

in the Forbidden City, and later the Imperial family shall reside in the summer palace, ten miles outside of Peking.

Fourth—The Emperor may observe the sacrifices at his ancestral tombs and temples, which will be protected by Republican soldiers.

Fifth—The great tomb of the late Emperor, Kwang-Su, will be completed and the funeral ceremony fittingly observed at the Republic's expense.

Sixth—The palace attendants may be retained, but the number of eunuchs cannot be increased.

Seventh—The Emperor's property will be protected by the Republic.

Eighth—The imperial guards will be governed by the army board, the Republic paying their salaries.

A point of contention, as to whether the Throne shall be perpetuated or will terminate with the death of the present Emperor, is not mentioned. Pledges are given by the Republicans for the protection of the nobility. Mongols, Manchus, Mohammedans and Tibetans are promised by the Republicans that they shall have rights and privileges similar to the Chinese. The Manchus' pensions are to continue until the state finds employment for them. Restrictions of occupations and dwelling locations will be abolished, and religious liberty is to be accorded.



The Throne's final edicts were signed by only one cabinet minister besides Yuan Shi Kai, which indicated that five cabinet places were vacant. It is expected that several, if not all of these places will be filled by leading Republican officials, thus creating a coalition government from the late Imperial group at Peking, led by Yuan Shi Kai, and the Republican group at Nanking, led by President Sun Yat Sen. [See current volume, page 132.]



Elections in New Zealand.

The "second ballots" in the New Zealand elections have left the Liberal ministry, which has been in power nearly twenty years, with an almost vanished majority. The figures as reported by New Zealand papers are:

Government	31	Independent	5
Opposition	37	Labor	4

On a vote of "no confidence" most of the Labor and Independent members will, it is expected, support the Liberals; but it is generally admitted that no ministry will be able to command a working majority.



One of the big surprises of the elections was the defeat of the Hon. George Fowlds, in Grey Lynn, by a Socialist candidate who was second at the first ballot. With the help of the Opposition, he was elected at the second ballot by a margin of 31 votes in a poll of over 6,000. The absolute ma-

jority system of voting, which made second ballots necessary in 30 constituencies, seems to have caused a good deal of dissatisfaction on both sides. Speaking after the elections, Mr. Fowlds said: "If the new parliament could only unite to pass into law a proportional system of representation, and then dissolve, it would make itself memorable in the history of New Zealand." In a more general discussion of the political situation, Mr. Fowlds is reported as saying:

The condition of parties gives one no hope of a stable government, except by means of political deals and intrigues which would be dangerous to the country. Personally, I am neither sad nor downhearted at the result of my own election contest, nor at the result of the elections generally. I intend to join at once with others in organizing a real Labour-Liberal party on the democratic basis.



On the question of national prohibition 255,262 votes were polled in the affirmative and 203,201 in the negative. At the first elections more interest was taken in the prohibition issue than in the election of members of the House of Representatives. One of our correspondents reports that an increase in the tax on land values was advocated by a larger number of candidates than ever before.



Socialism in the German Reichstag.

A trial of Socialist strength occurred on the 9th in the German Reichstag at Berlin over the election of the president of that body. August Bebel, Socialist leader, received 175 votes—65 more than the strength of his party, and was defeated by only 21 votes, his successful adversary being Dr. Peter Spahn, leader of the Centrists (Catholic). The first vice-presidency actually went to a Socialist, Philipp Scheideman, who received 188 to only 174 for the Conservative candidate, Christian Dietrich. Dr. Hermann S. Paasche, National Liberal leader, was elected second vice-president. It was reported on the 9th that the president had said he would resign in consequence of the election of a Socialist as vice-president, but this report has not been verified.



Home Rule for Ireland.

At a large public meeting in Belfast, Ireland, on the 8th, Winston Churchill, of the British ministry, outlined the Ministerial plans for home rule in Ireland. Belfast is a city in Ulster, the heart of that Conservative Ireland where old religious and Orange animosities survive with bitterness; and it was currently reported that Mr. Churchill would be mobbed if he appeared. A spectacular touch was given the affair by quotations from Churchill's father, who in a speech in Belfast against the Gladstone home rule measure of a

quarter of a century ago, said: "Ulster will fight and Ulster will be right." [See vol. xiv, pp. 396, 418, 866.]



Mr. Churchill was equal to the occasion. With his wife he appeared in Belfast at the appointed time, and in spite of disorderly manifestations and bad weather he delivered his message effectively to a mass of people, 6,000 in estimated number, in a large and crowded tent on the foot-ball grounds. Mr. Churchill began with a declaration that the Ministry intend to pass a home-rule bill for Ireland "of a character to be harmonious with Imperial interests, to smooth the path of the British Empire, to liberate new forces for its service, and forever to do away with the machinery by which hatred has been manufactured in the past." This bill, he explained, "will fit into a general scheme of Parliamentary devolution leading ultimately to the federation of the Empire," which, he added, is "the only way to free the House of Commons from its present congestion." He said he considered it vitally necessary for England to learn how to combine the fullest expressions of national and local aspirations and activities with the strongest frame-work of Imperial unity. Home rule for Ireland, he regarded as the first milestone along the road to the eventual unity of the English-speaking races.



As the cable reports Mr. Churchill as outlining the intended home rule bill on Ireland, it is to present these features: (1) The Privy Council will be able to declare void any local law which goes beyond the limits of the home rule bill; (2) financial clauses will give a fair start to the local Irish government, and no insidious taxes can be placed upon Ulster; (3) the Irish parliament will have real control of local finances, but the system used must be consistent with the financial system of the United Kingdom; (4) the Imperial government will continue to carry out the land purchase and old-age pensions schemes, and (5) Irish representation in the Imperial parliament will be reduced, religious freedom will be secured, and the military will be controlled by the Imperial government. Mr. Churchill assured his audience that the Ministry is prepared to fight the bill through Parliament, and concluded with a plea for fair play from the Conservatives. When interrupted in his speech with the question, "What about votes for Irish women?" Mr. Churchill replied: "That question will have to be settled by the new Irish parliament."



John Redmond, who followed Mr. Churchill in a brief speech, is reported to have said that after thirty years' service in the home-rule cause he would not have been absent from the meeting for

any earthly reason. He added that on behalf of the Irish Nationalist party he accepted the proposals of the Ministry as voiced by Mr. Churchill, an announcement that was greeted by a tremendous outburst of cheering.



Taxation in British Columbia.

An examination of the report of the Royal Commission of British Columbia on taxation in that Province of Canada, shows it to be an unusually important public document on fiscal affairs. [See current volume, pages 109, 161.]



Following is the personnel of the Commission: Hon. Price Ellison (minister of finance), chairman; Hon. A. E. McPhillips, K. C. (president of the Council); C. H. Lugin, Esq., of the city of Victoria, and W. H. Malkin, Esq., of the city of Vancouver. They were assisted by Dr. H. B. Gray (M. A., Oxon) who acted as secretary, and by Mr. F. M. Ward as stenographer. The Commission sat four days in Victoria, four days in Vancouver, and one day each in eighteen other places. Sworn testimony was given by 164 witnesses, and the Commissioners gained information also from government officials and incidentally from other individuals during their travels.



In their report the Commission consider extensively, both in theory and as to practical operation, a variety of taxes in use in British Columbia, and make recommendations regarding them. Reviewing the *poll tax* historically and economically, they recommend its abolition. They make the same recommendation regarding the *personal property tax*. Of the *income tax*, they report that it is generally regarded as the fairest; but they recommend (1) the raising of exemptions from \$1,000 incomes to \$1,500, (2) the abolition of exemptions between \$11,500 and \$50,000, (3) abolition of exemptions above \$50,000 and imposition of a super-tax of 5 per cent on the excess above that income, and (4) exemptions on \$200 of certain classes of income for each child under 18 in families. Regarding *bank taxes* the Commission recommend an additional tax of 1-15 of 1 per cent; and with reference to *succession and probate taxes*, they suggest a graduated increase on estates of more than \$100,000. It is to *land taxes* that the report is chiefly devoted and most important.



Land taxes are classified by the Commission with reference to the kinds of taxation recommended. Of *land taxes generally* the report examines them at length in their historic and economic aspects, and sets forth the arguments for