

any coal, petroleum, natural gas or mineral land which it now owns in Alaska." "The government should construct, own, acquire, and, if necessary, operate at least one railroad there." "If Alaska is to be developed, that development must come either through outside syndicated wealth, or through individual energy and enterprise stimulated and aided by government construction of necessary railroads." [See current volume, page 1242.]



#### The Ontario Election.

Although the Conservative Government of Ontario, with Sir James Whitney as premier, was returned to power at the Provincial elections on the 11th, the Liberals made a net gain of seven seats in the Provincial Parliament. The representation will be: Conservatives, 81; Liberals, 24; Labor, 1. In this Parliament the question of exempting improvements of real estate from taxation will have an important place. The Liberals are pledged to it as a party and the Conservatives are divided on it. [See current volume, page 1170.]



#### The British Parliament.

In the British House of Commons on the 6th, official announcement was made in the afternoon by the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, that the Government will use all the Constitutional means at its disposal to pass a home-rule bill for Ireland during the life of the present Parliament. This means, if the House of Lords make it necessary by obstructing the measure or crippling it with hostile amendments, that the Ministry have agreed upon the policy of carrying their bill through three consecutive sessions of the Commons before dissolution. [See current volume, pages 418, 866.]



Also on the 6th, but in the evening, the Commons passed the Lloyd-George labor insurance bill through its third reading by a vote of 324 to 21. This makes the bill a law unless the House of Lords oppose it with their limited veto. Most of the Tories in the House of Commons refused to vote, giving as their reason that while they approve the objects of the bill they regard it as not having been opened by the party in power to adequate discussion and explanation. The bill passed first reading in the House of Lords on the 11th. [See current volume, page 1242.]



#### The Persian Crisis.

Russia continues to demand the dismissal of the American Treasurer-General of Persia, W. Morgan Shuster. To give the Persians time to reconsider their refusal of compliance, the Russian troops are proceeding but slowly toward Teheran. Mr. Shus-

ter in an interview for the American press has made the following statement in regard to the work he has accomplished:

On June 13, when I assumed charge of the Persian treasury and revenues, I found banking deficits of \$500,000, and not a penny in cash. There was an unknown sum in outstanding checks, drafts and treasury promises to pay issued by previous ministers of finance. Since then, despite the civil war, which consumed for extraordinary direct expenses alone more than \$1,500,000, and despite the attendant disorders throughout the Empire, causing diminution of revenues, I have paid the banking deficits of \$500,000, I have furnished the expenses of running the government, I have met promptly all foreign obligations accruing, and now I have in the treasury liquid assets of \$800,000. I would have pledged my reputation to place Persia's finances on a solid basis in two years and to have begun the development of her great resources, which require only transportation facilities and capital. When the ultimatum demanding my dismissal was presented I informed the members of the Assembly that I wished them to make the decision which they thought best for Persia, and not to consider me in any manner, adding that I would loyally abide by their decision. Their unanimous action was therefore entirely voluntary. This striking proof of confidence in a foreign official, given in the face of the threatened destruction of Persia's nationality, compels me in honor to abide by their wishes while I remain their employe.

[See current volume, page 1244.]



An appeal from the Persian people to the Congress of the United States was read in the House of Representatives on the 7th. It asked aid consistent with Persia's dignity and independence, making the exhortation:

You, who have tasted the benefits of liberty, would you witness the fall of any people whose only fault was to sympathize with your system to save its future? Would you suffer that Persia should fall for having wished to preserve its national dignity and for having understood the sentiments so dear to a free people?



#### The Chinese Revolution.

Authentic news in regard to the one instance of violence offered foreigners during the present revolution in China—the murder of some missionaries in Shensi Province (reported in *The Public* of November 24, page 1196)—has been received at Peking. It is to the effect that eight foreigners, four of them Americans, were killed and several mission houses were destroyed, during an outbreak against the Manchus, 8,000 of whom were slain by the Chinese.



Prince Chun, Regent for and father of the little Emperor, abdicated on the 6th. This office was given jointly to Shih-Hsu, a Manchu prince and former president of the National Assembly,

and Hsa-Shi Chang, vice president of the Privy Council. Shih-Hsu has accepted the post. Hsa-Shi Chang declined, but acceptance has been insisted on. An Imperial edict was issued on the 7th, sanctioning the cutting off of queues. [See current volume, page 1243.]

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A Republican conference of representatives of 14 Provinces is in session at Shanghai, organizing a provisional government. And another conference of representatives from eight Provinces has been in session at Wu-Chang, drafting a constitution for the "United States of China." According to the Associated Press reports, the draft, besides providing for the election by the provisional governments of a Provisional President, says that he must call a convention of the people within six months to confirm the constitution. All the acts of the National Assembly, which is to be composed of representatives appointed by the provincial governments, must be confirmed by the President of the Republic before going into effect. The President of the Republic is to be commander in chief of the army, and is to possess the power, with the concurrence of the National Assembly, of declaring war, making treaties, appointing diplomatic representatives, and providing courts of justice. [See current volume, pages 1171, 1195.]

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## NEWS NOTES

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—The Governors of Western States were at Washington on the 7th, at Baltimore on the 8th, and at New York on the 11th. [See current volume, page 1245.]

—Thomas Ball, the sculptor, died on the 11th at his home at Montclair, N. J., in his 93d year. Among his best known works are the equestrian statue of Washington, in Boston, and the statue of Daniel Webster, in New York.

—Ex-Governor J. M. Brown, candidate of the "wets," was nominated for Governor of Georgia on the 7th at the primaries, which, in Georgia and in other States that suppress the Negro vote, are treated as final. The election to follow will be only a formality.

—After lecturing at Los Angeles (California) on the 16th and 17th, Charles Frederick Adams is to lecture under the auspices of the Henry George Lecture Association of Chicago, at Santa Barbara (California), on the 18th and 19th, and at Santa Cruz on the 20th, 21st, 22d and 23d.

—Burt H. Franklin, an investigator employed by the defense in the McNamara case at Los Angeles, was held on the 11th by Justice William P. Young to answer to charges of bribing a juror, in the case of the younger McNamara before the latter's plea of guilty. [See current volume, page 1240.]

—The Supreme Court of the United States having refused to stay proceedings in the trial at Chicago of a criminal indictment against members of the

beef trust, the trial began before Judge Carpenter of the Federal court at Chicago on the 6th. A jury has not yet been secured. [See current volume, page 1219.]

—Victor Berger, the Socialist Congressman from Milwaukee, introduced in the House on the 4th a bill to repeal the Sherman anti-trust law and to provide for the social ownership and operation of industries which are controlled by any combination to the extent of 40 per cent of the total output in the United States.

—The great Durbar, or ceremonial reception of the King-Emperor George and the Queen-Empress Mary at Delhi, India, on the 12th, was carried out with unparalleled magnificence. The King-Emperor crowned himself Emperor of India. Announcement was made of the transference of the Imperial capital from Calcutta to Delhi. [See current volume, page 1172.]

—Between one and two hundred miners were trapped by a gaseous explosion in the Great Cross mountain coal mine of the Knoxville Iron Co., near Briceville, Tenn., on the 9th. Only three men came out of the mine alive immediately after the blast. Five men were got out on the 11th. It is feared that no more can be reached before they perish. Twenty-two bodies had been got out by the 11th.

—An agreement between the Illinois Central Railroad and the South Park Commissioners of Chicago, made public on the 12th but still subject to approval by the City Council and the Federal Government in some particulars, makes an adjustment of boundaries, titles, etc., whereby it is designed to afford opportunity to the railroad company to erect a new station below Twelfth street, and to the city to connect Jackson Park with Grant Park by a water front park-boulevard.

—At a meeting of the national committee of the Prohibition Party held at Chicago on the 6th, Atlantic City, N. J., was chosen for the national convention next year, the chairman, Charles R. Jones, being instructed to call it for a date between June 20 and July 20, and in a week other than those of the Democratic and the Republican conventions. A vote by the committee of confidence in the chairman, 33 to 18, was followed by the organization of "The Progressive Prohibition League."

—Socialist advices of the 7th from Stockholm report that at the elections to the upper house of the Swedish Parliament, 12 Socialists were elected, making a gain of 8 over the number in the last House. Members of the upper house are elected by the legislatures of the different principalities and the councils of the large cities. The new House will consist, according to the same advices, of 87 Conservatives, 51 Liberals and 12 Socialists, against 114 Conservatives, 30 Liberals and 4 Socialists in the old House.

—At their meeting at Washington on the 12th, the national committee of the Republican party named Chicago as the place, and June 18 as the time, for holding the next Republican national convention for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice President of the United States. Ex-Governor John F. Hill of Maine, was elected chairman of the committee, in place of Frank H. Hitchcock, resigned.