

held in the Builders' Exchange, Mr. Fels said to The Globe that this was the first meeting of this class of business men he had ever known which had been held to discuss the placing of taxation on land values alone. Under ordinary conditions these men were opposed to what he proposed, but while he would not say that he had convinced those at the meeting, he believed that the majority of them would ultimately come over, and favor the taking of the tax away from businesses and placing it where it belonged. In taking a ride around the city yesterday afternoon Mr. Fels was struck with the fact that one-third of the superficial area within the city limits was now vacant and had never been built upon. "When I was in British Columbia," said Mr. Fels to The Globe, "I saw Premier McBride, and I asked him what he thought of taxation of land values alone. He said he himself did not believe in it, but he realized that it would have to come eventually." Mr. Fels has a busy week ahead of him, and will visit seven Canadian cities in as many days. In each of these cities he proposes to try to start such a movement as he has started in Toronto. This morning he goes to Stratford, where he will address the Board of Trade. Thursday he will speak to the Canadian Club in London. Friday he returns to Toronto and will address the Empire Club, and in the evening he will speak at a public meeting in Peterboro'. Monday the Ottawa Board of Trade will hear him. Tuesday he will speak at Montreal, and Wednesday in Quebec.



### The United States Warns Cuba.

In a note presented by Arthur M. Beaupre, American minister at Havana, to President Gomez on the 16th, the United States threatened a third armed intervention in Cuba. The note ran as follows:

The situation in Cuba causes grave concern to the United States. That the laws intended to safeguard free republican government shall be enforced and not defied is obviously essential to the maintenance of law, order and stability indispensable to the status of the Republic of Cuba. The President of the United States therefore looks to the President and government of Cuba to prevent the threatened situation, which would compel the United States much against its desire to consider what measures it must take in pursuance of the obligations of its relations to Cuba.

The note was called out, according to the dispatches, by a situation developing from an agitation started last fall by the Veterans' association of Cuba, especially led by General Nunez, who was supposed to be working for the Presidency of the Republic, in succession to Gomez. The veterans began by demanding the dismissal from the civil service of all men who had been identified in any way with the Spanish régime during the early days of the fight for Cuban independence. This despite the fact that for nearly fourteen years such men had been holding various offices in the government service without protest from any quarter. They also demanded that members of the Veterans' association be more freely appointed

to government places. President Gomez declared that he would not dismiss efficient men to please the Veterans, but in response to insistence he made some concessions. The Veterans thereupon made further demands and defied President and law. The effect of the American note, which does not seem to have been unwelcome to President Gomez, has been in the direction of unifying all factions, and of halting the Veterans' plans. With the nullification of their program the hopes of General Nunez apparently vanish. An agreement between the government and the Veterans' association was signed on the 20th, by which the Veterans bind themselves to relinquish their opposition to office holders accused of former hostility to Cuban independence. [See vol. xiv, page 584.]



### Ecuadorean War Over.

The short civil war in the South American republic of Ecuador, following the death of President Estrada on December 22, has apparently come to a close. Upon the death of Estrada two provisional governments created themselves—one organized by the Liberals at the capital city of Quito, with General Plaza as provisional President, and General Julio Andrade in command of troops; and the other organized in the seaport city of Guayaquil, with General Montero at its head, and Generals Flavio Alfaro and Eloy Alfaro in command of troops. In a desperate battle to the northeast of Guayaquil on the 18th, in which over 1,000 men were killed and wounded, the Quito faction was victorious, and on the 22nd the Montero troops at Guayaquil capitulated to the Plaza troops from Quito. [See current volume, page 63.]



### The German Elections.

Second elections for the Reichstag were held in 77 districts of Germany on the 20th and in 80 on the 22d, with the result (some districts yet to vote) of giving the political parties in the Reichstag the following relative strength thus far, as reported in dispatches of the 22d, and in comparison with the Reichstag recently dissolved:

	Previous Reichstag.	Next Reichstag.
Socialists .....	52	99
Centerists .....	109	91
Conservatives .....	68	43
Liberals .....	54	37
Radicals .....	50	35
All others .....	42	57

Second elections will be held on the 25th for the remaining seats. [See current volume, page 61.]



### Singletax Work in Switzerland.

The Tax Reform Association of Bern and the neighboring town of Thun, Switzerland, was

formed on November 16, 1911, with Dr. Ed. Lauterburg of Thun as President and F. Trefzer as Vice-President. In an address to the young Liberals of Bern a few nights previously, Dr. Lauterburg had named "as one of the real causes of the high cost of living" "the rise in the value of land, and private speculation therein," and had announced as remedy the progressive land tax. From this land tax he foresees the following results:

(1.) The large landowners would be induced to give up their surplus land.

(2.) The landless could more easily obtain land; upon the cheaper land cheaper products could be grown and cheaper and better dwellings be built.

(3.) Interest on mortgages would be lower.

(4.) The capital hitherto tied up in land would be offered to industry on cheaper terms.

(5.) Consequently the employers could raise wages and would be obliged to do so, else the laborer would work with home machinery on his own land or would cultivate his own land.

(6.) Following upon the increased land taxes, the taxes on incomes—which burden industry and especially one class of citizens, the wage-earners—could be diminished and at last abolished. The man who owned no land, or only a little, or mortgaged, land, need pay little or no taxes.

(7.) Purchasing power would increase, and this would work advantage to husbandry, trade and commerce.

The new Association for Tax Reform asserts as its working principle that "every man has the same right to the use of the earth's surface, the source of all material good," and "seeks to realize this right by bringing about legislation which shall withdraw the land—originally the property of all the people—from private speculation and make it again accessible to the whole people." It therefore demands that "ground rent, the unearned income from land monopoly, shall be appropriated no longer by private individuals but by the community and the state." The Association therefore asks, first, a valuation of all Swiss land at its true market price exclusive of improvements, and second, the gradually increasing taxation of ground rent along with abolition of the taxes on the products of labor.



#### Persia Being Assimilated.

The province of Azerbaijan in the northwest of Persia, bordering on Turkish territory, is rapidly passing into the occupation of Russian troops, according to dispatches of the 19th. A Russian court martial at Tabriz has been busy sentencing Persian Constitutionals to death or exile. Several Constitutionals have been sent from Resht to the Russian penal colonies in Siberia. Andrasian, the principal Persian Armenian in Tabriz, has been hanged on the charge of complicity in the recent fighting. Appeals from the Armenian archbishop of Ispahan and from various influential bodies against this execution, have been ignored.

The late American Treasurer-General of Persia, W. Morgan Shuster, made a statement at Vienna on the 20th, while on his way from Teheran to Paris, in which he declared:

The net result of the British and Russian action in Persia renders a nation which was making progress toward peace and order and was building up its finances for the establishment of a constitutional government, a land of chaos and anarchy, without prestige among its own people, and, in addition, has meant the sacrifice of hundreds of innocent lives. . . .

The Russian and British legations are the real governing forces in Persia. They are acting through a directory of seven Persians in order to avoid international responsibility, but morally they are responsible for the destruction of Persian nationality, when it gave promise of establishing a stable constitutional government.

The seven men who nominally are governing Persia are without character or reputation. They do not command the slightest respect of their countrymen and would not exist a day without the protection of the Russian and British legations.

Russian forces and influences are steadily advancing southward and unless there is a break in the present trend of events the realization of Russia's dream of a warm water port is a matter of only a few years. Great Britain will then be confronted with a living Russo-Indian frontier problem. . . .

The most regrettable feature of Persia's dismemberment is the fact that it might have been entirely prevented had Great Britain frankly objected, at the beginning, to Russia's flagrant violation of the Anglo-Russian agreement, commencing with her claim last summer of the right to veto appointments of Persian officials, and culminating in the dispatch of her army into Persia on the false pretext that a Persian official had printed a pamphlet criticising Russia's previous actions in Persia.



#### China.

The expected abdication of the little Emperor, an edict for which was said to be all ready for promulgation on the 17th, has not come off—the more warlike of the Manchu princes having prevailed in the Imperial councils. In the expectation of an abdication the following circular appeal for recognition was sent out on the 19th by the provisional Republican government at Nanking, to the governments at Washington, Tokio, London, Paris, Berlin and St. Petersburg:

The Manchu government having entered into negotiations with the Republic of China for the purpose of abdicating its entire sovereign rights, powers and privileges, we fervently pray for recognition in order to avoid a disastrous interregnum.

WANG CHUNG WEI.

Foreign Minister.

On the same day the following demands were telegraphed by the Republican government to the Imperial Premier, Yuan Shi Kai, at Peking:

1. The abdication of the throne and the surrender of the sovereign powers are demanded.