

pinos have made no move to settle upon the public land it is recommended that the limit which any person may buy from the public domain be raised from 40 acres to 1,000 acres, and that the limit of land which any one person or corporation may hold in the islands be raised from 2,500 to 25,000 acres. It is hoped that in this way an influx of American capital may be induced.

The divorce of church and state in France.

Efforts to enforce the new law of France for the separation of church and State (p. 581), have raised a storm of protest all over France, and in some places rioting has occurred. The especial reason for this commotion is the enforcement of that clause of the law which requires inventories of church property. In several Paris churches on the 1st pitched battles were fought, and hundreds of church members were arrested. According to Paris dispatches of the 1st the Ministry was interpellated on the subject in the Chamber of Deputies and—

Premier Rouvier replied that the Ministry was determined to do its duty at any cost, even employing armed force if necessary. Scenes of extreme violence took place at the Church of St. Clothilde. The church had been filled since early morning, the congregation including many prominent men. Repeated charges by the police on the crowds gathered outside led to fifty arrests, including two priests. The crowd eventually became so violent that the police drew their swords. Many were injured during the fighting. Fire engines were placed near the church so as to be able if necessary to drench the crowd. The women showed the greatest determination, opening umbrellas for their protection and chanting psalms. Under a shower of broken chairs the officers broke down the church doors and entered the building. One of the principal officers was wounded severely. Inside the church the congregation had erected barricades, which had to be taken by assault while men and women fainted. At the altar a few of the congregation and some young priests stood, defiantly brandishing sticks. The ejection of the remainder of the crowd resulted in the injuring of many persons on both sides, including fifty policemen and guards and a still higher number of the militant Roman Catholics. All the windows of the church were broken and every chair smashed. Similar scenes were enacted in many parts of the country. The prefect of the Departement of the

Seine has issued an order to the clergy instructing them to give up the keys of their churches and adding that in case of refusal the commissioners are instructed to call on the armed forces for assistance.

Further rioting was reported on the 20th. A fight in the church of St. Pierre du Groscaillou resulted in the injury of fifty persons, some of them seriously. Three thousand were in the church. The police give the names of seven persons seriously injured, including the Marquis Daubigny and two priests. The duc de la Rochefoucauld, who was arrested during the troubles at the Church of Ste. Clothilde, was condemned to three months' imprisonment. Dispatches of the latter date explain that—

those offering resistance belonged to the mixed classes. There was undoubtedly a considerable proportion of fervent Catholic of both sexes among them who believed in the sanctity of their cause, and who were prepared for martyrdom, but many were mere anti-republican partisans, including royalists, imperialists and nationalists.

The British elections.

As a result of the overwhelming Liberal victory in the British elections (p. 727), a split in the Conservative party is reported, between the old Conservatives under Balfour's leadership, and the followers of Chamberlain. Most of the reports on this head are, however, little better than political gossip. Not until Parliament assembles and factional lines appear, is any trustworthy news regarding Opposition leadership probable. Meanwhile Balfour and Chamberlain have agreed to call a general meeting of the party for an early date not yet announced.

Intelligent explanations of the significance of the Liberal victory are only beginning to find their way into the daily press on the American side. The following from the New York daily Press (Rep.) of February 4—a staff correspondent's letter of January 25 from London—comes exceptionally near to being a correct estimate:

Upholders of Henry George's principles have cause to rejoice in the great Liberal landslide in England. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the new Premier, has definitely committed his

Government. Besides the Prime Minister, the most important members of the Cabinet are well-known advocates of taxation of the value of the land. Among these are Mr. Asquith, Chancellor of the Exchequer; Sir Edward Grey, Mr. John Morley, Mr. Haldane, Earl of Carrington, Mr. Bryce, the Earl of Aberdeen, Mr. Herbert Gladstone and others. There is naturally great rejoicing at the offices of the English League for the Taxation of Land Values. Frederick Verinder, its secretary, who has been connected with this movement in England for a quarter of a century, expressed himself as elated at the results obtained by the agitation which practically began on the street corners in 1881. "By the way," he said, "people all over England have been surprised at the arguments advanced in this election by workmen and the supposedly 'ignorant classes' on the mooted points of Protection versus Free Trade. So it may interest you to hear that Henry George's book, 'Protection and Free Trade,' to the extent of 30,000 copies was placed by our league where it would do the most good; and we also sent out daily, long before the election, practically hundreds of thousands of leaflets setting forth plainly just what we meant by land-value taxation." "But is the Prime Minister sincere in his utterances on that head, or were they only made to catch the popular vote?" I asked. "I have every reason to believe that Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman means exactly what he says," answered the single taxer, "and will carry out all his promises. He is committed definitely and irrevocably to the principle of taxation of land values; and, even if he were not, there are many other members of the Cabinet who are in favor of the principle. "I suppose, in England, with its great landlords, and all the property in the hands of a few, it was not easy to get these principles before the country?" "Well, I admit there were enormous difficulties, and now that we have won," replied Mr. Verinder, "I feel that we have a right to be in high spirits over the real triumph of Henry George's principles." "Have any of the great landlords begun to see things your way; are they willing that their individual property should be taxed on a land-value scheme?" was asked. "The Marquis of Northampton," replied Mr. Verinder, "one of the greatest property owners in England, who has large tracts in London itself, was originally one of the prime movers in the land-value direction; one of our vice presidents was Lord Hobhouse, and so was Earl Compton. It does not seem to be at all well known," he added, "that a bill for the taxation of land values has long been before Parliament. In 1904 and 1905 it was carried by majorities of 67

and 90 votes respectively, though in the two previous years it was defeated once by a majority of only 13 votes." "Who were principally instrumental in getting these bills before the house?" "Dr. Macnamara, supported by John Burns, Dillon, Lloyd-George, Mr. Trevelyan, J. H. Whitley and others. Many of these are now members of the Cabinet. This was the bill of 1903, which was, however, defeated. When the bill was carried in 1905 then came the dissolution of the government, but now, with all the new Ministry committed to the measure, it is sure to go through."

That this is on the whole a probable estimate of the significance of the result, is evident from the first speech of Campbell-Bannerman after the formation of his cabinet. It was delivered at Albert Hall, London, December 21, 1905, before an audience of 10,000 people, and as reported in the London Daily News it presented this outline of the Liberal land taxation policy:

When I come to a policy of constructive social reform I am conscious that I must make reiteration of things I have been saying up and down the country for the last three or four years. But I can assure you this, that it will be always the same story. We desire to develop our undeveloped estate in the country (hear, hear), to give the farmer greater freedom in the exercise of his business, to secure a home and career for the laborer, who is now in too many cases cut off from the soil. We wish to make the land less of a pleasure ground for the rich and more of a treasure ground for the nation (Cheers). Why cannot Mr. Chamberlain (hisses) drop his project of taxing corn and cheese, and so forth, and go back to his old love of three acres and a cow? (Laughter.) These great questions cannot be neglected, because the health and stamina of the nation are bound up with the welfare of a large class of workers on the soil. The town population is redundant, the country population is desolated—it is a subversion of healthy natural life. (Cheers.) . . . But we are met to-night in London and not in the country; in London, the greatest city in the world—and a conglomeration of cities—some cities of the very rich and some cities of the very poor (hear, hear). Sir, London presents a group of problems positively terrifying in their dimensions, problems of housing and of overcrowding, problems of the unemployed, and of the overemployed (hear, hear), and of the badly employed. (Hear, hear.) But they differ—these problems—they differ, after all, only in degree and not in kind from those which present themselves in other and smaller cities. We

all know the evils. Whoever passes, like the Levite, on the other side of the way, Liberalism cannot pass by on the other side. (Cheers.) But then what is that which we can do? We can strengthen the hands of the municipalities (hear, hear) by reforming the land system (hear, hear) in which I include the imposition of a rate upon ground values. (Cheers loud and long.)

That Campbell-Bannerman intended by his speech to advocate not the taxation of land by area, but of the value of sites, was emphasized by him in a letter to J. A. Pease, a former member of Parliament, which appeared in Reynolds' Weekly Newspaper of January 21st as follows:

You ask me whether what I said at the Albert Hall with reference to 'deriving something from the land' in the shape of revenue, is to be read as a declaration in favor of the rating or taxing of site values, and not of the general taxation of land per se. The answer is, most assuredly, and if there be any doubt in the matter in the minds of your friends, perhaps you will make this known.

NEWS NOTES

—John Alexander Dowie has appointed Wilbur Glenn Voliva, of Australia, his deputy general overseer.

—A "Business Men's Tariff Reform League" has been organized in Boston, with ex-Gov. Douglass for president.

—The City Council of Kansas City, Kan., has adopted the plans of Mayor Rose for a municipal water plant (pp. 425, 466), costing \$1,500,000.

—The Political Equality Club of Rochester, N. Y., gave a birthday reception on the 2d to Susan B. Anthony in honor of her 82d birthday.

—William Hancock, a well-known single taxer of the East, formerly of Wyoming, Pa., and Alexandria, Va., died at Wilkesbarre on the 8th.

—The national convention of woman suffragists met at Baltimore on the 7th (p. 696). The principal address at the night session was by Dr. Anna Shaw.

—The advisory referendum petition on municipal ownership for Chicago (p. 729) was filed with the board of elections on the 1st. It was sworn to contain 178,509 signatures of registered voters.

—A decision of the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals sitting in Chicago on the 6th reversed the decision of Judge Baker at Indianapolis (p. 328) which denied the legal right of Indianapolis to own a gas plant.

—Under the auspices of various civ-

ic organizations and clubs of Chicago, a meeting in honor of the memory of the late Judge Murray F. Tuley (p. 659) will be held at the Auditorium at 2 p. m. on the 11th.

—The Supreme Court of Wisconsin decided on the 6th that the legislative enactment giving railroads power to cross streets and build along highways, supersedes the power of cities to regulate and control the location of tracks.

—A national conference on life insurance regulation was held at Chicago last week, beginning on the 1st, in which Gov. Johnson, of Minnesota; Gov. Cummins, of Iowa, and Attorney General Mayer, of New York, participated.

—An application to the Supreme Court of Illinois by the Chicago Sunday Closing League for a mandamus to compel Mayor Dunne to close all saloons on Sunday (p. 599) was denied on the 7th for lack of jurisdiction to generally enforce general police laws by mandamus.

—An attempt to indict Mayor Dunne and his chief of police, Collins, for protecting gambling, was made before the grand jury of Cook county, Ill., last week, but the grand jury reported that gambling "has been suppressed as far as possible with the present limited police force," and the attempt failed.

—Representatives of the woman suffrage movement appeared on the 1st before the committee of the United States Senate urging the passage of the bill introduced by Senator Warren, of Wyoming, permitting women to vote at Congressional elections. Rev. Olympia Brown, of Racine, Wis.; Mrs. Belta Lockwood, of Washington, and Mrs. Amelia V. Petty, of Lakewood, N. J., joined in urging that the bill be discussed in the Senate.

—A series of Mayors meetings in Cincinnati began at the Vine street church on the 4th, with Mayor Dunne, of Chicago, as the speaker. His subject was "Municipal Ownership." Mayor Johnson, of Cleveland, is to speak on the 11th on "Municipal Home Rule," and Mayor Whitlock, of Toledo, on the 25th, on "Personality." On the 18th Harris R. Cooley, director of charities and corrections of Cleveland, will speak at the same place and in the same series on "The Poor and Criminal of a Great City."

—Unofficial announcement was made in New York on the 6th that the Standard Oil company is preparing to increase its capital stock from \$100,000,000 to \$600,000,000 by issuing six shares for each one now outstanding. The object is said to be two-fold: to try to dispel public criticism that arises every time the Standard declares a 40 or 48 per cent dividend; and to bring the stock among a larger number of holders, so there may be