

**Joseph Fels in Boston.**

As reported by the Boston Globe of the 4th, Joseph Fels, founder of the Joseph Fels Fund (Daniel Kiefer, chairman, Cincinnati), when he addressed the Boston Chamber of Commerce on the 3rd, laid before that body the following, among other suggestions:

The best place for Boston docks is in the Lynn marshes—where a proper raising of the assessed valuation would build the docks without a cent of expense to Boston.

The Joseph Fels Fund Commission is to distribute 1,000,000 copies of Henry George's "Protection or Free Trade." When he urged his hearers to read it his advice was received with silence, whereupon he remarked dryly, "I didn't expect vociferous applause in Boston." (Laughter.)

Mr. Fels declared that Canada turned out the Liberals last Fall merely to show that the mass of people are in control, "as the people of Boston are not."

The Boston Journal of the same date gave this account of the speech:

Mr. Fels spoke all around his hobby, the so-called Singletax, or land taxation, and by his blunt criticism of even the pet projects of the Chamber of Commerce and his spontaneous wit would first send a series of frowns across the face of his audience and then send them into outbursts of laughter. "I do not know just how many bricks are lying around among you, gentlemen," he said, "but I am going to say it just the same. I would recommend that all of you read Henry George's book, 'Protection or Free Trade.' It is a wonderful writing by a wonderful man." Then he paused and, not hearing a sound, he said in a dry manner, "I expected this outburst of applause." He was immediately accorded one, not for suggesting free trade, but for his wit. Mr. Fels handled the \$9,000,000 dock scheme without gloves and promptly dropped the subject with the remark that the men who own land in the vicinity of the contemplated docks, and who will grow wealthy from the increased land value, furnished ideal examples of what he meant by Singletaxes or, as he called it, "the untaxing of communities."

**Russian Reprisals in Persia.**

The Russians continue to exact heavy toll from the Persians for the natural resistance they offered last month to the Russian advance. Court-martials have been held, and leading Persians have been tried in batches, and then exiled or shot or hanged. Among those hanged at Tabriz on the 2nd was Shehat ul Islam, head of one of the religious sects in a position equivalent to that of archbishop. Others hanged in the same city were three leading divines, and all the principal members of the local Assembly. The Russians are destroying the walls of the citadel of Tabriz, which is centuries old. A modern note in this tale of atrocity comes from news in the English

papers of December 6, to the effect that in face of the Russian advance then threatening, the Persian Women's Society had wired to the Suffragists' Committee in London, stating that the ears of European males were deaf to the Persian tragedy, and calling upon the English women to help them. [See vol. xiv, page 1312.]



The subdued cabinet notified W. Morgan Shuster, the ex-Treasurer-General, on the 6th, of the appointment of a commission composed of four Persians and Mr. Mornard, the Belgian ex-director of customs in Persia, to take over Mr. Shuster's duties. Mr. Mornard to act as provisional Treasurer-General. That Persia under Russian and British control becomes prey for syndicates is indicated in a dispatch from London on the 2nd, according to which British, French and Russian bankers were to hold a meeting in Paris last week to organize a syndicate, with a capital of \$500,000, to carry out a survey of a proposed trans-Persian railroad. The dispatch continues: "Great Britain and Russia have both already approved the scheme. The proposal contemplates the construction of a line touching the seaport of Baku in Russian Transcaucasia, Astara on the Caspian sea, Teheran, the capital of Persia, and Gwettar on the Arabian sea. It will continue through Baluchistan and connect with the Indian railroads going to Kurrachee. No difficulty is expected in raising the capital, or in obtaining necessary concessions in Persia."

**The Republican Struggle in China.**

At his inauguration at Nanking on the 1st, as President of the Chinese Republic, Dr. Sun Yat Sen promised to disenthroned the Manchus, to re-establish peace, to promote trade and to devote his entire energy to the Chinese nation and aid the Chinese people to realize their aspirations. When the Manchus had finally abdicated and peace was restored to the nation, he would, he said, resign his provisional office. He announced that a strong central government would be organized, the entire administrative system remodeled and modernized, and a Parliament representative of the people be elected. The Provinces, he said, would be autonomous as regards local affairs, and each would select its own Governor. The army and navy would be made national institutions and be under the control of the central Parliament, which would also deal with the finances of the country. The whole fiscal system would be readjusted, but he was sure that the income of the country was sufficient to discharge its liabilities and to defray ordinary expenses. President Sun issued a manifesto to the foreign Powers on the 5th, in which he explained the aims and policies of the new Republic of China; set forth the wrongs

of the Chinese people, and promised strict adherence to all treaties, obligations and concessions undertaken by the Manchu government. The manifesto declares that the Republic will abolish all restrictions on trade, and that it will undertake the revision of all laws, and will insure religious toleration. The President's cabinet was announced on the 6th. It is regarded as a strong combination. Dr. Wu Tingfang becomes Attorney General, and Wang Chung-Wei minister of foreign affairs. The cabinet has announced the terms it will offer to the Manchus on their submission. The dispatches state that these terms are more generous than it was at first expected. They include the free grant of the Forbidden City and summer palace in Peking, which are worth hundreds of millions of dollars. In addition they will be accorded life pensions and other concessions, together with equality in citizenship and in the holding of offices under the state. The good faith of the Republicans is shown by the fact that the Manchus in the southern provinces are now being supported, fed and clothed by the revolutionaries, and any abuse of them is severely punished by the Republican government. On the 8th the Republican Assembly in session at Nanking voted the introduction of a gold monetary standard modeled on that of Japan. It also approved a bond issue of 100,000,000 taels (approximately \$70,000,000), secured on the internal revenue for five years, with interest at the rate of 8 per cent per annum. [See current volume, page 15.]



Hostilities recommenced on the 6th between the Imperialist and Republican armies after an imperfectly observed armistice for the peace negotiations at Shanghai. Republican transports loaded with soldiers were reported as being at Chin-Wang-Tao, a port on the Gulf of Pe-Chi-Li about 150 miles east of Peking, on the 7th. If the report is true Peking is seriously threatened.



Recognition by the United States "of the Republic of China as a member of the family of nations" was called for by a resolution introduced in Congress on the 3rd by Representative William Sulzer of New York. The resolution was referred to the committee on foreign relations. It congratulates the "patriotic people of China" for "reclaiming their inherent rights to self-government." The Chinese Minister at Washington, Chang Yin Tang, has resigned his position and is leaving this week for China, where, it is said, he will retire to private life. He leaves Yung Kwai, the first secretary, in charge of the legation.



The change wrought in Chinese aspirations by

the revolution was dramatically indicated by the character of a celebration in San Francisco on the 7th, participated in by nearly every person in San Francisco's famous Chinatown. Says the dispatch of the Chicago Inter Ocean:

San Francisco has been the scene of many celebrations by its Chinese population, but today's bore none of the characteristics of those of former times. No man of the more than 3,000 persons in the parade that wound its way through the city's business district wore a queue and the gayly hued silk robes of other days were replaced by the garb of the Occident. The famous dragon had been relegated to seclusion, and the tomtoms and other music-making instruments of old China were replaced by the strident brasses of American bands. Chinese women shared with the men positions of prominence, and in the majority of cases, their gowns were as much American as the clothing of the men. More than 100 automobiles conveyed participants in the parade, and the banners that snapped in the breeze were of the red, white and blue of the new Republic.

## NEWS NOTES

—Harriet L. Keeler was elected superintendent of public schools for Cleveland on the 5th.

—Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans of the United States Navy died at Washington on the 3d.

—President Taft signed the proclamation for the Statehood of New Mexico on the 6th. [See vol. xiv, p. 1168.]

—Alfred Tennyson Dickens, son of Charles Dickens the novelist, died at New York on the 2d while on a lecture tour in the United States.

—Mrs. John Sherwin Crosby and Miss Cornelia Swinnerton were appointed deputy sheriffs on the 2d by Sheriff Harburger of New York County.

—Bishop Charles D. Williams of Detroit is to deliver a free lecture on the Singletax at Newark, Ohio, on the 24th, under the auspices of the Men's Club of Trinity Episcopal Church.

—The Republic of Liberia inaugurated as President on the 1st Daniel Howard. His predecessor, Arthur Barclay, was elected in 1903, and again in 1907. [See volume xiii, page 1138.]

—A contract for a prize fight between "Jack" Johnson (the Negro who holds the championship) and "Jim" Flynn, to come off in July at Windward, Nevada, was signed on the 6th. [See vol. xiii, pp. 637, 656.]

—Richard T. Crane, head of the Crane Elevator Co., died at Chicago on the 8th at the age of 80. Besides his widow he is survived by four daughters, Mrs. Gartz, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Lillie and Mrs. Chadbourne, and by three sons, of whom Charles R. Crane is one.

—Professor Frederick Starr of the University of Chicago has returned to the United States from Korea with photographic negatives and moving picture films to illustrate his scientific investigations, together with the material for a working theory that the prehistoric temples of Mexico and Yucatan were