

Singletax Progress in Canada.

Premier Sifton, leader of the Liberal party in the Province of Alberta, Canada, and head of the Provincial government, introduced a municipal Singletax bill in the legislature on the 20th. It is described by the Canadian dispatches as "one of the most progressive pieces of legislation ever brought forward by a Liberal government." The bill, which is intended as a complete municipal charter, contains 377 sections. In its Singletax sections it is reported to provide that the Singletax principle shall be progressively adopted by all existing municipalities so as to be in complete operation within seven years, and that in municipalities hereafter established it shall be in full operation from the beginning. By "full operation" is not meant that all land values shall be appropriated to municipal use, but that all municipal revenues shall be derived from land values. [See current volume, pages 876 and 892.]

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Persia Forced by Russia.

In face of the entry of Russian troops into Persia, including the dreaded Cossacks, the gallant little National Council (the Persian parliament) refused to yield to the demands of Russia in the matter of discharging the American, W. Morgan Shuster, who has been Treasurer-General of Persia since last spring, and also in regard to related matters, until, under a twenty-four hours' ultimatum, with the last march of Russian troops to Teheran immediately before them, the Cabinet prevailed upon the National Council on the 21st to appoint a commission with plenary powers to handle the situation. Even then it was difficult to proceed, since the task of the commission was so unpopular that no one wished to serve on it. At last, however, the Council gave way, and on the 22nd yielded to the ultimatum, but public announcement of the fact was not made immediately, so opprobrious to the populace was the thought of surrender. Official notification of his dismissal was given Mr. Shuster on the 25th. A popular indignation meeting was held in the streets when the fact became known, but the police dispersed the crowds, opposition newspapers were suppressed, and martial law proclaimed. In the meantime little encounters between Russians and Persians in the cities of Resht and Tabriz, and elsewhere, in which each side accuses the other of the first aggressive acts, are being followed by the sternest reprisals by the Russians. The director of the Persian section of the Russian foreign office at St. Petersburg, said on the 21th: "Russia will take justice at Tabriz, Resht and Enzeli, into its own hands, and will show no mercy;" and further, "The lesson we intend to give will long be remembered." Official Persian telegrams received in London on the 25th, state that in Resht on Sunday 500 Persians were killed by the Russians,

many of them being women and children. "The people of Persia," says one dispatch, "are stupefied at the attitude of Russia, especially as these outrages have followed immediately on the acceptance by Persia of the second Russian ultimatum, and when Persia has shown every desire and disposition to conciliate Russia and establish friendly relations." [See current volume, page 1267.]

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China.

The peace conference at Shanghai is at a deadlock. Wu Tingfang, representing the revolutionaries of the south, stands for a republican form of government for the new China. Tang Shao Ya, representing the Imperial Premier, Yuan Shikai, has agreed that the future looks republican; but telegrams sent by him to the Premier bring insistence upon the preservation of the monarchical form of government, though in limited form. Great Britain and Japan are said to support the idea of a limited monarchy, and it is also reported that the United States is being won over to the same position. In the meantime the Republicans complain that the Imperial generals are breaking the obligations of the peace armistice by continuing to fight at convenient points. Dr. Sun Yat Sen, upon whom all Republican groups seem agreed for President in the event of the establishment of a Republic, has arrived at Shanghai. [See current volume, page 1293.]

NEWS NOTES

—James Hamilton Lewis of Chicago announced his candidacy on the 23rd as a Democrat for United States Senator from Illinois.

—Oklahoma City has been chosen by the Socialist party, by referendum vote, for the next national convention, the time for which is set for May 12, 1912.

—In a decision made on the 21st the Supreme Court of Illinois sustained the constitutionality of the Illinois commission form of municipal government.

—The Fairhope Single Tax Corporation will celebrate on New Year's day its seventeenth anniversary with a banquet at the Fairhope (Ala.) auditorium.

—The Paraguayan revolutionists are said to be meeting with success. They have succeeded in investing the capital city of Asuncion. [See current volume, page 660.]

—President Emilio Estrada of the Republic of Ecuador died suddenly at Guayaquil on the 22nd. President Estrada was inaugurated September 1st. [See current volume, page 957.]

—Three members of the Hunnewell, Kansas, Council have resigned, Governor Stubbs having ordered ouster proceedings against them. This leaves the Mayor, Mrs. Ella Wilson, in control of the at-