

Ky., of the American Woman Suffrage Association. [See current volume, page 957.]

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A significant feature of the convention was a strong movement to alter the existing form of representation in the national convention, through State organization exclusively, to representation directly from established local clubs of 50 members or more, so as to maintain the democracy of the national organization. Prominent in this movement are Martha Carey Thomas (president of Bryn Mawr College), Mary Ware Dennett of Boston, and Jessie Ashley of New York. Although strongly supported, the proposal was defeated. Anna Shaw was re-elected president on the 23d by a large majority, receiving 210 out of 266 votes. Jane Addams was elected first vice-president and Sophonisba Breckenridge second vice-president, with Mrs. Robert M. La Follette as auditor. Alice Stone Blackwell was continued as editor of the Woman's Journal. After a sharp contest over a motion to remove the national headquarters from New York to Chicago the Illinois delegation withdrew the motion, and the New York headquarters were retained.

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A Significant Political Departure in New Zealand.

New Zealand newspapers report the resignation from the New Zealand ministry on the 5th of September of George Fowlds, known throughout Australasia as a Singletaxer. Mr. Fowlds, who is a business man of high standing in Auckland, has long been a member of the New Zealand parliament, holding his seat through several successive election contests; and since 1906 he has been an important member of the ministry. The offices he resigned were a seat in the Executive Council—the portfolios of Education, of Immigration, and of Customs—and Minister in Charge of Mental Hospitals and of the Fire Insurance Department. [See vol. ix, pp. 490, 651, 1153; vol. xi, p. 851; current volume, p. 30.]

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Evidently no personal ill-feeling nor any party rupture caused Mr. Fowlds's resignation. The Prime Minister, Sir Joseph Ward, announced it and its acceptance with such assurances to Parliament, and Mr. Fowlds spoke appreciatively of the progressive statutes the Ward ministry had secured. Neither was the resignation caused by any fear on the part of Mr. Fowlds that the Liberal party may be displaced at the next elections by the Opposition. Apparently his sole motive for resigning was to enable him to participate actively and freely in political tendencies more democratic and more timely than any which the Liberal party represents. We quote excerpts from his speech to Parliament in reply to the Prime

Minister's announcement of his resignation, as reported in the mail correspondence of the Otago (New Zealand) Daily Times of September 11:

I have not taken this step on account of any personal difference between the Prime Minister and myself, or between any of my other colleagues and myself. My relations, both personal and official, have been of the most harmonious character with all of them. Our political ideals have been widely divergent on many questions, but these differences have never interfered with our personal relationship, and I can honestly say that it is with deep regret that I have felt impelled to take this serious step. . . . Such actions are usually precipitated by some crucial question marking a fundamental divergence of opinion between a Minister and his colleagues. My reasons are, however, of a more general character.

It is quite true that my action has to some extent been precipitated by a division that took place in Parliament some weeks ago on the Town-planning Bill. The importance of that vote from a constitutional point of view I have already dealt with in the public press. The political significance of it is no less momentous. That a substantial number of members of the Government party should by their votes say that, while they were not prepared to trust the Government as a whole sitting with the Governor-in-Council to do certain important administrative acts, they were prepared to entrust these acts to a board of Government officials, with perhaps one Minister sitting as a member or as chairman, was to my mind symptomatic of a very serious condition of affairs. The action and attitude of the Opposition were perfectly natural, its business being to oppose the Government and to displace it if it can. . . . But the position is entirely different when the Government supporters adopt that attitude. The vote itself was a comparatively trifling affair, and, considering the smallness of the number of members voting, I daresay it might easily have been adjusted, but the condition of which it was symptomatic is much more difficult of adjustment.

The condition, as it appears to me, is one of dissatisfaction and unrest in the party in its relations with its representatives who compose the Government. I have no indication that such dissatisfaction centers itself on me personally, but I have felt it impossible for me to remain a member of a Government which was unable to secure that measure of party loyalty necessary to carry on the government of the country with some degree of dignity and self-respect. I have never been greatly enamoured of party government, but until we have evolved both the machinery and the public spirit necessary to make some other form of government possible, it is essential that the Government should have such support as would enable it to carry out its functions in a reasonably dignified manner. When it is unable to do that its usefulness has gone.

When I entered public life I did so for the attainment of ideals, and not with the object of attaining and maintaining place and power. The call to Ministerial rank came entirely unsolicited either by me or for me, and I accepted it in a spirit of service, willing and anxious at any time to step aside if I felt that I could do better for my country out of

office than I could in office. That conviction has now come to me, and has dictated the step I have taken.

When I joined the Government which Sir Joseph Ward formed in August, 1906, I did so with the full knowledge that only small progress would be made in the direction of many great reforms I had advocated as a private member, and in that respect I have not been greatly disappointed. I joined in the belief that I could render the country some useful service in the direction of honest and efficient administration, and that my presence in the Government, if it did not greatly help along reforms in which I was interested, would certainly not seriously hinder them. . . . I don't go out to form any new political cult. I believe in the principle of Liberalism. . . .

But the times in which we live demand a new evangel, a gospel which I have felt I could not preach as a member of the present Government, and so I have decided for freedom, in order that I might express my whole soul to the people of New Zealand.

Everywhere throughout the civilized world to-day we see a spirit of unrest amongst the masses of the people, an unrest, let me say, which is justified by the social conditions in which the great masses of the people live, and an unrest which will not be quieted until the condition of social justice has been established. If I can succeed to any great extent in moulding this rising tide of new democracy into what I believe to be the right channels, then I shall feel more than repaid for what appears like a present sacrifice.

I go out under no illusions regarding the difficulties and dangers that lie before me. Many people will judge me foolish. Some may even consider me wicked. In the future, as in the past, I shall endeavor to satisfy myself that my course is the right one, that my actions are dictated not by the hope of private advantage or preference, but by motives of public benefit. . . . Whenever a truly democratic party arises in this country, a party pledged to definite principles, principles which it believes in and which it is prepared to fight for, it shall have my whole-souled support; and if it should become numerous enough to enable it to form a Government, and invites me to join, my services will be available. In the meantime, I believe I can best serve the country as a private member.

In a newspaper explanation in the New Zealand Times of his meaning regarding the words "a new evangel" in his speech, Mr. Fowlds said:

I am not prepared at present to elaborate any cut and dried platform, but I consider one of the most urgent things to be done is to make a serious effort to reduce the cost of living; and, in my judgment, this can best be done by increasing the taxation on land values and using the proceeds of the tax first to abolish duties on the necessaries of life, and, secondly, to reduce railway freights in order to bring the produce of the country to the consumer more cheaply. I have held strongly to the belief that one of the most urgent constitutional reforms was the adoption of proportional representation, and that many of the evils that New Zealand suffers from today can only be remedied by that system of representation.

At a meeting of the Dunedin branch of the Labor party on the 5th of September the following motion was carried:

This branch desires to offer to the Hon. G. Fowlds sincere congratulations for the position he has taken up in separating himself from the Ministry, and to record its entire appreciation of the reason for the step taken, and wishes him many years of successful political work in the future.

NEWS NOTES

—John R. Walsh died at his home in Chicago on the 23d, at the age of 74 years. [See current volume, page 1078.]

—A rearrangement of the British Cabinet on the 23d transfers Winston Churchill from the Home department to the naval.

—George E. Vincent was installed on the 18th as president of the State university of Minnesota. [See vol. xiii, p. 1214.]

—At the Republican State convention of Rhode Island, Aram J. Pothier was re-nominated for Governor, and President Taft's administration and the Protective tariff were endorsed.

—The Singletaxers of Cleveland have begun an "acquaintance campaign" through an informal luncheon club, of which J. K. Dorn, Virgil Allen, J. B. Vining and Carl D. Friebolin are the instigators.

—Peter S. Grosscup, Circuit Judge of the United States for the Seventh Judicial District, which includes Chicago, resigned on the 21st, his resignation to take effect on the 23rd. [See current volume, p. 997.]

—Canada's population by the census of 1911, according to a statement made by the Census Director on the 17th, is about 7,100,000. The Director says this will be slightly increased when delayed returns are received.

—President Taft's campaigning tour took him last week from Los Angeles to Butte, Montana. Arriving in Butte on the 18th he left the same day. On the 20th he spoke at Newcastle, Wyoming; on the 21st at Deadwood, South Dakota, and on the 23rd at Aberdeen, Kansas. [See current volume, page 1078.]

—After a five years' fight, the women teachers in the public schools of New York have won equal pay with men in all grades, Mayor Gaynor having on the 19th signed the equal pay bill and Gov. Dix having already made it known that if the Mayor accepted the bill he also would sign it. [See current volume, page 350.]

—At the time of the British Conference at Glasgow, on land value taxation, the Corporation of the City of Glasgow gave an official reception at the City Chamber to the Scottish League and the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values. This is probably the first occasion anywhere in the world of an official reception, by a municipality, to delegates to a Single-tax gathering. [See current volume, page 1030.]

—The Italian invasion of Tripoli has encountered resistance in the rich eastern province of Cyrenaica,