

I can never learn New York dialect. Wanting to go to Chinatown, I asked a subway agent at what station to get off. "Woyt st." he replied. "White st.?" I inquired. "Woyt—Woyt st.," he insisted. My better half, being quick at analysis and knowing the stations, suggested "Worth st.," which was correct, but I was left in a state of stupid amazement.

C. F. HUNT.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, October 24, 1911.

The Chinese Revolution.

The fighting before Hankow, imminent last week, after a two days' battle left the situation to the revolutionists, and by the 20th the Imperial troops were reported to be in rapid retreat northward along the railway line to Peking. The Imperial fleet of twelve warships in the Yangtse opposite Hankow and Wu-Chang, shattered by the insurgent batteries, had steamed away down the river. One vessel was sunk by its crew which deserted to the enemy. The troops which were being rushed from Peking to support the Imperial vanguard, were halted on the way, as the men refused to make front against the insurgents. A further defeat of 20,000 Imperial troops at Kwang-Shui, in the mountain passes north of Hankow on the lines of the Hankow-Peking railway, was reported on the 22d. The Peling mountains cross China from west to east between the central provinces where the revolution is rife, and the northern provinces in which the Manchus are more numerous, and where is the capital city of Peking. The revolutionists claim to control a large number of the mountain passes, and they appear to be dominant in a large part of the Yangtse valley. The Imperial government admits the loss of the important city of I-Chang, above Hankow, and of Hwangchau, fifty miles below Hankow. Changsha and Nanchang, provincial capitals, south and southeast of Hankow, respectively, were reported as being in the hands of the revolutionists on the 23d. Changsha is a city of 300,000 population, on the railroad between Hankow and Canton. Dispatches of the 23d also stated that the revolutionary spirit had spread to the northern provinces. [See current volume, page 1075.]

Early in the revolution came reports of the slaughter of Manchus—men, women and children—in Hankow and other places by mobs in sympathy with the revolution. The slaughter began

in Hankow and Wu-Chang when it was learned that Imperial troops were approaching the city. It is said that the Manchus were singled out by their pronunciation of the Chinese word for "six" which the Manchus pronounce slightly different from the Chinese. The revolutionists are requiring that all queues should be cut off. The greatest care is being taken by the revolutionists that no foreigners shall receive injury to life or property, fearing that if this should happen the foreign powers might support the Imperial government against them, or might allow Japan to interfere on the pretext of producing order.

The Chinese National Assembly (or Imperial Senate), dismissed last January, was opened for its second session on the 22d, by Prince Shih-To in place of the Prince Regent. The Prince urged the members to turn the knowledge and experience which they had gained at the first session, to account, in order to assure the well being of the nation and to give expression to the wishes of the people. No mention was made of the revolution. [See current volume, pages 61, 84, 295, 318.]

The flag of the new "Republic of China" was displayed in New York on the 22d at a public meeting of 500 Chinese held under the auspices of the New York branch of the Young China Association. It is red with a blue field similar to that of the American flag, and in place of the stars has a white sun. There also was a "Union Jack," all blue, with a white sun in the center.

The Fight for La Follette.

Following their conference of last week at Chicago the Progressive Republicans launched the La Follette campaign within the Republican party at a mass meeting on the 17th in Orchestra Hall. The auditorium was crowded. Speeches were made by Senator Clapp of Minnesota, Senator Crawford of South Dakota, Charles E. Merriam of Illinois and George L. Record of New Jersey. State Senator Walter Clyde Jones, the Progressive Republican candidate for Governor of Illinois, who presided, gave the impersonal key note of the meeting in his demand for the Initiative and the Referendum and the election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people. Headquarters are to be opened at New York and Chicago. [See current volume, page 1077.]

National Convention of Woman Suffragists.

In consequence of the woman suffrage victory in California, exceptional importance attached to the forty-third annual convention at Louisville,

Ky., of the American Woman Suffrage Association. [See current volume, page 957.]

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A significant feature of the convention was a strong movement to alter the existing form of representation in the national convention, through State organization exclusively, to representation directly from established local clubs of 50 members or more, so as to maintain the democracy of the national organization. Prominent in this movement are Martha Carey Thomas (president of Bryn Mawr College), Mary Ware Dennett of Boston, and Jessie Ashley of New York. Although strongly supported, the proposal was defeated. Anna Shaw was re-elected president on the 23d by a large majority, receiving 210 out of 266 votes. Jane Addams was elected first vice-president and Sophonisba Breckenridge second vice-president, with Mrs. Robert M. La Follette as auditor. Alice Stone Blackwell was continued as editor of the Woman's Journal. After a sharp contest over a motion to remove the national headquarters from New York to Chicago the Illinois delegation withdrew the motion, and the New York headquarters were retained.

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A Significant Political Departure in New Zealand.

New Zealand newspapers report the resignation from the New Zealand ministry on the 5th of September of George Fowlds, known throughout Australasia as a Singletaxer. Mr. Fowlds, who is a business man of high standing in Auckland, has long been a member of the New Zealand parliament, holding his seat through several successive election contests; and since 1906 he has been an important member of the ministry. The offices he resigned were a seat in the Executive Council—the portfolios of Education, of Immigration, and of Customs—and Minister in Charge of Mental Hospitals and of the Fire Insurance Department. [See vol. ix, pp. 490, 651, 1153; vol. xi, p. 851; current volume, p. 30.]

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Evidently no personal ill-feeling nor any party rupture caused Mr. Fowlds's resignation. The Prime Minister, Sir Joseph Ward, announced it and its acceptance with such assurances to Parliament, and Mr. Fowlds spoke appreciatively of the progressive statutes the Ward ministry had secured. Neither was the resignation caused by any fear on the part of Mr. Fowlds that the Liberal party may be displaced at the next elections by the Opposition. Apparently his sole motive for resigning was to enable him to participate actively and freely in political tendencies more democratic and more timely than any which the Liberal party represents. We quote excerpts from his speech to Parliament in reply to the Prime

Minister's announcement of his resignation, as reported in the mail correspondence of the Otago (New Zealand) Daily Times of September 11:

I have not taken this step on account of any personal difference between the Prime Minister and myself, or between any of my other colleagues and myself. My relations, both personal and official, have been of the most harmonious character with all of them. Our political ideals have been widely divergent on many questions, but these differences have never interfered with our personal relationship, and I can honestly say that it is with deep regret that I have felt impelled to take this serious step. . . . Such actions are usually precipitated by some crucial question marking a fundamental divergence of opinion between a Minister and his colleagues. My reasons are, however, of a more general character.

It is quite true that my action has to some extent been precipitated by a division that took place in Parliament some weeks ago on the Town-planning Bill. The importance of that vote from a constitutional point of view I have already dealt with in the public press. The political significance of it is no less momentous. That a substantial number of members of the Government party should by their votes say that, while they were not prepared to trust the Government as a whole sitting with the Governor-in-Council to do certain important administrative acts, they were prepared to entrust these acts to a board of Government officials, with perhaps one Minister sitting as a member or as chairman, was to my mind symptomatic of a very serious condition of affairs. The action and attitude of the Opposition were perfectly natural, its business being to oppose the Government and to displace it if it can. . . . But the position is entirely different when the Government supporters adopt that attitude. The vote itself was a comparatively trifling affair, and, considering the smallness of the number of members voting, I daresay it might easily have been adjusted, but the condition of which it was symptomatic is much more difficult of adjustment.

The condition, as it appears to me, is one of dissatisfaction and unrest in the party in its relations with its representatives who compose the Government. I have no indication that such dissatisfaction centers itself on me personally, but I have felt it impossible for me to remain a member of a Government which was unable to secure that measure of party loyalty necessary to carry on the government of the country with some degree of dignity and self-respect. I have never been greatly enamoured of party government, but until we have evolved both the machinery and the public spirit necessary to make some other form of government possible, it is essential that the Government should have such support as would enable it to carry out its functions in a reasonably dignified manner. When it is unable to do that its usefulness has gone.

When I entered public life I did so for the attainment of ideals, and not with the object of attaining and maintaining place and power. The call to Ministerial rank came entirely unsolicited either by me or for me, and I accepted it in a spirit of service, willing and anxious at any time to step aside if I felt that I could do better for my country out of