

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,

to use for the defense of Mongolia, and they have occupied points in Mongolia to the apparent satisfaction of the tribesmen of the localities, although the Mongolians early in the history of the new Republic, under Russian instigation, had proclaimed their independence and had admitted the suzerainty of the Czar. It was announced from Peking on November 8 that Mongolian envoys to St. Petersburg had just closed a treaty with Russia further acknowledging a Russian protectorate over Mongolia as an autonomous state. As Mongolia is regarded as one of the great markets of the future, its control is a matter of much moment to both nations. [See current volume, pages 15, 921, 976.]



The success of the London bankers' loan (called the Crisp loan) in tiding the Republic over immediate financial difficulties last autumn—successful in spite of reports to the contrary—obviated the need of accepting the onerous terms which accompanied the larger loan offered by the six Powers. The larger loan is once again being considered under more favorable conditions. [See current volume, page 921.]



The provisional assembly or National Council is to be superseded by a regular parliament in January. It has been announced from Paris that a special delegation of French deputies and senators is to go from France to China to attend as guests the opening of the parliament.



The following discussion in the National Council in regard to franchise restrictions in parliamentary elections, based on the fact of continuance in the habit of queue wearing, includes the argument of an unenlightened self-disenfranchisement used in the United States in connection with direct legislation. We quote from the China Republican of Shanghai of October 30:

In the National Council today the bill for the cutting of queues was brought up. The bill provides that only queueless men will be eligible for a vote from the date of its promulgation, but as regards the Mongolians, Tibetans and the people of Chinghai, the loss of the franchise will be fixed by a Government order. Considerable discussion ensued. Hou Yuan-hsun agreed with the principle but thought it best not to make it immediately operative lest it should create disorders among the lower classes. Ting Shih-yi thought that it was too late to take up the matter when the elections were practically arranged and that it was better to let it stand over. He also thought that if exceptions were to be made with regard to the people of the frontier provinces, it was tantamount to admitting that they did not belong to the Republic. Chang shu-tung said he was a Mongolian and that he wore a queue, which he was

willing to cut off, but he thought it unwise to make a distinction which might be misconstrued. Wang Shu-sheng contended that it was only the ignorant who wore queues and that the loss of the franchise was the best means of enforcing the new and desirable custom. The discussion became most heated before the House adjourned.

According to the Outlook the suffrage act passed by the Council last July, to be used in the election of the coming parliament, "made no provision for women's votes. Even the vote to male citizens was granted only under strict limitations. Any male citizen of the Chinese Republic over twenty-one years old may vote if he has resided two years in his election district and has paid a direct tax exceeding two silver dollars, or owns real estate valued at more than five hundred silver dollars, or is the graduate of a primary school. But no citizen may vote if the Government had suspended his citizenship, or if he is an illiterate, a bankrupt, an insane person, or—last but not least—an opium-smoker."



The Young Men's Christian Association opened its sixth triennial world's convention at Peking on the 12th. Yuan Shi Kai, President of the Chinese Republic, received on that day 340 Chinese delegates, representing the most important cities, universities and colleges of the fourteen Chinese Provinces, and he also received thirty American and European secretaries of Chinese branches of the Association. Addressing the delegates, Yuan Shi Kai spoke appreciatively of the work of the Association in China. The energies of the Association's branches, he said, were peculiarly acceptable at the present time, when Chinese citizens generally were realizing that with the inauguration of the Republic the greatest responsibilities and higher moral obligations devolved on the people. The Chinese government would therefore give every encouragement to the Young Men's Christian Association in its inculcation of discipline and obedience to authority, thus increasing the harmony between the government and the people.

NEWS NOTES

—Edward Muller was elected President of Switzerland on the 12th. [See current volume, page 684.]

—The newly elected Mayor of Moose Jaw, Assiniboia (Canada), James Pasco, made his campaign on the Singletax issue as a champion of the Singletax.

—Lethbridge, Alberta (Canada), which has just adopted the commission form of government with the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, has elected a Singletaxer for Mayor.

—Governor Donaghey of Arkansas pardoned 316 State convicts and 44 county convicts on the 16th. his reason being that under the system of leasing