

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,