

try real estate in Louisiana at not more than 6 per cent. Carried by 29,579 to 21,963.

Exempting the legal reserve of life insurance companies organized under the laws of Louisiana. Carried by 28,145 to 21,301.

Levying a special tax of one mill for Confederate veterans' pensions. Carried by 43,815 to 12,995.

The grandfather clause of the Constitution, new registration to close Aug. 31, 1913. Carried by 33,922 to 18,006.

Providing one additional district judge. Carried by 33,014 to 16,460.

A per capita tax and a vehicle license for construction and repair of public roads, bridges, etc. Carried by 32,670 to 17,075.

To allow cities and towns to issue refunding bonds for sewerage and drainage purposes and to levy special taxes to pay interest thereon. Carried by 29,594 to 18,472.

Extending time of exemption from taxation of the Pan-American Steamship Company from Jan. 1, 1913, to Jan. 1, 1916. Carried by 27,510 to 20,335.

Relative to filling vacancies in any of the judicial offices in the parish of Orleans. Carried by 22,658 to 29,915.

The total official vote for President was 79,315. [See current volume, page 1138.]



Negro Business Enterprise.

In Mound Bayou, Mississippi, the famous Negro town, there has just been completed a \$100,000 cotton-seed oil mill, said by experts to be the finest in the State. The opening of this mill on December 6 was a great event, as a dispatch to the Chicago Inter Ocean relates. To the ceremonies 10,000 visitors, white and black, came from as far south as New Orleans and as far north as Nashville. Booker Washington made the address for the Negroes; C. P. J. Mooney, editor of the Memphis Commercial Appeal, spoke for the white people; and together the great crowd sang plantation and religious songs. Entirely a Negro project, planned, financed and erected by Negroes, the mill was suitably located in Mound Bayou—a place about which all Americans should know. Founded by a Negro, Isaiah T. Montgomery—now an old man and once a slave of Jefferson Davis—this town of 700 inhabitants down in the Mississippi "swamps," where are thousands of Negro farmers, "is owned acre for acre by colored people and controlled in every branch by colored men."



Irish Home Rule.

Amid great tumult in the British Commons on the 12th the home rule bill for Ireland came out of committee of the whole by a majority of 138, in form for adoption by the House. Having passed first reading by 94 majority on the 16th of April, 1912, and second reading by 101 majority on

May 9th, it was delayed 10 days in passage through committee of the whole by means of a hostile amendment temporarily adopted by a trick, and will probably go to the House of Lords in January. If the Lords reject the bill or amend it so as to make it unacceptable to the Commons, it will not be a law unless the Commons readopt it at the next session. If again rejected or emasculated by the Lords, its passage by the Commons at the following session will make it law without approval by the Lords. [See current volume, page 1140.]



The Peace Conference at London.

Representatives from Turkey and from the Balkan states, including Greece, though Greece has not as yet signed the armistice, began arriving at London by the 12th, but the peace conference was not formally opened until the 16th. Sir Edward Grey, British foreign minister, who was elected honorary president of the conference, made a speech of welcome to the delegates which seemed to recognize the growing values of the Balkan nationalities. The Greeks and the Turks have continued their naval warfare before the Dardanelles. [See current volume, page 1186.]



Trusts in Australia.

By a vote of 41 to 26 the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia passed a bill on the 10th under which the Commonwealth may suppress trusts and other monopolies. Australian dispatches state that the government has found itself at the mercy of the international steel trust in purchasing rails for government railways, and that there have been rumors of an invasion by the American beef trust. The Commonwealth of Australia maintains the Protection policy, having upon its organization followed the example of its protective-tariff State, Victoria, instead of that of its tariff-for-revenue State, New South Wales. [See current volume, pages 726, 1017, 1067.]



China.

The vast and somewhat indefinite country called Mongolia, lying between China proper and Asiatic Russia, which has long been a dependency of China, is now demanded for a dependency by Russia, and the new Republic of China finds itself hampered in trying to enforce its claims by the fact that the Powers have not as yet officially recognized the Republic. For example, in November the Novoe Vremya recommended that no notice be taken of the Chinese proposals to adjust the Mongolian question until the Peking government shall be recognized by the Powers. The Chinese have been collecting a war fund, both in China and from the Chinese in the United States,