

patches the chief plank in the Labor platform is the taxation of site values, which is what is known in the United States as the Singletax. [See current volume, page 1052.]

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The Revolution in China.

The cause of the revolution continually gains. Canton, the largest city in China, lying opposite Hongkong in the great harbor on the south coast, formally declared its adhesion to the revolution on the 9th. Nanking, besieged by the revolutionists, fell prey to the Manchu authorities within its walls on the 10th. Seventy thousand Chinese fled the city with such of their belongings as they could carry, while men, women and children were being slaughtered in the streets and in their homes as revolutionists—being regarded as such if they chanced to be wearing the least touch of white (the revolutionary color) or were without queues. The number of the massacred is put at a thousand. Thirteen warships of the Imperial fleet at Shanghai went over to the revolutionists on the 14th, and it was reported on the same day at Shanghai that 2,000 Imperialists at Hankow had joined the revolution, and that the remaining Imperial gunboats at that port had also gone over. [See current volume, page 1144.]

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A provisional national assembly is being arranged for, according to a dispatch of the 12th from Shanghai. Telegraphic messages had been sent to the fourteen provinces which are in adherence to the revolution (China consists of 18 provinces), to appoint delegates who shall establish such a provisional assembly at Shanghai. This is designed to supersede the National Assembly at Peking which largely consists of government nominees. The foreign consuls at Shanghai have received instructions to deal with the de facto government, without, however, giving it official recognition.

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Peking is in a funk. The little Emperor's entourage is believed to have made all arrangements for flight. Yuan Shi Kai has returned to Peking from conferences with the revolutionary leaders, in cheerful mood; but while he has been warmly welcomed by the dynastic leaders it is not supposed that he is planning greatly for Manchu welfare. In the meantime a financial problem has to be faced by the Imperial government. The foreign Boxer indemnity for November has not been paid, and the December indemnity will likewise be defaulted. Even should the government be able to recover the five provinces immediately surrounding the capital, the financial administration cannot be reorganized before defaults of other debts besides the indemnities occur, and it is feared that

intervention for the collection of pledged revenues cannot be averted.

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Of the outcome of the revolution and its program the London Nation of October 21 says:

That the Chinese may unite to expel or destroy the Manchus is probable enough. That they would welcome a general scheme of innovation and reconstruction is evident from the conduct of the provincial advisory assemblies, which have been compiling their cahiers of grievances and aspirations, as the French departments did before the Revolution. But must not the bold avowal of "Socialism" (which appears to mean the single tax on land) provoke a formidable resistance from all that is wealthy and influential in this mature and materialist community? The Cadets failed in Russia, not because they were Liberals, but because they mixed their constitutional reforms with a vast scheme of land reform.

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Singletax Conference at Chicago.

Joseph Fels and Mrs. Fels sailed from England on the 11th to attend the informal Singletax Conference at Chicago, which will be held on the 24th, 25th and 26th, at the LaSalle Hotel. This Conference is to be held at the time and in connection with the second annual meeting of the Joseph Fels Fund of America, the Commissioners for which announce that—

a general unofficial conference of Singletaxers of the United States will be held, which all advocates of Singletax principles (whether contributors to the Fund or not) are urged to attend, and in which they are invited to take an active part. With this Conference the Commission will advise, and endeavor to show what results it has already achieved, and what progress it may reasonably be expected to make in the near future. The freest opportunity for criticism and discussion will be afforded by the Commission.

Regarding their work, which they purpose submitting to the unofficial Conference, the Commissioners (Daniel Kiefer, Fred. C. Howe, Lincoln Steffens, George A. Briggs and Jackson H. Ralston) say:

The movement has varied in different parts of the country. In some places it has passed through preliminary propaganda stages and is now an issue in practical politics. In others it only awaits the removal of Constitutional barriers to make it a political issue. In still others it has not yet advanced beyond preliminary propaganda, and in others there is no agitation at all. The policy of the Commission is to devote its greatest effort to places where the Singletax is an issue and has a fighting chance for success. Next to this, it seems best to use our resources to obtain necessary auxiliary reforms, especially the Initiative and Referendum, wherever Singletaxers are working for them with the intention of making the earliest practical use of them to get the Singletax. . . . Whether or not the judgment of the Commission has always been the best, whether suggestions for improving its policy are practical, and