

shape in which it left this House, is a gross violation of Constitutional liberty by which, among other consequences, the people will be precluded from again pronouncing upon the policy of home rule.

[See current volume, page 776.]

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Intense excitement prevailed in the House as Mr. Balfour arose on the 7th to speak in support of his motion. He charged the Ministry with having "acted wholly without precedent," and not "in order to meet any great question of state," but "in order to further a party arrangement between different sections who support them, and in order to prevent the people of the country from pronouncing their opinion on home rule." Mr. Balfour laid special emphasis upon his statement that the Ministry had placed the King in a cruel position by exacting a promise from him to "swamp the House of Lords" when he had just come to the throne.

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Mr. Asquith, on rising to reply as Prime Minister, was received with enthusiastic demonstrations. He is described by the dispatches as appearing in his best form. Beginning with taunting thanks to the Opposition for "this opportunity though unexpected motion," the "very thing that the Ministry wanted," Mr. Asquith laid bare—with the King's approval, as he explained—the whole story of the guarantees he had obtained from the King for "swamping the House of Lords." He had not begun with a king just come to the throne; but as early as April 14, 1910, he had advised King Edward that the only method of dealing with the situation the Lords had raised and the Tories were supporting was through the use of the Royal prerogative of appointing lords. He had already told in his speech of his hope and belief that the House of Lords would obviate the unpleasant necessity by accepting the Lords' veto bill, and that "only when that hope was frustrated, as it was last month [by the final action of the House of Lords] was His Majesty asked—and consented if it was necessary—to exercise his prerogative" of appointing enough new lords favorable to the measure to secure its enactment. The democratic spirit of the Ministry came clearly to the surface when Mr. Asquith said:

We took the only course consistent with honor and a true regard for the dignity of the Crown. The course was correct, considerate and Constitutional, and in my own name and in those of my colleagues I am perfectly content to accept the decision of the House and of my fellow countrymen in regard thereto. I have served three Sovereigns, and have always been an upholder of the dignity and just privileges of the Crown. But I will hold office not only with the favor of the Crown but with the confidence of the people. I would be guilty of treason at the

supreme moment of the struggle if I betrayed their trust.

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When Mr. Balfour's motion came to a vote, it was defeated by 365 to 246—a majority of 119 in a House of 611 and out of a total membership of 670.

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The Haytian Revolution Succeeds.

President Antoine Simon of the French Negro Republic of Hayti in the West Indies, fled from the capital city of Port au Prince on the 2nd, taking refuge on the sole Haytian warship, "The 17th of December" (named for the day on which President Simon was elected in 1908). Port au Prince was left to two revolutionary parties and such committees of safety as the diplomatic corps could provide. English and German marines were landed from ships of their respective nations, for the preservation of order. The American minister, Mr. H. W. Furniss, not approving of the use of foreign armed forces, made no call for American marines. On the 4th the ex-President sailed for Jamaica. The two revolutionary parties, each straining for control, are headed respectively by General Cincinnatus Leconte, a former minister of the interior, and by General Antenor Firmin, who deserted his post as Haytian minister to Great Britain, to join the revolt against President Simon. On the 6th General Leconte's army entered Port au Prince and immediately proclaimed their leader as President. The American minister had gone outside of the city previous to the entry, and warned the victorious army that if public order was disturbed he would cause American marines to be landed to keep the peace. The troops advanced in good order and occupied all the stations in the city, dislodging therefrom the supporters of General Antenor Firmin, who marched out without any show of resistance. Later General Leconte made triumphal entry into the capital and was acclaimed by the populace. On the day following General Firmin arrived by steamer, and upon the order of General Leconte was permitted to come ashore. Arrangements are being made for a joint session of the Senate and Chamber of Communes to meet as a national assembly for the election of a president in succession to President Simon, this election by joint session being the constitutional method by which Hayti elects her presidents. [See current volume, page 806.]

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Land-Value Taxation in Texas.

When J. J. Pastoriza, the Singletaxer, was elected one of the Commissioners of Houston, Texas, it was not supposed that he could do more than promote "good government" in the superficial

sense, but events are dispelling that idea. [See current volume, pages 230, 242, 400.]

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As chairman in the Commission of the board of appraisers, Commissioner Pastoriza has added \$12,000,000 to the valuations of Houston, without increasing the values of buildings or personal property and without adding a penny's tax to a single home in the wage-workers' section of the city. So it is reported by the Galveston News, as quoted by the Fairhope Courier of July 28. In this report Mr. Pastoriza explains that—

"Inasmuch as it is the established custom or policy of this city to assess buildings and personal property at a lower valuation than land it was realized that we could secure but little increase from that source, so had to look for said increase almost wholly to land values and franchises, which are in their very nature land values." An investigation showed that there had been an especial increase in land values in the downtown district, since the last assessment was made, while the increase had been quite small in the residence sections. Mr. Pastoriza wisely began the revaluation of land in that section and carried it as far as the time at his disposal permitted. Mr. Pastoriza expressed his regret that time did not permit the completion of the work but he promised if the commissioners desired the work to be proceeded with by him to devote the next year and a half to it.

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The Singletax at Seattle.

News dispatches of the 1st from Seattle report action by the City Council in the direction of the Singletax, to which, according to these dispatches as published by the Kansas City Times of the 2d, "five members of the City Council are pledged." The reported action is an ordinance adopted on the 1st, which abolishes fees for building-permits. Special significance is attached to this mild application of the Singletax doctrine of removing tax burdens from industry, because, when opponents of this measure argued that consistency would demand abolition of fees for plumbing, and for electrical and other inspection, the Singletaxers in the Council promised to take such action. Following the passage of the free building-permit ordinance, a resolution was introduced and referred to committee which provides that the Council consider submitting at the next general election a charter amendment exempting building improvements on real estate in whole or in part, from all municipal taxation. [See current volume, page 604.]

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Something New in Labor Injunctions.

A labor injunction has been granted in Des Moines, Iowa, which looks somewhat like an adaptation of the labor-injunction idea to the service

of striking employes rather than to strike-breaking employers.

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The strike in question was started against the Des Moines City Railway company over a question involving the arbitrary discharge of a union conductor. J. R. Harrigan, general manager, imported a large body of professional strikebreakers from Chicago. As soon as they began arriving, August 2d, the strike extended from streetcar men to workers in other lines of employment. For instance, at the hotel at which 74 strikebreakers were housed, the waiters struck, and the proprietor required the strikebreakers to seek entertainment elsewhere. By the 5th the tie-up of the lines was complete, and public sentiment against the imported strikebreakers had extended far beyond the ranks of the strikers. In the Des Moines news dispatches, obviously inspired by the traction interests, it is easy to read that the violent features of the strike were due not so much, if at all, to labor warfare as to local resentment at the importation of organized rioters and riot provokers. There was little or no car service on the 5th and 6th; but late on the 6th the new kind of injunction began to operate.

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Judge De Graff, of the District Court, issued the injunction. It was based upon the company's obligations to the public and a contract between the company and its regular employes. The company had discharged a conductor, Benjamin J. Hiatt, nominally for dishonesty, but really, as the men contended, for reasons hostile to their organization and their contract. Although they offered to arbitrate the dispute, the company "had nothing to arbitrate." But the court ordered the dispute to trial, Conductor Hiatt to hold his place in the interim, and both parties to resume service, the men because they are under contract obligations to the company and the company because it is under contract obligations to the city.

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The first conductor to take out a car on the 6th, at the close of the strike, was Conductor Hiatt. Strike leaders express themselves as well satisfied with the situation. The imported strike-breakers returned at once to Chicago.

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The Cotton Tariff.

By an enormous majority, 202 to 91, the bill revising cotton duties passed the House on the 3d. It cuts the average of duties on manufactured cotton goods from 48 to 27 per cent ad valorem. This is the third tariff-revision measure to pass the House, the other two being the wool tariff reduction bill and the "farmers' free list" bill. [See current volume, page 803.]