

mit a measure providing for the taxation of the unearned increment of land, was stated by an Associated Press dispatch of the 11th. The dispatch asserts that through this legislation the Government simply will take for Imperial uses 6 per cent of the taxes derived by the municipalities from unearned increment. This, it is expected, will yield \$7,500,000, as the municipalities are now collecting about \$125,000,000 from the unearned increment annually.

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Prussian Police Permit Open Air Meetings.

The recent repression by the police of Prussia of all open air meetings of protest in connection with the Government's franchise bill (p. 275), and even of "demonstrative strolls" (p. 228, 254)—a repression which included the use of mounted gendarmes who slashed the populace with their sabers—has met with such widespread popular condemnation that the repressive attitude has been countermanded from high quarters, presumably by the King of Prussia himself. On the 8th, to its own and every one else's astonishment, the Democratic Union of Berlin obtained permission to hold an open air meeting at Trep-tow park (p. 228) on the following Sunday to discuss franchise reform. And greater amazement followed when the Socialists received a similar permission on the following day. The Police President, Mr. von Jagow, stipulated that traffic was not to be hindered, that there should be no long procession, and no banners, and that the organizers should undertake to control the manifestants. These stipulations were readily agreed to. The ultra-Conservatives are reported to have been indignant at the permissions. They saw "Prussia going to the dogs, and the abandonment of everything that makes life worth living," say the dispatches. On Sunday, the 10th, the demonstrations came off. Over 120,000 Socialists and Radicals took part. Open air meetings had been sanctioned for three places. From eleven o'clock in the morning, say the reports, the streets of Berlin resounded with the tramp of earnest looking men from every precinct, marching to the meeting places. "One-third of the demonstrators were women, which was extraordinary, because the Prussian laws forbid women from participating in political meetings." The dispatches continue:

There was no shouting or singing as the crowds passed through the streets, from which the police seemed to have disappeared as if by magic. Squads arrived at the parks about 1 o'clock with military precision. There they gathered around sixteen improvised and numbered platforms, from which at the sound of a bugle, Socialist and Radical members of the Reichstag and Landtag began addresses, in which they vehemently denounced the injustices of the present system of elections. For an hour and a

half the orators continued amid deafening cheers, and at 2:30 another bugle sounded, and for one minute utter silence prevailed. Then a resolution declaring that it was the determination of those gathered together to fight for reform until victory had been won for the people, was passed by acclamation. Enthusiastic scenes ensued, and there was great cheering for the rights of the democracy, while 100,000 voices broke into the stirring strains of the workmen's "Marseillaise" and the "Song of Freedom," but they desisted on orders from the leaders. The meetings then disbanded, the original groups marching off as they had come, without the slightest disorder. The most significant features of the manifestation were the orderly manner in which it was conducted, the police in the future having no reason for refusing Socialist requests for open air assemblages; and the co-operation between the Socialists and Radicals, this being the first time in which they joined in such a demonstration, indicating the depth of feeling among the workers regarding the necessity for suffrage reform. Commissioner von Jagow, who in civilian clothes witnessed the demonstration, was utterly surprised at the discipline and good order.

Huge open air meetings were also held at Breslau, Magdeburg, Cologne, Bochum, Dortmund, Essen, Duesseldorf and Stettin, with police interference only at Breslau.

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The Philippines for the Filipinos.

At a general convention of the National Progresista party (vol. xii, pp. 512, 1095), held in Manila February 6, the United States Government was petitioned to define explicitly the political status of the Philippine Islands with a view to obtaining independence in the near future. The Progresista party believes that after a dozen years of American administration, and in view of the progress that has been made by the Filipinos in the art of self-government, this demand is quite reasonable and just, and will not impair the existing peace and order in the Islands or the trade relations between the two countries. The following preambles and resolution were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, During the last twelve years of American sovereignty in the Philippine Islands, several resolutions, among them those introduced by Senators Bacon, Tillman and Stone and by Representatives McCall, Williams, Burgess, Hardwick and Slayden, were presented to the Congress of the United States, for the purpose of obtaining from said Congress an express and definite declaration that it is not the intention of the American people to retain indefinitely the Philippine Islands, but to aid the Filipino people in establishing their national independence;

Whereas, Such resolutions have met with the unanimous approval of the whole Filipino people;

Whereas, The attitude of a great majority of American citizens residing in the Philippine Islands, maintaining that a perpetual American sovereignty over these islands is the only means to induce the investment of American as well as foreign capital, thereby impliedly asserting that the Filipino people

would never be able to set up a government that would give the necessary protection and security, has given rise to a profound concern in the minds of the Filipinos as to the final political destiny of their country;

Whereas, The prestige of the administration in the Philippines and the peace of mind of the Filipinos demand from the Congress of the United States a formal declaration or express promise, assuring them their political independence and the integrity of their territory;

Whereas, With such a promise or formal declaration the Filipino people would look forward with more confidence to their future, work out with more faith their progress, and co-operate with more enthusiasm for the advancement of the American policy in the Philippine Islands, thereby establishing and insuring the necessary harmony between Americans and Filipinos;

Whereas, The Philippine Islands being a mere dependency of the United States are and will because of this status be exposed to transfer of sovereignty, alienation, and dismemberment, by virtue of treaties, and diplomatic settlements and agreements, or of any other arrangements;

Whereas, It is not probable that any foreign power will claim or assert sovereignty over, or acquire title to the Philippines, or any part thereof, if the right of the Filipinos to independent national life is formally recognized and declared by the Congress of the United States;

Whereas, A declaration by Congress to the effect that the Philippine Islands are not a mere dependency of the United States but a nation placed under her tutelage and honor, entitled to a free and independent existence, would protect this country from the danger of the transfer referred to or any other ulterior disposition;

Whereas, The absence of such a declaration causes some of the Filipino people to believe that American sovereignty will be permanent, and others that independence of the Philippines is a question dependent upon a few prominent men in public life and upon political parties in the United States, rather than wholly upon the will of the American people;

Whereas, Such a declaration would be in accord with the principles of the Declaration of Independence of the United States, as well as with the history and traditions of the Great Republic; would clearly and unequivocally confirm the personal promises and official declarations of Presidents McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft; and, while honorable to the people of the United States, would put an end to the present uncertainty and disquietude of the Filipino people;

Therefore, We the delegates of the National Progressista Party, in General Convention assembled, unanimously

Resolve, That the Congress of the United States be respectfully petitioned for an express and solemn declaration that it is the unswerving purpose and intention of the United States to grant the Filipino people their independence; that American sovereignty over these Islands is temporary; that it is the desire of the people of the United States to deliver to the Filipino people, when independence is granted, the whole territory known at present as the Philippine Islands; and that it is not her intention

to cede, alienate or transfer them, in whole or in part, now or at any time hereafter; and it is further respectfully petitioned that this declaration of the Congress be communicated to the Powers.

NEWS NOTES

—The primary election law of Wisconsin was upheld on the 5th by the Supreme Court of that State.

—Evanston, Illinois, for the first time elected a woman to the Board of the Evanston Township High School on the 9th. She is Mrs. L. C. Wyman.

—The plan to change the clocks of Cincinnati (p. 299) has been abandoned, the City Council having on the 11th repealed the ordinance providing for it.

—Alexander J. Goutchkiss, an Octobrist, was elected President of the Russian Douma (p. 322) on March 21, to take the place of Mr. Khomyakoff who resigned recently (p. 276).

—In the Standard Oil and the Tobacco trust cases recently argued before the Supreme Court of the United States (vol. xii, p. 1235), that court on the 11th decided to order a reargument.

—Wages in sugar refineries were increased by the Sugar Trust on the 5th from 5 to 10 per cent, and on the same day increases of 10 per cent were made by street railways in New Hampshire.

—The proposed income tax amendment to the Federal Constitution was voted down on the 5th by the legislative committee on Federal relations of the Massachusetts lower House, by a vote of 11 to 4.

—Volcanic dust, presumed to come from Mt. Etna now in eruption (p. 299), is reported from as far away as the West Indies. Steamship officers arriving in New York from West Indian waters, tell of seeing the sun through a haze of fine volcanic dust, and report that a black rain fell on Bermuda on the 6th.

—One of the subjects discussed by the American Academy of Social Science which opened its fourteenth annual meeting at Philadelphia on the 8th was the police "sweatbox" (p. 99). On the 9th, Charles E. Littlefield defended labor injunctions and was vigorously replied to by Samuel Gompers and J. H. Ralston.

—President James of the University of Illinois has been appointed a member of the Illinois special tax commission (p. 253) by Governor Deneen. Dr. James takes the place of David Kinley of the State University, who declined the appointment so as to be able to represent the United States at the pan-American conference in Buenos Ayres in July.

—By a referendum vote of 5,020 to 3,740, the action of the national convention of 1908 of the Socialist party in the United States in providing for a special national convention has been confirmed. The convention will be held at Chicago on May 15. The number of delegates, 1 for every 500 members of the party in good standing, will be 112, plus 12 from 6 foreign-speaking organizations. The latter have a voice but no vote in the convention. The purpose of the convention is to settle certain matters of policy, namely: (1) the attitude of the Socialist party