

States, our dependencies and foreign governments; and may deal in gold coin or bullion, and make loans thereon and contract for loans thereof.

Reserves of 50 per cent of its demand liabilities must be kept by the Association in gold or other lawful money, the penalties for deficiency of reserve being a tax at the rate of 1½ per cent per annum for each 2½ per cent of deficiency.

Reports of the Association are to be made to the Comptroller of the currency and published.

Provisions are made for substituting Association currency for national bank currency and for adding to the amount thereof, the currency of the Association to be secured, to the extent of one-third its volume, by gold or other lawful money; of the other two-thirds, by bankable commercial paper.

For a currency volume exceeding \$900,000,000 the excess must be secured by 100 per cent of lawful money under pain of a tax at the rate of 1½ per cent per annum up to \$300,000,000 excess and a 5 per cent tax on any excess above \$1,200,000,000. This currency is to "be received at par in payment" of all public obligations, except gold obligations. Currency must be sent by the Association to any depositing banks "against its credit balance."

The Association may purchase from the banks "the 2 per cent bonds bearing the circulation privilege" and may compel the government to redeem them with 50-year "3 per cent bonds without the circulation privilege," paying a tax of 1½ per cent annually "upon an amount equal to the par value of such bonds transferred to it by the subscribing banks." After five years the Secretary of the Treasury may permit the Association to sell not more than "\$50,000,000 of such bonds annually," the government reserving the right "at any time to pay any of such bonds before maturity or to purchase any of them at par." The stated object of this provision is "to enable the United States to provide permanently for a large part of the public debt at a net interest charge of 1½ per cent."

* *

Ontario Politics.

N. W. Rowell, the new Liberal leader in Ontario, issued the Liberal campaign platform on the 6th in which it is declared that

social justice demands the removal of existing inequalities in taxation, and we propose the amendment of the Assessment Act to permit municipalities to exempt improvements from taxation either in whole or in part. . . . We believe in and will support the public ownership and operation of public utilities, and especially the utilization of waterpowers throughout the Province for the generation and distribution of electricity; also the acquisition and operation of telephone lines.

[See current volume, page 1143.]

* *

Balfour's Resignation of Leadership.

A. J. Balfour was reported on the 8th as having resigned leadership of the Conservative (Tory) party of Great Britain, ostensibly on account of poor health but probably as much on account of a campaign within the party against his further

leadership on the ground that he opposes "tariff reform," the British name for what Americans call "Protection." The resignation was made in person at a meeting of the Conservative Association of the City of London, which represents the business section of old London, from which Mr. Balfour goes to Parliament through the votes of non-resident landowners and their dependents. Later dispatches name Andrew Bonar Law, a native of Canada, who has never held ministerial office, but who is a pronounced protectionist, as Balfour's successor in Tory leadership.

* *

Adult Suffrage in Great Britain.

Announcing the Ministerial measures to be proposed immediately after the Christmas holidays, Mr. Asquith stated in the House of Commons on the 7th that a bill for manhood suffrage and the abolition of plural voting will be introduced early by the Ministry. This is in accordance, as he explained, with the pledges of the party in power. Questioned by a deputation of members favoring woman suffrage, he said that the bill as agreed upon by the Ministry, and to be by them presented officially, would not include woman suffrage, but would nevertheless be drawn in such form that the House can make it include women as well as men if a majority so desire. Efforts to make it appear that the woman suffragists of Great Britain resent this action of the Ministry, demanding the "conciliation bill" which is limited in its provisions, are not yet reported as having shown signs of vitality. [See current volume, pages 440, 583.]

* *

Land Values Taxation in Great Britain.

The Parliamentary Bills Committee of the Glasgow Town Council have undertaken to produce evidence officially before the Lloyd-George committee of Parliament, in support of the land values taxation policy declared in September by the Glasgow Conference as reported in *The Public* of September 15th at page 956, and in *The Public* of October 6th at page 1030. The general municipal agitation for this policy which spread over Great Britain and culminated in the George budget of 1909 began in the Glasgow Council, but was stopped in 1906 by a judicial decision to the effect that the City could not spend public money to promote land values taxation. [See current volume, page 327.]

* *

The Singletax in South Africa.

London news dispatches of the 27th from Johannesburg, South Africa, tell of remarkable Labor victories in the municipal elections on the 26th. In Johannesburg the Labor party, with its non-Labor sympathizers, has a clear majority in the Municipal Council. According to these dis-