

unionists, an increase of 306,976 over the represented membership of last year.



Intervention in Mexico Threatened.

Renewed activities on the part of the revolutionists in the northern provinces of Mexico, including raids across the border into American territory, with increasing danger to all Americans settled in Mexico, and a larger number of specific acts of violence against them, have brought out rumors of American intervention. In the south also the Zapatistas are becoming bolder, though Emilio Zapata has not yet made good on his threat of months ago, to shortly enter the City of Mexico if President Madero should not resign. Americans in the southern provinces are in especial danger, as protection from the United States could only be afforded by sending a sea expedition to some Mexican Gulf port, which would mean formal intervention and war; whereas in the north a display of troops on the frontier has a certain protective effect. [See current volume, page 849.]



President Taft, it was announced on the 6th, has served an ultimatum on the Mexican government to the effect that unless Americans and their interests are given immediate protection from the rebels the United States government will intervene. Mr. Manuel Calero, ambassador to the United States from Mexico, is personally hastening to the City of Mexico, bearing this ultimatum to President Madero. The press dispatches assert that should President Taft decide that intervention is the only course open to him he will call Congress in special session, and demand of it the authority to send the American army across the border. He is reported to have declared that under no circumstances would he do an unfriendly act against Mexico without consulting Congress. In the meantime additional troops and equipment are being rushed to the border. The President has authorized the export of 500 rifles and 150,000 rounds of ammunition to beleaguered Americans in the Cananea district. The War Department is also considering a suggestion from military commanders along the border that the United States obtain permission from the Mexican government for American troops to pursue into Mexican territory bands of rebel raiders who operate on this side of the line. This step was taken during the Indian troubles in Arizona and New Mexico in the '70s and '80s. The United States has given permission to the Madero government to send troops through Texas and New Mexico into northern Chihuahua. Inasmuch as the State Department has demanded that Mexico send Federal troops into northern Mexico to protect Americans, it is proper that the United States should co-operate with Madero's effort to do so.

The new Mexican Congress is to convene on the 16th. According to an Associated Press dispatch of the 7th, from Mexico City, the Chamber of Deputies will have on its roll 243 representatives, 150 of whom were elected by the Constitutional Progressive party, which gave Madero the Presidency. The minority of ninety-three is by no means a solid block. It includes representatives of three political parties, the Catholic, Evolutionist and Independent. The Congress Madero inherited was a part of the old administration. The new Congress is supposed to be in sympathy with his ideas. Under the old Congress, however, the administration was able to have enacted a most cherished reform—the Constitutional amendment providing for the non-re-election of the President. Among those measures known to be ready for presentation at the session beginning in September are an employers' liability act, the abolition of the *jefes politicos*, an anti-peonage law and a measure for establishing courts of jurisprudence for the settlement of land titles in cases where the records are missing.



China.

The imperative need of a foreign loan to the new Chinese Republic, held up in the early summer by the refusal of the Chinese to agree to a supervision of their national expenditures by the banking group of the six great Powers, which proposed lending \$3,000,000 to China under onerous stipulations, has been at least temporarily obviated by an agreement between the Chinese government and Lloyds' union of London banks for a loan of \$50,000,000. [See current volume, page 639.]



Summoned by the Minister of Education, an Educational Conference has been sitting in Peking. According to *The China Republican** the Conference debated on August 8 a motion brought forward by the Minister, in regard to the Chinese alphabet. The Minister argued that "the ignorance of the masses was due, chiefly, to the difficulties of the Chinese written language," which has a separate character for each word, and therefore it is "necessary to learn the sound and also the meaning of every word." He claimed also that the absence of an alphabet, in the European sense, "was responsible for a variety of dialects without a common spoken language. It was impossible to bring the people into contact in order to make a spoken language commonly understood, and therefore it was necessary to begin with the written language." The Conference resolved:

(1) That universal education and a written language should be available to everyone, and not alone to an intelligent minority.

(2) That word-sounds should be pronounced alike throughout the country.

*See Public of September 6, page 859.

(3) That in order to fix the sound of a word an alphabet is indispensable.

(4) That scholars versed in phonetics, and also representatives of all the provincial capitals, should be employed to invent or adopt signs which would form an alphabet; that those signs must be simple in form and few in number, and that then a special dictionary should be published for the use of schools.

NEWS NOTES

—Henry George's 73rd birthday was celebrated at Spokane on the 2nd, with Mayor Hindley as toastmaster.

—Torrential rains and high tides in Che Kiang province on the east coast of China, on August 29th, overwhelmed many towns and villages and caused between 40,000 and 70,000 deaths by drowning.

—The 73d birthday of Henry George was celebrated at Dallas, Tex., on the 2d, with a supper, at which L. V. La Taste, A. B. Francisco, O. C. Eckley, C. P. Brannin and W. F. Bufkin were among the speakers.

—Jules Vedrines, a French aviator, established a new world's speed record in a monoplane, flying at Clearing Field, southwest of Chicago, on the 9th. Mr. Vedrines covered a distance of 12.4 miles in 6 minutes and 55.95 seconds. His average speed was a trifle faster than 1.79 miles a minute. His rate per hour was nearly 107½ miles. [See current volume, page 830.]

—Petitions for submitting to popular vote in Illinois in November, three questions of public policy—a change in the taxing system of the State, revision of the primary law, and a step toward a shorter ballot, were filed on the 5th with the Secretary of State of Illinois. The petition for woman suffrage was not filed, its supporters having failed to secure the requisite signatures. [See current volume, pages 804, 819.]

—Lieutenant-General Arthur MacArthur, retired, dropped dead while speaking at a reunion of the 24th Wisconsin Volunteers at Milwaukee on the 5th. General MacArthur was 67 years old. He fought through the Civil War in the volunteers, and then entered the regular army. He held important commands in the Philippines during the Spanish war, and was military governor of the Philippines from May, 1900, to July, 1901.

—The government crop report for September announces that the aggregate yield of grain in the United States for 1912 is the largest on record, and that a serious car shortage for the moving of these unprecedented crops faces the country. In Kansas the wheat crop is so large that the elevator capacity of the State is inadequate to meet the demands, and 1,000,000 bushels of the golden grain are piled on the ground. The oat crop will reach almost 1,300,000,000 bushels, the largest yield ever recorded by any country in the world. An enormous hay crop is also reported.

—Wm. D. Haywood, leader of the Industrial Workers of the World (American "syndicalists") is reported to be engaged in organizing in this country

a "general strike," to be called on the 30th, in behalf of Ettor and Giovannitti, who are in prison in Massachusetts awaiting trial for murder in connection with the Lawrence textile strike. Preparations in Italy for this general strike have taken the form of a demand by Socialist members of the Italian parliament that the Italian government interpose at Washington in behalf of Ettor and Giovannitti. [See current volume, pages 626, 655.]

PRESS OPINIONS

Black Skin and Black Heart.

The (St. Louis) Mirror (Wm. Marion Reedy), Sept. 5.—Negro lawyers are not to be admitted to membership in the National Bar Association in future. But there's no bar against barristers who show big rich clients how to evade laws made to protect the people. Black skin will keep a lawyer out, but black heart won't.



It Goes with the Breed.

The (St. Louis) Mirror (Wm. Marion Reedy), Sept. 5.—Our friends, the Anti-Singletaxers, also want to abolish the Initiative and Referendum in Missouri. They're hand-in-glove with the crowd that wants to amend the State primary law so the bosses can rule again. Popular rule is their special aversion. Their motto: "To hell with the people."



The New Order in Campaigning.

Collier's (ind.), Aug. 31.—Woodrow Wilson's manner of meeting personal assaults is one which we trust will be maintained, even to the close of a violent campaign. . . . The Governor's managers, some of them, are sure to urge him to fight back, to "have punch," to "put ginger" into his campaign. For our part we wish he may retain this elevation; may say calmly what he thinks and plans; may leave noise and slugging to others; may remain unruffled by the immediate value of mob excitement; and may be satisfied with the approval of his own conscience. . . . Governor Wilson, in a public reference to the Bull Moose party, not only refrained from attacking it but treated it with genuine appreciation, as a revolt against the evils of the old party rule. In the same speech Wilson severely exposed the bosses of his own party in his own State—the very men on whom he is supposed to rely for his election. Is not that the keynote of a better day?



Know It by the Enemies It Makes.

The (Johnston, Pa.) Daily Democrat (dem. Dem.), August 2.—That the Singletax proposition is a very serious one in Oregon and that it is likely to be carried in November is indicated by the frantic uproar, proceeding from the ranks of Big Business. The opposition is adopting most of the methods resorted to by English landlordism in its frenzied efforts to defeat the famous Lloyd George budget and the same arguments, appropriately revised to meet the