

China Rejects the Terms of the Foreign Loan.

Advices were received on the 25th, by the department of state at Washington, that China had rejected the \$300,000,000 loan from the banking group of the six Powers, reported last week, probably because of the stipulation for foreign supervision of its expenditure. The proposal for foreign administration of the salt monopoly also had been declined. Four officers of Tang Shao Yi's ministry had offered their resignations. [See current volume, page 611.]



Labor Politics in New Zealand.

Pursuant to his public promise upon resigning from the New Zealand cabinet last September, that "whenever a truly democratic party arises in New Zealand—a party pledged to definite principles, principles which it believes in, and which it is prepared to fight for," it should have his whole-souled support, George Fowlds has joined the recently organized United Labour Party of that country. [See current volume, page 420.]



Speaking at the first meeting of the new party in Auckland on the 27th of April, Mr. Fowlds recalled his promise, explained that he had waited for 20 or 30 years for a truly progressive party, and argued that if the Liberal Party had been true to its traditions a new party would never have been necessary. At another meeting in Auckland, that of the Land Values League, he announced on the 3rd of May that he was about to undertake forthwith an active campaign on behalf of the United Labour Party. Accordingly he opened a Dominion-wide speaking campaign on the 9th of May at Dunedin.



Along with Mr. Fowlds are several leaders in the New Zealand movement for the taxation of land values; and one of them, David McLaren, has just been elected Mayor of Wellington as the United Labour candidate. The branches of Land Values League are joining the party as the result of a conference held at Wellington in Easter week, at which, as stated by the Auckland branch in resolutions of affiliation, a prominent position was "accorded to the taxation of land values in the program of the United Labour Party," as well as to "many other fundamental reforms which in the past have been advocated by members of the Land Values League." All the proposals of Mr. Fowlds's "new evangel" have been embodied in that program. They comprise—

Proportional representation on single transferable vote.

The Initiative, Referendum and Recall on proper petition and by bare majority.

The right of the people to decide all questions submitted on a bare majority vote.

A land system which shall bring into the most productive use, either by individual undertakings or by public enterprise, all natural resources; shall make absentee ownership and private monopoly in land impossible; shall secure to the land-holder all the values created by him and those only (all such values to be exempt from all taxation); and shall secure to the public in an annual tax all values created by the public.

Increased taxation of land values, the revenue so raised to be used to reduce the cost of living by the reduction of Custom taxes on the necessities of life not produced in New Zealand and by the reduction of railway freights and fares.

For municipal purposes the platform includes demands for—

Municipalization of public utilities.

Assessment of all rates on the unimproved value of land, with special provision for increment land-taxation for civic purposes.



The new party grows out of proposals made last August for securing the industrial and political union of all the Labor organizations of New Zealand, which proposals were reported to have been endorsed by more than 30,000 trades unionists. Unity Conference was accordingly held at Wellington during Easter week of this year, which over 70 delegates attended and from which the constitution and the platform quoted from above emanated. Both were endorsed by the annual conferences of the Trades and Labour Councils' Federation of Labour and by the Labour Party, those organizations thereby affiliating with the United Labour Party. The Executive Council of the new party are—

J. T. Paul, M. L. C., President; T. O'Byrne (Affiliated Building Workers); W. A. Veitch, M. P. (Affiliated Transportation Workers); J. Petterd (Affiliated Printing Trades); J. Robertson, M. P. (Affiliated Agricultural and Pastoral Workers); G. R. Whiting (Affiliated Boot, Textile, and Clothing Trade Workers); J. A. McCullough (Affiliated Wood and Metal Workers); E. Tregear (Affiliated Commercial Workers); Arthur Withy (Affiliated Professional Workers); E. J. Carey (Affiliated Food Workers); Mrs. Harrison Lee-Cowie (Affiliated Women Workers); J. E. McManus (Affiliated General Workers), and David McLaren (Affiliated Radical and Progressive Associations). Walter Thomas Mills is the national organizer, and A. McCarthy is the Secretary-Treasurer.

NEWS NOTES

—The Congressional inquiry into the case of Judge Hanford began at Seattle on the 27th. [See current volume, page 565.]

—The State legislature of Louisiana on the 29th