

bers are in favor of it if the preferential vote is made compulsory."

ROBERT TYSON.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article, on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before, continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, October 25, 1910.

The Land Question in Australia.

Australian papers report the circumstances of the introduction into the Commonwealth Parliament of Australia, of the Ministerial land tax measure the principle of which was adopted by the people at the Commonwealth elections (pp. 411, 535, 730) in the triumph of the Labor Party. Mr. Fisher, leader of the Labor Party, and Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, presented the bill in the lower House. He explained that as the principle had been unassailably asserted in the elections, questions of detail alone remained for determination. On that point he stated that the bill clearly provided that the land tax should begin as of July 1, 1910, and that it was graduated in the hope of making large estates available for closer settlement, as well as to augment the revenues. To show the effect of land value taxation in bringing monopolized land into use, he cited the experience of the States and of New Zealand where land value taxation had made land more reasonably available to the people. Mr. Fisher's speech of an hour and a half is described as having been packed with convincing facts, and strengthened by quotations from Opposition leaders who profess to favor the principle but insist that the tax should be imposed by the States and not by the Commonwealth. It was at the conclusion that he said the policy of land taxation had "not only been approved by the Labor Party, but by the country at large," and that its principles were now "beyond the realm of serious controversy." An adjournment of the discussion was taken at the request of the Opposition.

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Later mail advices bringing the subject down to September 6th, reach us through the London Daily Chronicle of October 7th, which reports that—

the original proposal of the Labor Government to begin with a tax of 1d. in the pound on estates over £5,000 in value, and then rise by a series of steps to a rate of 6d. in the pound on estates over £80,000 in value, has given place to a more scientific

plan by which every pound of the taxable value of an estate is made to bear a fair share of taxation.

In the case of absentee owners, of course, the tax is heavier, for there is no £5,000 exemption, and the "ramp" begins on the first pound of value.

The following tables will show English readers how the rate works out under the new scale:

Resident Owners.			
Unimproved Value.	Taxable Value.	Rate per £1 in pence.	Amount of tax £ s. d.
5,001	1	1	0 0 1
6,000	1,000	1 1-30	4 6 1
7,000	2,000	1 1-15	8 17 9
8,000	3,000	1 1-10	13 15 0
9,000	4,000	1 2-15	18 17 9
10,000	5,000	1 1-6	24 6 1
11,000	6,000	1 1-5	30 0 0
12,000	7,000	1 7-30	35 19 5
13,000	8,000	1 8-30	42 4 5
14,000	9,000	1 9-30	48 15 0
15,000	10,000	1 1-3	55 11 1
16,000	11,000	1 11-30	62 12 9
17,000	12,000	1 12-30	70 0 0
18,000	13,000	1 13-30	77 12 9
19,000	14,000	1 14-30	85 11 1
20,000	15,000	1½	93 15 0
21,000	16,000	1 16-30	102 4 5
22,000	17,000	1 17-30	110 19 5
23,000	18,000	1 18-30	120 0 0
24,000	19,000	1 19-30	129 6 1
25,000	20,000	1 20-30	138 17 9
30,000	25,000	1 25-30	190 19 5
35,000	30,000	2	250 0 0
40,000	35,000	2 1-6	315 19 5
45,000	40,000	2 1-3	388 17 9
50,000	45,000	2½	468 15 0
55,000	50,000	2 2-3	555 11 1
60,000	55,000	2 5-6	649 6 1
65,000	60,000	3	750 0 0
70,000	65,000	3 1-6	857 12 9
75,000	70,000	3 1-3	972 4 5
80,000	75,000	3½	1,093 15 0

Absentee Owners.

Absentee owners will pay one penny in the pound on the first £5,000 of unimproved value, no exemption being allowed. On all unimproved value beyond £5,000 the tax commences at 2d. on the first pound, and rises on each pound, according to the prescribed scale. The following table shows the amount of tax payable on their estates of unimproved value, from £5,000 to £80,000:

Unimproved Value.	Rate in pence on excess value over £5,000.	Annual tax. £ s. d.
5,000	20 16 8
10,000	2 1-6	65 19 5
15,000	2 1-3	118 1 1
20,000	2½	177 1 8
25,000	2 2-3	243 1 1
30,000	2 5-6	315 19 5
35,000	3	395 16 8
40,000	3 1-6	482 12 9
45,000	3 1-3	576 7 9
50,000	3½	677 1 8
55,000	3 2-3	784 14 5
60,000	3 5-6	899 6 1
65,000	4	1,020 16 8
70,000	4 1-6	1,149 6 1
75,000	4 1-3	1,284 14 5
80,000	4½	1,427 1 8

For every £1 sterling of unimproved value beyond £80,000 the tax will be 7d. in the £1. An estate of £100,000 unimproved value owned by an absentee will pay £1,427 1s. 8d., plus a sum of £583 6s. 8d. (being 7d. in the £1 on £20,000), or a total tax of £2,010 8s. 4d. per annum.

The revenue expected from these rates by the Government is £1,000,000 in the first—that is, the current financial—year, but an Opposition critic calculates the yield at over £2,700,000! The tax coming on top of heavy customs revenue and the annexation by the Commonwealth of a larger share of

the revenue and the transfer to the Government of the issue of all paper currency, have simply infuriated the Tory classes in the Commonwealth. It will, however, pass by swinging majorities for two reasons. (1) The pressure of the population problem. At all costs good estates have to be forced into the market in small holdings, so that the British farmer may be induced to settle here on a decent area on which a good living can be made. (2) The swing of the pendulum in favor of direct taxation to raise revenue for the Australian navy and the Australian conscript army. The people voted land tax at the election because they wanted the landowner to pay now, not sixteen years hence, for the defence of that land.

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Government Land Sales in the Philippines Checked.

All who have watched the progress of the fight against sales of great areas of lands in the Philippines to foreign exploiters (promoted by the Administration under the authority of an opinion by Attorney-General Wickersham), which culminated in the passage of a resolution by Congress for investigation into these sales offered by Representative Martin of Colorado (pp. 395, 564), will read with interest the words of the Secretary of War in his last address at Manila, as reported in the *Vanguard* of Sept. 9th:

I will say in general in regard to the Friar Lands, that at the time of making contracts for other sales of large amounts it was not supposed that there would be any opposition. The principal idea was to reduce the bonded debt as rapidly as possible. Now that opposition has declared itself and the affair is being investigated by Congress, no large sale of these lands will be authorized until the situation is entirely cleared up.

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Prohibition as a Federal Question.

A new Federal question has been raised in Memphis. Because the prohibition law of Tennessee is enforced in other parts of the State but not in that city, and the proper State officials refuse to enforce it there, either by police or judicial proceedings, members of the Law Enforcement League make the point that the State deprives them of "the equal protection of the laws," contrary to the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Upon their application, based upon that point, Judge John E. McCall of the Federal court at Memphis, has granted a preliminary injunction restraining 114 Memphis saloons from selling intoxicants.

NEWS NOTES

A Correction.—The phrase on page 2, column 1, of last week's issue, "imperio in imperium," should have been, of course, "imperium in imperio."

—Cholera continues on the increase in Italy (pp. 948, 973).

—David Bennett Hill, former Governor of New York, died on the 20th at his country home near Albany at the age of 67.

—Congressman Eugene N. Foss (pp. 295, 1001) has been substituted for Frederick W. Mansfield (p. 971) as Democratic candidate for Governor of Massachusetts.

—Thomas Thompson Eckert, chairman of the board of directors of the Western Union Telegraph Company, died on the 20th at his home near Long Branch at the age of 85.

—Ex-President Roosevelt spoke in Massachusetts last week for the re-election of Governor Draper and Senator Lodge. He also spoke in New Hampshire in behalf of the Republican candidate for Governor (p. 847), Robert P. Bass.

—Edwin R. Wright, president of the Illinois Federation of Labor for four successive terms, was re-elected on the 21st at the convention (vol. xii, p. 1044) at Rock Island by a vote of 170 to 46 over Thomas A. Shea of Bloomington.

—Ethel Leneve, charged as accessory after the fact to the murder of Cora Belle Crippen (Belle Elmore) by Dr. Crippen (pp. 1001, 1011, 1023), was placed upon trial at the New Old Bailey, London, on the 25th, and after a trial lasting but a few hours was acquitted.

—The Philadelphia "Athletics" of the American League, on the 23d, at Chicago, obtained the world's baseball championship by defeating the Chicago "Cubs" of the National League. The "Athletics" won four games out of an actual five and a possible seven (vol. xii, p. 1021).

—The resignation as president of Princeton University of Dr. Woodrow Wilson, now running for Governor of New Jersey on the Democratic ticket, to take effect immediately (p. 898), has been formally delivered and accepted. John Aikman Stewart, a trustee for 42 years, has been appointed president provisionally.

—Luigi Luccheni, who on September 10, 1898, assassinated the Empress of Austria at Geneva, Switzerland (vol. 1, no. 24, pp. 1, 10), committed suicide on the 19th by hanging himself to the bars of his cell window in the prison called l'Eveche at Geneva, where he was confined as a life prisoner, Switzerland not imposing capital punishment for any crime.

—Mayor Gaynor of New York accepted resignations on the 20th of Police Commissioner W. F. Baker and his deputies, Frederick H. Bugher and Charles Kirby, and appointed in their place James C. Cropsey as police commissioner, and Clement M. Driscoll as first deputy and Capt. William J. Flynn (chief operative of the United States secret service) as second deputy.

—The death of the widow of the late Judge Murray F. Tuley (vol. viii, pp. 797, 808), recalls the incident of their going arm in arm to the polls to vote together when women in Illinois were first granted the narrow privilege of voting for University trustees. Mrs. Tuley was Judge Tuley's helpmeet, as he was hers, in their citizenship as well as in their household affairs, and of the same democratic