

the single tax movement in England by the constantly increasing revenues of the country, due in so large measure to the taxation upon private incomes."

Later reports from Paris show that the result of the French elections noted last week (p. 56) is an emphatic endorsement of the already long-lived Waldeck-Rousseau ministry. The total vote cast was 8,000,000, and out of the 584 deputies to be chosen 414 were elected at this first ballot. Of these only 164 are anti-ministerialists, the other 250 being supporters of Waldeck-Rousseau. They are composed of Republicans, Radicals, Radical Socialists and Socialists. There remain 170 seats to fill at the second elections to be held on the 12th, and it is estimated that 130 of these are safe for the ministry.

Domestic disturbances in Russia (p. 56) are reported as growing and spreading. The movement among the impoverished peasants appears to be distinctly agrarian—an uprising for "the land for the people." Apparently it is not an organized conspiracy, so far as the peasants are concerned, but is a spontaneous outbreak among them due to a sense of injustice which has been cleverly played upon by means of a forged proclamation or ukase purporting to come from the Czar. This document is as follows:

My grandfather, who is now resting in God, Emperor Alexander, by abolishing serfdom gave you peasants liberty and at the same time divided the land among you. The magnates of the land, however, were discontented with this, and they have brought the land again into their possession and thus robbed you. The country which for needy wage you cultivate in the sweat of your brows is your own land, and the corn in the barns of your oppressors is your corn. I love you, and as I desire to be a just emperor I allow and command you to demand back your property and to divide it among yourselves as your legal possessions. If they refuse to give it to you peaceably then take it from them by force, together with the cattle in their stalls and the corn in their barns.

The proclamation also directs the peasants to disregard officials who interfere, reminding them that officials are always trying to thwart the Czar's good intentions. "In the peasants eyes," reads the inspired dispatch, "this is simple justice;" and, indeed, when the fact is understood that the Czar is to Russian peasants not only the puissant head of the state

but the divine head of the church, whom they worship as the "Little Father," and in whose name wicked officials do wicked things, the forged proclamation accounts for the insurrection. Events, also, are in harmony with the inference that it has been precipitated in some such way, for all over the provinces of Paltova and Kharbov, and probably throughout southern Russia, the peasants have demanded the lands of the stewards who manage them for the great landlords; and, upon being refused, they have seized any arms they could find and proceeded to destroy the chateaux. The stewards flee for their lives, and the local officials temporize with the mob until troops arrive. Sometimes the troops refuse to fire, and this is the disturbing fact in government circles. One detachment of troops has already been punished for that appalling breach of discipline.

A revolt on our own side of the ocean, in San Domingo, culminated a few days ago in the overthrow of the government of President Juan I. Jimenez. He himself came into power through a revolution in 1898 (vol. i., No. 11, p. 9), when as a rebel he succeeded in deposing President Heurieux. News of the present successful revolution against Jimenez began to reach this country early in the spring. Martial law was declared by the congress of the little republic in March; and at about the same time the town of Borahona, on the south coast, was captured by the revolutionists after a severe battle. Within a month a large region in the north also had been wrested from the government, and on the 2d of May the revolutionary forces were reported to be marching upon the capital. The whole republic except Porto Plata and the capital, San Domingo, was then in the hands of the rebels. On the 4th the capital capitulated, and Vice President Horatio Vasquez, the leader of the revolution, entered the city at the head of his troops, President Jimenez taking refuge in the French consulate.

And now the republic of Cuba comes upon the threshold of sovereignty, subject to the suzerainty of the United States. The Cuban senate and house of representatives assembled at Havana on the 5th pursuant to the call (p. 27) of Gov. Gen. Wood. Salvador Cisneros was elected president of the senate and Pedro Albarron president of the lower house. Gov. Gen. Wood addressed the two

houses, welcoming them "in the name of the President of the United States," and admonishing them that they could exercise no legislative power until after the formal transfer, to take place on the 20th at noon.

The president-elect, Tomas Estrada Palma, arrived in Cuba from the United States on the 20th of April, and is now preparing his inaugural address.

Orders from the American war department for the evacuation of Cuba by the United States on the 20th of May were issued on the 25th of last March, and on the 5th of May President Roosevelt appointed Herbert C. Squires, now first secretary of the American legation at Peking, to be American minister to Cuba, and Gen. Edward S. Bragg, of Wisconsin, formerly a Democrat, and famous for having invented the phrase "we love him for the enemies he has made," to be American consul general at Havana.

"Ripper" legislation in Ohio is becoming a burning question in that state. One of the cities "ripped" is Toledo, of which Samuel M. Jones has been Mayor for several years. He was elected originally as a Republican, but during his first term he cut loose from the political machine and, abandoning parties altogether, pledged his service to the people as a whole. So satisfactory has his administration been that with an overwhelming majority he has been re-elected twice as an independent candidate. To obstruct his administration and serve the party machine the legislature has legislated the police commission, of which Mayor Jones is ex-officio president, out of office, and authorized the governor to appoint a police board in its place. At first Mayor Jones seemed disposed to submit. At any rate he was so reported (p. 42) in the press dispatches. But if he had any such intention he has abandoned it. When on the 5th the new police board of Toledo, appointed by the governor, applied for possession of the police department, Mayor Jones refused to surrender it. In his formal written reply to the demand, he said:

I positively refuse to comply with your request and decline to recognize your authority or the authority that assumes to confer your authority. The board of police commissioners have been elected to their positions by the voters of the people of Toledo at a regular election, and I have been elect-

ed for the third time to the position of mayor, and ex-officio president of the board, by their votes. We believe that the will of the people is supreme, and that there is no "authority" under our form of government, superior to ours or that can supplant the will of the people, as expressed at the polls. If we once concede that there is some other authority greater than the people that can at will remove or dismiss a public official chosen by the people, according to the forms of law, then it is clear that there is no hope for the survival of liberty or free government among men, and the provisions of the constitution guaranteeing popular government are, therefore, valueless.

Taking this view of the case, we feel that to cravenly surrender the trust that the people have reposed in us, and abandon the position to which they have called us, would be an act unworthy true manhood, and we, therefore, propose to stand in defense of this principle of human liberty to the last extremity, provided for honorable and liberty-loving men. Assuring you, your associates and the public, that there is nothing personal in this controversy, and that I bear for you all the utmost good will, I am, very sincerely yours,

This decision by Mayor Jones was evidently not lightly made. It had been considered by the whole board, presided over by the mayor, which adopted, and all the members of which but one have signed, the following resolutions:

Whereas, we, the mayor and members of the board of police commissioners of the city of Toledo, having been elected to our official position by the popular vote of the people, according to the principles of democracy and the right of self-government, to which we, as a people, are committed; and whereas, the legislature of Ohio has recently passed a "law" that denies the right of the people to select their own public servants, amounting virtually to disfranchisement, and seeks to arbitrarily remove this board and substitute a board "appointed by the governor" of the state; and whereas, we regard such a proceeding as an assault on the fundamental principle of liberty and a menace to any just conception of freedom; and whereas, the service of this board and of the police department has been singularly free from criticism during the past five years, and there having been no charge of "partisan favoritism" or other scandal, the financial statement showing that while every other important department of the city has had its fund exhausted or overdrawn there is today to the credit of the police fund

the sum of \$52,503.40, proving that from this point the management of the board has been prudent, wise and economical; and whereas, the proposed action is not only an assault on the rights of the people, but further, an implied reflection on the personal integrity of the members of the board; now, therefore,

Resolved, That we regard this act of the legislature as a species of tyranny that we as free men must resist, as a meek surrender of our responsibilities would prove that we are unworthy of the confidence reposed in us by the voters who elected us; and, further, be it resolved that the chief of police is hereby instructed to take his orders from this board as heretofore. "Resistance to tyrants is obedience to God."

Mayor Jones was interviewed regarding these resolutions by the representative of a Toledo paper, with this result:

There is no doubt that the mayor means to hold on to his position as presiding officer of the police board until he is forcibly deposed. He said this afternoon:

"We are not going to fight but we will make a stand. I wonder if those fellows thought we would lie down. We have been simply waiting till the right time came. The chief will have his orders to take his instructions from the old police board and from no one else."

"Suppose he does not do so?" queried The News.

"We will not suppose," said the mayor.

"But the chief may elect to obey the new board?" said The News.

"Then we will have a new chief," said the mayor. "If it comes to a showdown we will see whom the force will follow, the new board or the old. I think we shall win, whether we win or lose. If we are defeated, it means that what I have all along contended, that we have not self-government, is true; if we win it will be a contribution to good government. We are not going to give up anyway."

As already explained in these columns (p. 42), the city of Cleveland, under the administration of Mayor Tom L. Johnson, is another victim of Ohio "ripper" legislation. The first attack upon that city was by means of a bill passed April 17, which takes the park system of Cleveland out of the control of the city and places it under a special board. This was followed on the 1st of May by the passage, as a Republican party measure, of a tax board "ripper" bill. It provides that the county auditor in any county may

request and secure from the state board of appraisers and assessors the appointment of a board of tax review to supersede all other taxing bodies. The generally recognized object of this bill was to legislate out of office in Cleveland the city tax board, appointed by Mayor Johnson, which undertook to raise the valuation for taxation of local monopolies, including the street railways, to the 60 per cent. basis at which other kinds of property are appraised for taxation. If it becomes operative this bill will strip Mayor Johnson of all power to bring about an equalization of taxes in Cleveland and nullify all the work which has been done by his tax bureau in anticipation of the power to equalize that would have vested in the annual city board next June under the present law. Mayor Johnson says of the bill that—

it was especially aimed to take off the \$20,000,000 from the tax valuation of the Cleveland street railroads, which was placed on the duplicate by the local board of revision. It was also calculated to prevent similar occurrences in Toledo, Cincinnati and other cities of the state. It is a street railroad measure pure and simple, and had the undivided backing of all the street railroads of the state.

The bill is iniquitous in that it gives a discredited county auditor in this county the power to throw out a board of revision which has gone against him and placed the added valuation on the street railroads. It is iniquitous because at the "request" of this auditor it authorizes the state board of revision to name a board of equalization to take the place of the ousted board. This state board of revision, consisting of the governor, attorney general and state auditor, is the body which remitted the additional valuation placed on the railroad property. It is needless to inquire what kind of men would be named on the board for Cuyahoga county by this body.

The injunction case against the three-cent fare franchise, granted by Mayor Johnson and the Cleveland city council to John B. Hoefgen (p. 10) was decided on the 6th by the lower court. By this decision the franchise is sustained and the injunction dissolved. An appeal was immediately taken by the old street railroad interests, for whom the injunction was got, and the appellate court granted another temporary injunction pending argument. The building of the three-cent fare road of Cleveland is