

promise with the House of Lords on the Birrell land bill for Ireland (pp. 1094, 1139) was adopted over the opposition of the Irish members, who hotly denounced the Lords for demanding and Mr. Birrell for assenting to the alterations.



Just Taxation in Cleveland.

The movement for just taxation in Cleveland, resulting from the election to the board of tax appraisers there of three Henry George Democrats and one Democrat who sympathizes with their purpose, in a total of five members (p. 1089), is taking on practical form. The board has been organized with Arthur C. May as president and John A. Zangerle as secretary, and has employed W. A. Somers, the land value expert, to assist in establishing valuations such as those produced with Mr. Somers' aid under Lawson Purdy, president of the Tax Department of New York City (vol. ix, p. 769; vol. x, pp. 251, 505, 529; vol. xi, p. 569; vol. xii, pp. 674, 987). Under the Somers system a few lots 25x100 feet are laid off on maps for each square and valued individually. With this basis a mathematical calculation gives the value of all the neighboring lots, allowing also for differences in area. Experience has demonstrated the approximate accuracy of the method. Valuations of the lots to serve as bases for calculation are now being made, and the board is unanimous as to the usefulness of the plan it is carrying out. On the 29th it decided that in capitalizing ground rents it would regard 5 per cent as the earning power of the land—a 20-year-purchase basis.



Status of the Gompers Case.

Proceedings were begun on the 27th to bring the Gompers-Morrison-Mitchell case (pp. 1116, 1117) before the Supreme Court of the United States for final adjudication. This was done by applying to the Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari to bring before that court the record of the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia. The hearing on this application took place on the 29th, Alton B. Parker representing the defendants. The plaintiffs announced that they would not oppose issuing the writ, and the court took the application under advisement. If granted, the argument will come on in due course; if denied, remedy in the courts will have been exhausted. In its decision the Supreme Court will not pass upon any of the details of the case, no matter how much in error the lower court may have been. It will pass upon no question but the legal power of the court below. If it finds that the court below had the legal power to pass judgment at all, it will refuse to interfere. If in doubt or divided on this point, it will probably grant the writ of certiorari, in which case a considerable time may elapse before it makes a final decision; but if it is clear that the lower

court had the legal power to decide, it will probably refuse to issue the writ, and in that case these labor leaders will be at once imprisoned.



In the event of the imprisonment of Gompers, Morrison and Mitchell, the labor organizations of the country are expected to protest by dropping work on the day on which the imprisonment begins. This plan was proposed, according to the Chicago Record-Herald of the 25th, by Mrs. Raymond Robins upon her return from the convention of the Federation of Labor at Toronto (p. 1137), to which she was a delegate. In explanation, the Record-Herald report says that—

on her return yesterday from the recent convention of the American Federation of Labor at Toronto Mrs. Robins began her campaign for a "day of protest," which, in effect, will be a general strike for one day. At a meeting of the executive board of the Chicago Women's Trade Union League Mrs. Robins laid her plans before her colleagues and found a ready response. Later prominent officials of labor organizations indorsed the idea and will work to bring about its accomplishment. It is an educational campaign that Mrs. Robins is advocating—something, she said, that will bring it home forcibly to the workers that the courts are taking from them their inherent rights. "On the Fourth of July," said Mrs. Robins, "the workers of the country cease work and celebrate our independence as a nation. My idea is that a day should be set aside on which all the workers, except those engaged in works of necessity or mercy, should cease work and hold mass meetings of protest against the usurpation of power by the courts. Prominent speakers at these meetings should read the Constitution of the United States in various languages, especially defining the rights of citizens to free speech and free press. It is a campaign of education that I propose and not a general strike. A strike means a revolt against the oppression of immediate employers. In this case workers might be on the friendliest terms with their immediate employers and still should raise their voices in protest against the flching of their rights by the courts, for that is what it means. It would be useless to set this day of protest on a holiday or a Sunday. It must be on a workday, so that in ceasing work the idea will be brought home to every worker. I wish to see the thing started in time so that all the unions throughout the country may have time to think it over. It would not necessarily have to be on the very day that Mr. Gompers and his associates go to jail, although that day would be preferable. It would have the same effect on any other day, provided it was general in all parts of the country. I know that many of the men prominent in organized labor circles throughout the country are in sympathy with the idea. It would prove a demonstration that would arouse the people from their lethargy and show them how their liberties are being gradually taken from them by the courts. I intend taking it up at once with our national executive board and having it agitated in every city where we have a local branch. I believe it can be successfully