

affair had the mark of gravity; there was no laughter, no outcries and no disputes. As one of the collectors passed a Chinese laundry on Roosevelt street, the occupant came to the door with two ten-cent pieces in his hand. "Me helpee, too," he said.

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#### Reaction in China.

The Chinese Regency (vol. xi, pp. 801, 831, 879) by edict on the 2d suddenly deprived Yuan Shi-Kai, China's able and progressive prime minister, of his offices, and ordered him to leave Peking within five days. Na Tung, comptroller of customs, was appointed in his place. The move is regarded as indicating a dangerous and foolhardy Manchu dominance in the government, with perhaps Japanese instigation back of it. It is certain that if China can be wrecked by reaction, Japan is the only power that can profit by it. The friends of progress in China feared for the immediate safety of the deposed minister, but he made good his escape from Peking, and on the 4th was reported to be at Tientsin, seventy miles to the southeast, and to be under the protection of Great Britain. Yuan Shi-Kai, it is said in the dispatches which record his removal, has been for years one of the most influential and powerful statesmen in the Chinese Empire. We quote from the Chicago Record-Herald:

He is a thoroughly practical man and brought business methods to the administration of the Empire. His watchword was that China was capable of accomplishing just as much as had Japan. He inspired a national patriotism which is to-day doing much to sweep away middle-age superstition and rebuild the Empire. When he became a member of the grand council he relinquished the post of viceroy of Chi-Li, but it was in this office that he gained the greatest renown. Yuan Shi-Kai organized an army in China that was the wonder and amazement of foreign military critics. He succeeded in obliterating all the popular and caste objections to military service, so that the sons of the nobility to-day are proud to appear in uniform. He substituted modern text books for ancient classics. He compelled the abolition of torture and transformed Peking from the filthiest city in the world into a metropolis, well paved and cleanly kept, that compares favorably with many cities of Europe and America. It is an undoubted fact that Yuan Shi-Kai encouraged and represented the most progressive ideas in the central government.

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#### Military Executions in Russia.

The military court at Yekaterinoslav pronounced forty-one death sentences (vol. xi, p. 733) on the 1st. Thirty-two of the condemned men were strikers in the railroad troubles of October, 1905. In addition to the death sentences twelve strikers were condemned to penal servitude for life, forty-eight to lesser terms of exile, and thirty-nine were acquitted. The dispatches state

that these sentences grew "out of the events of 1905, when strikers numbering hundreds and thousands throughout Russia attempted to tie up the whole railway system, telegraph lines and gas and electric light plants. The demonstrations at Yekaterinoslav were particularly desperate, many persons being killed and injured." It is important to note that criminal prosecutions of these strikers have only recently been instituted, a majority of them having until lately been in the enjoyment of full liberty, and some of them being even in the employ of the municipality. The death sentences have created a painful impression, and they brought out a stormy debate in the Douma (vol. xi, p. 804) on the 2d. Mr. Milyoukoff, leader of the Constitutional Democrats (vol. x, p. 1091), proposed an order of the day expressing the horror of the Douma at this growing harvest of death, which, he said, was blunting the moral sense of the community and destroying the honor and prestige of Russia as a civilized state. The Socialists and the members of the Labor party supported the resolution. When it was rejected the Opposition left the hall in a body. Mr. Guchkoff, speaking for the Octobrists, while justifying condemnation of the strikers, deplored the severity of the sentences imposed, and announced that steps were being taken to secure their mitigation. During the debate the hall was in an uproar, and cries of "Murderers!" "Cut-throats!" and "Hangmen!" were exchanged.

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#### Tolstoy's Reply to the Single Tax Leagues of Australia.

It will be remembered that at the time of the commemoration of Tolstoy's eightieth birthday last September a birthday address was sent to him by the Single Tax Leagues of Australia (vol. xi, p. 539); and that it was reported by C. T. Haggberg Wright, bearer of an address to Tolstoy from his English friends, that "the most touching of all the addresses" received by Count Tolstoy "were from the single taxers of Australia, the followers of Henry George, and one from the waiters of a music hall in Moscow (vol. xi, p. 637). The Standard, of Sydney, N. S. W., for November 16, contains Tolstoy's reply to the Leagues' address, as follows:

To the Federation of Single Tax Leagues of Australia:

Dear Friends:

Your address has deeply touched me.

To my regret I have done too little for the cause so dear to you and me which unites us. Of late I have been thinking more and more about it, and should I yet be afforded power for work, I will endeavor to express the teaching of Henry George—who has as yet been far from appreciated according to his merits—as clearly, as briefly, and as accessibly to the great mass of land workers as possible.

The injustice and evil of property in land has long ago been recognized. More than a hundred years