

actionary Tory party. The British people were only waiting for the call to freedom in order to turn from the shams which were offered them by the tariff reformers. They never loved protection, or sat content under it for a day, but their suffering during the last generation made them intolerant of Conservatism. They were nauseated and sickened almost to death by being told that they were living under the best possible system. They knew this was a lie. The country almost to a man knows that our systems of land tenure and taxation are terribly unjust. This fact has been brought home during the last two months to the Tories in the House of Lords, in the House of Commons, and in the press. Some of these are already shaping their policy to meet this new situation, and the next few years will see an increasing number of them accepting this policy. Clear observers hesitate to say what the future of the Tory party will be, if the Liberals are faithful to this principle which has found expression in the budget. The Tories are now running an alternative scheme. In the first issue of *The Budget Week by Week*, the new organ of the Budget Protest League, they submit the following as the Unionist proposals: "Rate on annual ground values; taxation confined to urban land; rates to be collected by the municipalities; proceeds of ground taxation to go in relief of rates." . . . Up and down the country dukes and earls are indulging in arguments mingled with threats and appeals to the pity of the happy people who have no land and no incomes to tax . . . Lord Rosebery asked for a referendum on the budget. He has got it. The agitation has been more thorough than any carried on for years. For some time the event seemed doubtful. Two months ago, or less, it was possible for the House of Lords and their advisers to hesitate and weigh their chances of success in forcing a general election by overstepping their Constitutional powers. Their position called for sympathy in these days of suspense . . . We congratulate the Lords on their relief from the agony of suspense. They know now what the mind of the country is, and they can determine their course in the light of that clear declaration. We need not recapitulate the stages in this wonderful movement of public opinion in favor of the taxation of land values, a movement as of an avalanche or landslide. When its progress was irresistibly felt, one Conservative newspaper after another altered its tone, endeavoring to adjust it to the new conditions. There were the inevitable reproaches and recriminations among them. The bitterness of despair showed itself in the *Spectator*, *Standard*, and *Daily Telegraph*. The humiliation of recording or suppressing the overwhelming defeat of resolutions against the budget was too much for their temper . . . From every quarter reports come that the budget is received with favor. We are sorry for the men on whom the task of arguing against it is laid. The only means of getting a hostile resolution passed seems to be for some lord to invite people to assemble in his park, to entertain them with tea, and in return obtain a vote condemning the budget.

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#### Taxing the Unearned Increment in Sweden.

A committee appointed early in the year by the Swedish government for the purpose of pro-

posing methods for taxing the unearned increase of land values in Sweden for local purposes, has now completed its work, and the following are the propositions advocated by the committee, as reported by the *Vernamo Posten* of August 21:

In city or town, the tax shall amount to one-fourth of the increase in value, and be levied as specified below. A lower rate of taxation may be levied if two-thirds of the voters in any municipality so decide.

In country townships, the increase in land values may be taxed at a rate up to one-quarter of the increase, if two-thirds of the voters so decide.

The tax is payable upon the transfer of the property from one owner to another, and shall be paid by the seller; in case of inheritance, it is paid by the heir or heirs. When property in land has not changed hands in 20 years, the tax may be levied against the property as if transferred, and is payable in 20 yearly installments.

The primary value, in relation to which the unearned increase shall be determined, is the assessed value in 1908.

The proceeds from this tax may only be used for permanent improvements, such as the building of roads, railroads, public buildings, etc.

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#### Henry George's Seventieth Birthday.

One of the memorial dinners in celebration of the seventieth birthday of Henry George (p. 874) was given in San Francisco on the 2d. Judge Robert Ferral presided, and the speakers were Mayor Taylor, Judge Coffey, Police Commissioner Leggett, Judge Maguire, Walter MacArthur, Richard I. Whelan, James H. Barry, Wells Drury, Andrew Furuseth, Rev. Robert Whitaker, W. G. Eggleston, C. F. Knight, Walter Gallagher, Patrick J. Healy, Herman Gutstadt, W. A. Cole, and Stephen Potter. A poem by Frances Margaret Milne was read. The speeches are reported at length and the poem is reproduced in the *San Francisco Star* of the 4th.

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At Omaha, on the 2d, L. J. Quinby presided, and the principal speaker was John Z. White, of Chicago. Other speakers were Paul Herbert, E. C. Clark, I. J. Dunn, Harriet Heller, and J. J. Points. A Nebraska organization was formed with L. J. Quinby of Omaha as president, and E. C. Clark, of Syracuse, as secretary.

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The Providence, R. I., Single Tax Club, of which Dr. J. A. McLaughlin is president, celebrated the birthday on the 2d with a "bohemian dinner" at Dr. McLaughlin's residence. David S. Fraser and T. J. Connolly were the speakers.

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#### The Cleveland Traction Question.

Only the question of maximum rate of fare now stands in the way of settlement of the traction

fight (p. 876) in Cleveland. The traction company offered on the 7th to—

(1) allow the city to nominate a purchaser of the company's property at any time after eight years from the date at which the proposed franchise becomes operative, provided it may retain the property upon the basis of as small a return as the proposed purchaser offers;

(2) concede the point that arbitrators shall not be limited to "disinterested" persons;

(3) refer the drafting of invalidity or safeguard clause to Judge Tayler, Judge Lawrence, Mr. Tolles and Mr. Baker.

But the company makes the foregoing offer— upon condition that the question of valuation be submitted to Judge Tayler at once; that the maximum rate of fare be 5 cents cash, including transfer, and 7 tickets for a quarter with 1 cent for transfer; and that the initial rate of fare be 3 cents cash, with 1 cent for transfer.

In response to these offers the city on the 8th accepted the offer for immediate valuation by Judge Tayler "unless it is meant to revoke the agreement that the valuation shall be by items to the extent that either party shall request, and the further agreement that the thing to be determined by Judge Tayler should be the value of the physical property and the value of the unexpired franchises of the company." As to the question of maximum fare the city replies:

The reasons for postponing the consideration of the fare question until after the determination of the valuation are so convincing that the Council regarded the company's concession upon that subject as evidence of substantial progress in the direction of settlement. We cannot conceive that the company would now insist upon reopening this settled question as a condition to its willingness to proceed at once with the valuation before Judge Tayler.

The Council thereupon offers to join the company in a request to Judge Tayler to begin the valuation of the property at once and suggests for the company's consideration the following form of letter:

Hon. R. W. Tayler, city—Sir: The Council of the city of Cleveland and the Cleveland Railway Company unite in a request that you will, at your earliest convenience, and as sole arbiter, undertake the valuation of the physical property and the unexpired franchises of the Cleveland Railway Company. The agreements reached between the company and the Council are that the valuation is to be by items, to the extent that either side requests, and that the subject of valuation shall be the physical property and unexpired franchises of the company, excluding good will and going value. The company and the Council will meet your wishes in the matter of time and place of hearings, and both, through their representatives, will produce all available data and evidence for your consideration.

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#### The Cleveland Primaries.

Contrary to the first news dispatches regarding

the Cleveland primaries on the 7th (p. 876), to the effect that Mayor Johnson had been renominated but his supporters in the Council had been defeated, all but two of his councilmanic supporters were renominated.

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The Democratic vote for Mayor was light, there being no serious opposition to Johnson; and while the Republican vote was larger it was regarded as significantly light in view of the fact that a vigorous triangular contest was waged. Following are the figures on the mayoral vote:

Democratic:	
Johnson .....	15,039
Walz .....	1,317
Total .....	16,356
Johnson's majority.....13,722	
Republican:	
Baehr .....	19,020
McKisson .....	8,658
Chandler .....	1,894
Total .....	29,572
Baehr's majority.....	8,468

Walz was the Democratic councilman who turned against Mayor Johnson in the traction fight. Baehr was the "organization" Republican, McKisson the "wicked" Republican, and Chandler the "good" Republican.

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Commenting upon the result, Mayor Johnson said: "The fact that the Democratic ticket polled a total vote nearly two-thirds as large as the total Republican vote, with no contests of a kind that would get out the Democratic vote, is a splendid indication of Democratic success at the general election." He also roughly outlined the dominant issue of the campaign as he sees it. The interview appeared in the Press of the 8th and the Plain Dealer of the 9th, as follows:

The quadrennial appraisement of property for taxation will be a very important question in the campaign, whether or not the street railways form an issue. The system for levying our taxes is probably the most unjust ever known. All is in confusion, and the way is open to all sorts of tricks in the valuation of property for taxation. A great step forward was taken when the time of appraisement was changed from ten to four years, and the work placed in the hands of men elected on nonpartisan tickets. Our whole attention should be directed to securing the appraisement of property in accordance with a uniform rule. There is property in this city that is assessed at not over 5 per cent of its value. Combinations of property owners have kept their valuations to from 10 to 35 per cent, while property outside the combination is assessed at from 40 to 110 per cent of its value.