates were from the different corps of the Cuban army, one of them being Gen. Garcia. It is reported that the delegates express unqualified gratitude to the United States, but are strongly in favor of an independent Cuban government.

The naval board which was convened for the purpose of reporting upon the engagement in which Cervera's fleet was destroyed, has reported. A report purporting to have emanated from it was published generally some weeks ago, of which an abstract appeared in these columns, but that report proved to be false. According to the true report, now published, which very minutely describes the fight, Com. Schley's vessel was the nearest American vessel to the Colon when the latter surrendered, being three and four-tenths miles away. Sampson's vessel was nine and a half miles away.

This week is notable for the delivery of several startling court decisions, some by the Supreme Court of Illinois and others by the Supreme Court of the United States. One of these decisions holds the "Town of Pullman" business of the Pullman Palace Car Co. to be a legal usurpa-