

on the 8th. Lawson Purdy, who has been President of the Board since 1906 (vol. xii, p. 1203), was reappointed as President. The full board is as follows: Lawson Purdy, President; salary, \$8,000. John J. Halleran, Charles J. McCormack, Daniel S. McElroy, Judson G. Wall, Charles T. White and Edward Kaufman. All members except Mr. Purdy, receive \$7,000 salaries.

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When swearing in the new tax commissioners on the 10th, Mayor Gaynor warned them, according to the Chicago Record-Herald's special report:

I have selected you to make valuations of real estate uniform throughout the entire city. The law requires the fair sale value to be adopted. Establish a basis and then make it uniform. Favor no one, and see that your deputies favor no one for political influence, love or money. If political leaders come asking favors in valuations tell them to go away, that that day is gone by. Politics must be banished from your department. Let every deputy who sets down a manifestly wrong valuation be dismissed at once. He is not entitled to a trial. Try to find out some owner who is trying to corrupt a deputy and we will have him indicted. No meaner person exists than one capable of trying to get rid of some part of his taxes by throwing it on his neighbors. No jury would spare him. For several years the great gas plant of the New York and East River Gas Company at Astoria, was valued on the tax rolls at only \$600,000. In 1909 it was raised to \$3,000,000. Competent persons say that even this is not one-half of its value, but that is for you to say. It was valued by the company in the recent franchise tax suit at over \$10,000,000 in making up the total capital on which the company should be permitted to make a division of at least 6 per cent. I have several times mentioned the Cutting real estate. It was set down on the tax books at \$1,078,000. It was sold to the city for \$4,565,367. In justice to the tax department I am able to say, as my best judgment after examination, that the property could not have been fairly valued at over \$1,500,000, and that substantially all in excess of that sum paid by the city was excessive. The spectacle of the city bargaining through one set of its officials to pay \$4,565,367 for land which another set of officials valued for taxation at only \$1,078,000 as its true value cannot help drawing the competency or the integrity of the city government in question. There was another piece of property, at Harway Basin, valued on the tax rolls for several years at about \$29,306, when there was actually a mortgage on it for \$276,000 and the purchase price was \$350,000. These are some samples. Only the other day the sale of a piece of real estate here was reported for \$1,400,000. I found it on the tax rolls for \$750,000. If the dwellings and ordinary holdings were valued on the rolls on the same basis there would be no injustice, but they are not. They are valued well up to what they could be sold for. Look to all this.

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Other appointments by the Mayor have been announced, among them that of John J. Murphy as

Tenement House Commissioner, with a salary of \$7,500, and of Mr. Charles B. Stover as Park Commissioner for Manhattan and Richmond, with a salary of \$5,000. This latter was the position declined by Mr. Herman Ridder (p. 13). Mr. Stover is said to be in accord with the Mayor's idea of more open spaces in the parks for people to sit and play, as in Europe, and also of a space for public meetings, where all sorts of people may speak freely, as in England. He was instrumental in securing the parkway in the middle of Delancey street. Of the task before him as Tenement House Commissioner, Mr. Murphy is quoted as saying in an interview: "Fully appreciating the inevitable friction which arises when public officials attempt to regulate the use of private property for the common good, it will be my effort to deal with such conflicts in the spirit of common sense within the law, and to give all well-founded complaints the largest possible measure of my personal attention."

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State Praise for Mayor Johnson's Administration.

After a year's exhaustive investigation, beginning December 1, 1908, the Ohio State examiners filed a report at Columbus on the 3rd, in regard to the recent municipal government of Cleveland (p. 13). The report praised Mayor Johnson's administration in high terms for efficiency and close attention to details. Cases of splitting of bills in certain departments to avoid the delays of competitive bidding, were noted, without charges of malfeasance. All other criticisms were on technicalities only.

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The Campaign in Great Britain.

Parliament was formerly dissolved by the King on the 10th, and writs for a general election were immediately issued (p. 8). One or two boroughs are likely to go to the polls on Friday, the 14th; on Saturday, the 15th, twelve London and fifty-six provincial constituencies will hold their elections, and many more on the following Monday and Tuesday, but probably not all the voting will be concluded until the 29th. The new Parliament is summoned for February 15.

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Cable reports are much fuller than hitherto. The Conservatives and their allies the Unionists have been playing the German war scare, upon which Mr. Balfour spoke at Hanley on the 4th, and was answered on the 5th by Mr. Asquith speaking at Bath and Mr. Lloyd George speaking at Peckham. The question between a revenue derived from protective duties, and one derived from land value taxation, is always to the fore. And as the campaign has progressed the Conservatives have seen the need of advocating a reform of the House of Lords from within. This has been



This Sketch by Mr. Robert Morley, was, on December 22, Awarded First Prize in the National Liberal Club's Competition for General Parliamentary Election Cartoons. Four Hundred Original Sketches Were Submitted. From the Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury of December 23.

urged by the Times and other Conservative organs, and by Lord Lansdowne, and by Mr. Balfour, who said at Ipswich on the 6th: "By all means let us reform the House of Lords in order to strengthen it." Violence at meetings, with fighting and the infliction of bodily injuries, has become more and more common as the campaign has progressed, and so great has been the excitement that by the 8th 4,000 meetings a night were being held. The most prominent Conservative speakers since the reopening of the campaign after the Christmas recess, have been Mr. Balfour, Lord Lansdowne, Lord Milner, Lord Curzon, Lord Rothschild and Austen Chamberlain, former Chancellor of the Exchequer; while the leading Liberal speakers have been the Premier, Mr. Asquith, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Lloyd George; Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary; Reginald McKenna, First Lord of the Admiralty, and Winston Spencer Churchill, Presi-

dent of the Board of Trade. With the issuance of the election writs members of the House of Lords are barred from speaking at the hustings.

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Mail advices give fuller arguments on both sides. The Times publishes the following letter which it states the employes and pensioners on the Sutherland estates in Scotland received on Christmas Eve from the Duke of Sutherland:

Stafford House, London, S. W.

I cannot resist the feeling at this crisis that I ought to draw the attention of those who receive wages and pensions on these estates to the present political situation and how it may affect all those who receive all these wages and pensions. I will now only refer to that portion of this controversy that will have an immediate and direct bearing on the management and welfare of these estates.

On the one hand we have the proposal of the Unionist party of Tariff Reform, one of the chief objects of which is to increase employment in this country by putting a tax on finished foreign manufactures, thereby giving increased employment to our people. It is calculated that by Tariff Reform we should get from £16,000,000 to £20,000,000 from the foreigner. All raw material would, of course, come in free. Tariff Reform has many other objects such as the defense of the country, for which it will provide money, preference with the colonies, etc.

The alternative policy, which is the policy of the present Government, and the Budget, which would be revived, is an increased income-tax, a super-tax, and increased and increasing death duties which will be put on all employers of the people who live on and by the land. We have been told that agricultural land will be exempt from increased taxation, but if the owner of the land has to pay the increased taxation he cannot spend the amount he has been spending on the estate and on wages. The result, therefore, must be reduced employment, and all capital that can be moved will continue to leave the country and go abroad. Without capital there cannot be employment.

If there was no alternative to these proposals (the proposals of the present Government) we might be forced to adopt them, but there is an alternative in Tariff Reform. I would point out that the whole civilized world except Great Britain has adopted a tariff system. Our people are being told the contrary, but this is not true. The countries which include the greatest states in the World, the United States, Germany, France, etc., not to mention our colonies, have proved the great advantages of such a system, so that it is no doubtful experiment that the Unionist party propose to adopt but a well-proved system that has greatly benefited the people of those countries who have for many years tried it. I have written this to you as so much trouble is being taken to deceive you on this question. Nothing would give me greater sorrow than being forcibly compelled to reduce wages and pensions.

SUTHERLAND.

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Speaking at the National Welsh Liberal Convention at Cardiff on December 21st, Mr. Lloyd

George made compelling use of the extraordinary land monopoly enjoyed by the Marquis of Bute in the very city in which he was speaking—facts well known to students of the questions of land values in Great Britain, and already given in these columns (Public of April 16, 1909, p. 376). But Mr. Lloyd George's use of the facts, on the very ground subject to the abuse, has rung through England as one of the greatest speeches of the campaign. His last example from the estate of the Marquis of Bute, with the peroration of his speech, ran as follows, as reported in the Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury of the 22d:

If they would look at the ordinance map they would find that there was a little kitchen garden of seven acres of vineries, and, he had no doubt, of cabbage patches, too. That was valued at £56 10s ratable value. Some time ago somebody erected a theater on the cabbage patch, and they paid for it at the rate of £1,200 (cries of "Shame"). It was really a little more, because, in addition to that, they had to spend some money upon roads, and, if that were taken into account, it would run very nearly into £1,800; but let him take £1,200.

Mr. D. A. Thomas.—That is per annum.

Mr. Lloyd-George.—I am very glad I am reminded of that. I am not referring to the freehold, mind. They are paying a ground rent at the rate of £1,200 per annum ("Shame"). I was so astonished at this that I could hardly believe extortion could go to that extent, so I made very careful inquiries, and I find they are charging something like 5s per square yard per annum (renewed cries of "Shame"). Well, who is Barabbas? I would like to know (loud cheers)? I want you to work out the sum it is valued at—£56 10s for the purpose of contributing to the rates of Cardiff to the public expenditure that helped to make its value—£8 an acre is the value the Marquis of Bute puts upon that land when he is asked to contribute upon it, but when he comes to receiving he values it at £1,200 per annum ("Shame"). Now, all I say to him in this, That you ought to contribute at the rate of £1,200 per annum (cheers). How could you expect people with such a record to let the Budget through (hear, hear)? Of course they threw it out; but it is going through (loud cheers), and many another bill will follow it (renewed cheers). Like the mountain sheep I have seen many a time, once they find a gap in the wall all the rest go through (laughter); and the Budget will go through, and the whole flock will follow to the better pastures than that they are on now—to security for the workingman against unemployment (hear, hear), against starvation in the darkest hour of sickness (cheers), to security against old age (cheers), security for the tenant farmers against capricious eviction (hear, hear), security for the worker—it is all coming, and this is going to be the beginning of it (cheers). They talk about a Second Chamber to protect the weak and the powerless. By all means let us set it up; but when did the House of Lords ever do that (hear, hear)? There are people in this country who have riches, possessions, power, influence, retainers. The Lords go out of their way to shield them (hear, hear). There are people in this country with no possessions, no influence, very few

friends (hear, hear)—when did you ever hear of the Lords striving to rescue them (cries of "Never")? I remember poor little cottars in Ireland thrown out by hundreds and thousands on the bleak wayside, out of the hovels they had built with their own hands, flung out ruthlessly by cruel landlords. What did the Peers do? They stood by and cheered and hounded on (cries of "Shame"). I remember hundreds of Welsh farmers thrown out of the homes of their fathers. Why? Because they obeyed the dictates of their consciences (hear, hear)—consciences planted in their breasts by their Father in Heaven to guide and direct them through life. What happened to them? Flung out! Did the Lords protect them? On the contrary, when the Ballot Bill was produced to make it impossible for outrages of that kind to be perpetrated, the Lords threw it out. Talk about the Second Chamber protecting the country against popular impulse and passions! Let them name a single oppression in this land which was due to popular passion. If there was one, fifty were due to the cold, deliberate greed of class. And they wanted a Second Chamber against popular passion! They are not there to protect honesty and industry against confiscation; they are there to defend monopoly, which plunders industry. They are not there as the guardians of liberty; they are there as a garrison of privilege. We have found them out, and Britain will strip them of their pretensions (loud cheers)!

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Speaking at Llanelly on the 22d, Mr. Lloyd George attacked Protection, as reported by the Glasgow Herald of the 23d:

The chairman had given him an excellent text when he referred to the tinsplate industry of the district. It was worth while coming down there to point the moral of the industry. They in Llanelly had supplied the best answer to Protection they had ever been given. They had answered it in facts, and certainly not in posters like those he saw on the walls. (Laughter and hear, hear.) The American tariff staggered and stunned them, but what did they do? They had people who told them they should tax the Yankees. (Laughter.) Somebody said they have hit you on one cheek, smite them on the other; but the people of the district said if you put a tariff on wheat and meat, which America mostly supplies, who pays it? (Hear, hear.) In order to do that we must put up the price of our own bread and meat. Well, that didn't commend itself to Welshmen living in the neighborhood. (Cheers.) Revenge was the poorest and stupidest and most disappointing of policies. He had never known anybody who adopted it but came to grief. (Laughter.) Their mills became empty for the moment; but they did not meet empty mills by adding to their empty cupboards. What the people of Llanelly did was to improve their machinery and open up new markets. And what was the result? Last year America was obliged to buy tin plates mostly produced in that part of the country to the extent of £885,000 worth in spite of their tariff, and when it came to the whole world Llanelly and district sold 5½ millions' worth of tinsplates; that was a remarkable triumph for Free Trade. (Cheers.) If they had adopted a tariff

they would have lost their foreign trade. They set up mills in America to compete with ours. Were they sending any tinplates to this country? He could not find a trace of them; he had looked through the Government trade and navigation accounts, and he could not find that they sold enough tinplates to this country to make a sardine box. (Cheers and laughter.) We sold to the Germans £432,000 worth of tinplates; he could not find enough tinplate to make a snuffbox which came from Germany. (Renewed laughter and cheers.) That was because we were able to get our material cheaper than any of them. He congratulated them on their courage and steadfastness in the hour of despondency and gloom, and, above all, on the foresight they had displayed. They were now reaping their reward, and were held up as an example to the whole of Britain in saving the trade, commerce, and industry of that land from the great folly of Protection. (Cheers.)

NEWS NOTES

—The Canadian bureau of census estimates the population of Canada at the close of the year 1909 at 7,350,000.

—"The Chicago Plan" for a beautiful and practical city (vol. xii, p. 1111) was definitely launched at a dinner of the Commercial Club at the Congress hotel on the 8th.

—At the meeting of the Chicago Single Tax Club at 508 Schiller Building, on the evening of Friday, the 14th, George A. Schilling will speak on "Home Rule for Cities."

—Porto Rican clubs are being formed at various places in the United States where there are Porto Rican students, having for their aim the independence of Porto Rico (vol. xii, p. 1095).

—All records for height attained in heavier than air machines were broken on the 7th by Hubert Latham at Mourmelon, France, when Mr. Latham rose over 3,400 feet, and in all, flew about 40 miles (vol. xii, pp. 758, 973).

—Through the drowning of General Fornos Diaz while endeavoring to make a landing by canoe over the bar at Greytown, negotiations for peace in Nicaragua which General Diaz as an emissary from General Estrada to President Madriz had been empowered to undertake, have been indefinitely delayed (p. 10).

—Initial steps were taken on the 5th for a movement of Chicago men and women looking to the civic betterment of the city. Action followed an address on "Civic Righteousness" given in Marshall Field's tearoom by Medill McCormick, publisher of the Tribune. Mrs. H. M. Wilmarth was appointed temporary chairman of the new movement.

—Over 600 delegates have already been named to participate in the Conference on Uniform Legislation called by The National Civic Federation to meet in Washington, D. C., January 17, 18 and 19 (vol. xii, p. 1256). A number of organizations have called their executive committees to Washington to attend the conference, notably the National Grange, The American Federation of Labor, the Farmers' National

Congress, the National Association of Life Insurance Presidents and the National Association of State Boards of Arbitration.

—William J. Sidis, the eleven-year-old son of Professor Boris Sidis of the Harvard Medical school, gave a talk on the evening of the 5th before the Harvard Mathematical Society on the "The Fourth Dimension." The little boy is a special student at the university where he is taking advanced courses in mathematics, as well as courses in philosophy and the ancient system of ethics.

—Representatives of the carriers and of the switchmen's union, who have been in conference in Chicago for the last month trying to settle the strike of the switchmen (vol. xii, p. 1187), came to an agreement on the 5th, by which it was mutually decided to submit the differences to arbitration, and abide by the findings and recommendations of Chairman Martin Knapp of the Interstate Commerce Commission and Labor Commissioner Neill.

—Work upon a dam across the Mississippi from Keokuk to Hamilton for power purposes is announced to begin immediately. The War Department will have supervision of the work, which is financed by New York and Boston capitalists. The estimated cost is \$15,000,000. It is expected that 200,000 horsepower will be developed at the power plant, to be located on the Iowa side. The dam will be the second largest in the world.

—Cardinal Francis Satolli, from 1892 to 1895 Apostolic delegate to Washington and the official head of the Catholic Church in America, died at Rome on the 8th, in his 71st year. It will be remembered that it was by Cardinal Satolli's efforts and exercise of authority that Dr. Edward McGlynn, the "beloved priest" and friend of Henry George, deposed from the priesthood by Archbishop Corrigan of New York, was restored to his priestly functions.

—Mail advices in regard to the Chinese Provincial Assemblies which met for the first time in last October (vol. xii, pp. 1040, 1118), relate that although the ruling class refuses as yet to take the new institutions seriously, and professes to regard them as a mere safety-valve, and a machinery which will allow them the more readily to repress the reformers by forcing them into the open, the Assemblies have already displayed a very independent spirit, and checked at least one unpopular tax. They are "formidable," "iconoclastic," and "patriotic," but as yet they lack leaders.

—"The Land Tax in the English Budget," with Joseph Fels of London for the chief speaker, was the subject at a "Budget" dinner given in New York at Kallil's restaurant on the 8th, under the auspices of the Women's Henry George League. Short speeches were made by Bolton Hall, Frank Stephens, Ella M. Murray and George L. Record. Amy Mali Hicks, president of the League, occupied the chair. A hundred and sixty-five persons were present. A feature of the dinner was the singing of the now famous "Land Song," to be found on another page of this Public.

—The Chicago Peace Society was reorganized at a meeting held in the Fine Arts Building on the afternoon of the 4th. George E. Roberts, President of the Commercial National Bank, was elected for the new president of the society. The secretary will be