

patches the chief plank in the Labor platform is the taxation of site values, which is what is known in the United States as the Singletax. [See current volume, page 1052.]

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#### The Revolution in China.

The cause of the revolution continually gains. Canton, the largest city in China, lying opposite Hongkong in the great harbor on the south coast, formally declared its adhesion to the revolution on the 9th. Nanking, besieged by the revolutionists, fell prey to the Manchu authorities within its walls on the 10th. Seventy thousand Chinese fled the city with such of their belongings as they could carry, while men, women and children were being slaughtered in the streets and in their homes as revolutionists—being regarded as such if they chanced to be wearing the least touch of white (the revolutionary color) or were without queues. The number of the massacred is put at a thousand. Thirteen warships of the Imperial fleet at Shanghai went over to the revolutionists on the 14th, and it was reported on the same day at Shanghai that 2,000 Imperialists at Hankow had joined the revolution, and that the remaining Imperial gunboats at that port had also gone over. [See current volume, page 1144.]

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A provisional national assembly is being arranged for, according to a dispatch of the 12th from Shanghai. Telegraphic messages had been sent to the fourteen provinces which are in adherence to the revolution (China consists of 18 provinces), to appoint delegates who shall establish such a provisional assembly at Shanghai. This is designed to supersede the National Assembly at Peking which largely consists of government nominees. The foreign consuls at Shanghai have received instructions to deal with the de facto government, without, however, giving it official recognition.

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Peking is in a funk. The little Emperor's entourage is believed to have made all arrangements for flight. Yuan Shi Kai has returned to Peking from conferences with the revolutionary leaders, in cheerful mood; but while he has been warmly welcomed by the dynastic leaders it is not supposed that he is planning greatly for Manchu welfare. In the meantime a financial problem has to be faced by the Imperial government. The foreign Boxer indemnity for November has not been paid, and the December indemnity will likewise be defaulted. Even should the government be able to recover the five provinces immediately surrounding the capital, the financial administration cannot be reorganized before defaults of other debts besides the indemnities occur, and it is feared that

intervention for the collection of pledged revenues cannot be averted.

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Of the outcome of the revolution and its program the London Nation of October 21 says:

That the Chinese may unite to expel or destroy the Manchus is probable enough. That they would welcome a general scheme of innovation and reconstruction is evident from the conduct of the provincial advisory assemblies, which have been compiling their cahiers of grievances and aspirations, as the French departments did before the Revolution. But must not the bold avowal of "Socialism" (which appears to mean the single tax on land) provoke a formidable resistance from all that is wealthy and influential in this mature and materialist community? The Cadets failed in Russia, not because they were Liberals, but because they mixed their constitutional reforms with a vast scheme of land reform.

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#### Singletax Conference at Chicago.

Joseph Fels and Mrs. Fels sailed from England on the 11th to attend the informal Singletax Conference at Chicago, which will be held on the 24th, 25th and 26th, at the LaSalle Hotel. This Conference is to be held at the time and in connection with the second annual meeting of the Joseph Fels Fund of America, the Commissioners for which announce that—

a general unofficial conference of Singletaxers of the United States will be held, which all advocates of Singletax principles (whether contributors to the Fund or not) are urged to attend, and in which they are invited to take an active part. With this Conference the Commission will advise, and endeavor to show what results it has already achieved, and what progress it may reasonably be expected to make in the near future. The freest opportunity for criticism and discussion will be afforded by the Commission.

Regarding their work, which they purpose submitting to the unofficial Conference, the Commissioners (Daniel Kiefer, Fred. C. Howe, Lincoln Steffens, George A. Briggs and Jackson H. Ralston) say:

The movement has varied in different parts of the country. In some places it has passed through preliminary propaganda stages and is now an issue in practical politics. In others it only awaits the removal of Constitutional barriers to make it a political issue. In still others it has not yet advanced beyond preliminary propaganda, and in others there is no agitation at all. The policy of the Commission is to devote its greatest effort to places where the Singletax is an issue and has a fighting chance for success. Next to this, it seems best to use our resources to obtain necessary auxiliary reforms, especially the Initiative and Referendum, wherever Singletaxers are working for them with the intention of making the earliest practical use of them to get the Singletax. . . . Whether or not the judgment of the Commission has always been the best, whether suggestions for improving its policy are practical, and

whether changes in the personnel of the Commission and of the Advisory Committee would be desirable, are matters which the Conference is expected to discuss and advise upon. Candid criticism should be forthcoming from all who are sincerely interested in the Singletax movement and feel that their criticism is needed.

The reported indications are of a large attendance and a renewed impetus. [See current volume, page 1148.]

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## NEWS NOTES

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—The 31st annual convention of the American Federation of Labor met at Atlanta, Ga., on the 13th.

—The Trans-Mississippi Congress opened a four days' session at Kansas City, Mo., on the 14th. [See volume xii, p. 826.]

—Wm. Clark Russell, the famous writer of sea stories, died at London on the 8th, at the age of 67. He was born in New York City.

—The Italians continue to deny the charges of massacring non-combatant Arabs before Tripoli. [See current volume, page 1145.]

—The Illinois legislature adjourned sine die on the 14th—just in advance of a message from Governor Deneen proroguing the session until January 2. [See current volume, page 1055.]

—In preparation for the city election of Los Angeles, to come off on the 5th of December, 73,029 women had registered as voters down to November 9. [See current volume, page 899.]

—Fernando Jones, for many years regarded as Chicago's "oldest inhabitant," died at his home on the 8th, at the age of 91. Mr. Jones came to Chicago in 1835, when he was 15 years old.

—Champ Clark was endorsed on the 11th for Democratic candidate for President by the Democratic convention of the Seventh Congressional District of Kansas—the Jerry Simpson district.

—Andrew Carnegie gave on the 10th \$25,000,000 par value of steel trust five per cent first mortgage gold bonds to "The Carnegie Corporation of New York" to "promote the advancement and diffusion of knowledge," etc.

—President Taft on the 9th at Hodgenville, Ky., accepted from the Lincoln Memorial Association for the people of the United States a granite memorial which has been built above and around the old log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born 102 years ago. Ten thousand people, many of them from distant States, gathered for the ceremonies.

—The current Nobel prize for chemistry has been awarded to Mme. Marie S. Curie of the University of Paris. Recent announcement was made of the success of Mme. Curie in producing polonium, "a new element possessing a radio-activity superior to radium." The money value of the prize is about \$40,000. [See vol. ix, p. 753, vol. xi, p. 831.]

—At an informal reception to Margaret A. Haley in Willard Hall, Chicago, at which Mrs. Fannie H. Rastall presided and Mrs. Harriet Thompson spoke, Miss Haley told of her experiences in the California

campaign for woman's suffrage. The reception was given jointly by the Chicago Teachers' Federation, the Women's Trade Union League and the Woman's Suffrage Party of Illinois.

—Under the direction of John C. Kennedy a "Workers' Free School of Municipal Government" was established on the 13th at Chicago, in the lecture hall of the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy, at which 130 men and women were enrolled as students. They comprise laborers, school teachers, settlement workers, stenographers and mechanics. The object of the school is to educate and train its students in the conduct of city government.

—The King and Queen of England left Portsmouth for India on the 11th, to attend an Imperial "Durbar" to be held at Delhi on December 10. A "durbar" is the ceremonial appearance of an Eastern potentate, to receive homage and confer honors. King George is the first English ruler of India to present himself in that country after assumption of sovereignty, though both he and his father visited it as Princes of Wales. He presents himself to India, not as King, but as Emperor.

—Newton C. Dougherty, formerly superintendent of the public schools of Peoria, Ill., and a leading member of the National Educational Association in the regime that immediately preceded the election of Ella Flagg Young, was paroled from the Illinois penitentiary on the 10th after serving six years of an indeterminate sentence for embezzlement of school funds. He was convicted as the result of public-spirited "muckraking" by Eugene Baldwin, editor and proprietor of the Peoria Star.

—Another "friend of the court" brief has been submitted to the United States Supreme Court in the Oregon case involving the Constitutionality of the Initiative and Referendum. It is submitted by Elliott W. Major as Attorney General of Missouri, in behalf of his State, which also has the Initiative and Referendum, and supports the contention which the State of Oregon has made through its Attorney General, the Portland law officers and its special counsel, George Fred Williams and Jackson H. Ralston. [See current volume, pages 1105, 1123, 1141.]

—A cold wave crossed the United States east of the Rocky Mountains, from northwest to southeast, on the 11th and 12th, bringing an almost unprecedented drop in temperature in most sections, and through the sudden displacements of hot air by cold, producing cyclones in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana. The greatest loss of life and property from this cause occurred in Rock county, Wis., where 17 persons were killed. In other places deaths were caused by wrecks and other disasters, and by the extreme and unseasonable cold. In Chicago the mercury fell 61 degrees in 19 hours.

—Howard Pyle, illustrator and author, died at Florence, Italy, on the 9th, at the age of 58. Mr. Pyle's American home was at Wilmington, Del. He wrote and illustrated many books for the young, among them "The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood," "The Wonder Clock," "The Garden Behind the Moon," and several stories from the Arthurian legends. Among his writings for the adult world were "Rejected of Men" in book form, and various magazine articles, among them "In Tenebras," which