

pointment of Cardinal Gibbons, both President Taft and ex-President Roosevelt were present, and what seemed like an inspired dispatch was published the next day in the newspapers of the country. It was to the effect that Mr. Roosevelt had authorized an announcement that he wished President Taft to be renominated next year. On the following day, the 7th, Mr. Roosevelt denied the report. As quoted at White River Junction, Vermont, he said: "There is no truth in the report that I agreed to support any man for President in 1912. I have neither made any such statement nor even discussed the matter. The story is made out of whole cloth." From the same source on the 8th came a dispatch verified by Mr. Roosevelt upon his return to New York on the same day, that upon being asked on the 7th whether he himself would be a candidate for President in 1912, Mr. Roosevelt at once replied emphatically that he would not be; that he should regard it as a calamity if he were nominated and that he expected and demanded that every friend and supporter of his would do everything in his power to prevent any movement looking toward his nomination."

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#### The Singletax in Congress.

In the course of the debate in Congress on the Underwood bill for revising of the wool tariff, Henry George, Jr., spoke on the 10th, directly advocating (not as a substitute for the Underwood bill, but as the true line of revenue policy), the adoption of the principle of land value taxation. As reported over the country in the news dispatches on the 11th, Mr. George said:

The trend of the world is away from the income tax and away from the indirect tariff tax. It is toward a tax on land values; a tax on the unearned values which are constantly increasing with social development. The island of Manhattan was bought from the Indians for \$24 worth of calico and glass beads; today its lands, without improvements, are valued at \$4,000,000,000. Who made this great increment of value? It is the result of the coming population, the making of great improvements, the product of general toil. Why should not that value be taken into the treasury in lieu of all other taxes, municipal, State or Federal? I am opposed to any tax on any kind of industry, whether it be on commerce, railroads, banks, or anything else. The whole burden of taxation should fall on the mother of all monopolies—the monopoly of the earth. This policy is not so far in advance of the trend of the times. It is in fact, the ideal to which all countries are approaching. [See current volume, pages 401, 535.]

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#### Land Value Taxation in Canada.

The latest Canadian city to adopt the Singletax is New Westminster, B. C., a near neighbor of Vancouver but much older. In announcing its adoption by the City Council in obedience to a

referendum, the (New Westminster) British Columbian of May 25 says, editorially:

New Westminster will this year levy taxes on land values only, exempting improvements from any impost. At the last meeting of the City Council this step was decided upon, the tax rate being placed at 30 mills on the dollar gross and 25 mills net. . . . It is some distinction for New Westminster that this progressive departure has been taken. The prominence it brings to the city should be of considerable value. More important still the adoption of a feature of the Singletax system will give a great incentive to building in the city. . . . This year's assessment of the city was not left to take care of itself, but expert assistance was engaged to carry out a revision which was necessary for the tax reform. To judge from the results as shown by the few appeals at the Court of Revision, the valuation of the property of the city has been equitably carried out. The increase has been substantial, yet the higher assessments have been fully justified by the comparative valuations.

The increase in tax rate on land values to 30 mills gross and 25 net (the latter rate if paid by August 1st), is an increase over last year of 6 mills for the gross and 5 mills for the net. [See current volume, pages 396, 511.]

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#### The National Women's Trade Union League.

In opening the third biennial session of the National Women's Trade Union League of America at Boston on the 12th, the president, Margaret Dreier Robins (Mrs. Raymond Robins), of Chicago, delivered an address in which she said:

Upon our ability as a people to answer to the demand for industrial justice, depends the future of America. The world old struggle between human slavery and human freedom is being fought out in this age on the battle fields of industry. We are beginning to understand that unless we win industrial freedom, we cannot long maintain either religious or political liberty. . . . Men cannot work as serfs under a feudal despotism six days in the week and on the seventh live as freemen.

Present day industrial conditions deny to thousands the bare right to work and require other thousands to work long hours for little pay. In shop and factory and mill all over our country, women are working under conditions that weaken vitality and sap moral fibre—conditions that are destructive alike of physical health and mental and moral development. These conditions if permitted to continue will destroy the ideals and promise of our individual and national life. . . .

While our day's work is in the main directed to the immediate aspects and demands of this great struggle, we cannot act wisely nor understand its significance fully unless we keep in mind the underlying cause for these conditions. We should know why men and women must fight for bread—even in America. We should know why it is that the "bread line" lengthens in the richest city of the richest nation in the world. We should understand that there is a direct relation between the monopoly

control of natural resources and our disinherited sisters in the sweatshop. This is no new thought to the labor world. The relation of wages to free land and free opportunity was recognized early by the trade unions, and in a memorial to Congress presented by the organized working men and printed in *The Mechanics' Free Press* of Philadelphia, October 25, 1828, we read: "That as all men must occupy a portion of the earth, they have, naturally, a birth-right in the soil; And that while this right shall be subject to the control of others, they may be deprived of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That hence, it is perceived by them, that a true spirit of independence can not be enjoyed, by the great body of the people, nor the exercise of freedom secured to them, so long as the use of the soil is withheld." Surrounded as we are today in our cities by brick and mortar, stone and cement, and far from the living green things of the earth, it is difficult for us to remember the ancient commandment: "The profit of the earth is for all" and to recall that "the earth is to yield her increase in green herb for the service of men and bread to strengthen man's heart."

The nature of the attack of modern industrial despotism upon the integrity and promise of our individual and national life is such as makes a special call upon the women of our country, and it seems to have been reserved for this generation to work out new standards of social justice and develop a new basis for our industrial civilization. Freedom, maternity, education and morality—all the blessed and abiding interests of childhood and the home—are in issue in this supreme struggle. All women who honor their sex and love their country should unite with us and our working sisters in the struggle for industrial freedom. . . . The decision of the New York Court of Appeals which annulled the Workmen's Compensation Law of that State is typical, as is also the decision of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, declaring unconstitutional an amendment to the State's Child Labor Law, making it unlawful to employ children under fourteen years of age in factories, mines and workshops. There is just one effective reply to this grave social menace and this is the power in the people of the Recall. All enlightened friends of social progress as well as all union men and women should make insistent demands for the power of the Recall. Its application to the judiciary is its most important function and should be insisted on at all times and places. Meeting as we do in Boston it is well to bring to mind the theory of government upon which our Republic was founded by reading Section V of Part 1 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts: "V. All power residing originally in the people, and being derived from them, the several magistrates and officers of government, vested with authority, whether legislative, executive or judicial, are their substitutes and agents, and are at all times accountable to them." . . . As the most effective and democratic machinery for securing the enactment of the popular will into law, the Initiative and Referendum is recommended to all the workers and all the friends of freedom.

Publicity . . . is more important for women workers than for any other class. To meet this

need *Life and Labor*, the monthly journal of the Women's Trade Union League, has been established. Every subscriber extends the influence of the organized women workers, and promotes the educational work of the Women's Trade Union League.

Friends, do you remember Tyndall calling our attention to some crystals which have lain hidden in the earth for ages, with the potency of light locked up within them? And is it not because we believe—nay, because we know that the potency of light, that the power of life, that the spirit of God is hidden in each human heart that we are seeking to set it free? This is our faith. Here we find our common purpose and our common hope and together with courage and devotion we will work towards its achievement.



#### Woman Suffrage Congress.

Upon the opening at Stockholm on the 12th of the sixth Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, delegates representing the United States, the countries of Europe, Australasia and South Africa were in attendance. They were welcomed by Mrs. Anna Whitlock of Sweden. The Rev. Dr. Anna Shaw of the United States was received with demonstrations of honor, and Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, also of the United States, delivered an historical address and was re-elected president.



#### Mexico.

Four men alleged to be members of the revolutionary forces in Lower California, were arrested at El Paso, Texas, on the 7th, by secret service officers of the United States. They were arrested as filibusters.



Madero was received in Mexico City on the 7th with a tremendous demonstration. In his response to the serenade he is reported to have said:

When a people fight for liberty and conquer, the triumph is well received in neighboring countries. The spirit of liberty will not be satisfied and we all will really not be happy until on the whole American continent the reign of democracy is complete.

On the 10th he announced as part of his plans if elected President to appoint De la Barra minister of foreign relations and General Reyes minister of war. General Reyes said on the same day: "It is true that I am going to be minister of war if Senor Madero is elected. I am not going to be a candidate for the Presidency or participate in the elections." Madero's remark that President De La Barra would return to his recent post of minister of foreign relations is looked upon in Mexico City as an indication that the new government will contain representatives of all elements. [See current volume, page 538.]



In the midst of political readjustments a ter-