

The Waco constitution of the Renters' Union of America recites in a preliminary address or preamble that—

out of 165,000,000 acres of tillable land in Texas only 27,000,000 acres were in cultivation in 1910; white tenants have increased from 165,000 in 1900 to 209,000 in 1910, and the number of Negro and Mexican tenants and farm laborers has greatly increased; the cost of machinery necessary to obtain the best results in farming has greatly increased; many landlords demand contracts that interfere with the political and personal liberty of the tenant as well as the manner in which he cultivates his crops; the present tenant system, through lack of proper improvements, overcropping and single cropping, is causing the soil to lose its fertility and yield unsatisfactory returns; the increase in land values has made it impossible for the tenant, under ordinary conditions, to buy and pay for land; these conditions are forcing the landless farmer to live in miserable shacks and keeping the women and children in the fields to such an extent as to be exceedingly detrimental to the mental and physical well-being of our people and a menace to the homes and social institutions of our State.

Thereupon the preamble protests—

against the evils of increased rents, bonuses and money rents; advocates a tax up to the limit on all lands held for speculation or exploitation, declaring for use and occupancy as the only just title to land; and, proposing to carry out its program by orderly and lawful methods, presents its own demands to the platform committees of all political conventions in Texas and to all candidates for political office regardless of party, pledging opposition to all parties and candidates that decline to advocate those demands.

The primary specific demand is in these words:

That the officials of our organization prepare and present to the citizens of our State for signature a blank petition demanding of the legislature which convenes in January, 1913, to submit to the people a Constitutional amendment authorizing a tax on land values to the limit, and use and occupancy to be the sole title to land.

By the Constitution thus introduced, minute provisions for extending the organization through the State of Texas and over the Union are made, and among the obligations of membership are these:

Each member shall use all lawful means in his power to bring land rents down to one-third of the grain and one-fourth of the cotton. Any member of this union who shall at any time learn that any member has been rented out by anyone, or who hears of any member promising to pay money rent for land, shall report the same to the union at the first meeting thereafter. The initiation of new members shall consist merely of the reading of the preamble and purposes as set forth in this constitution, and the communication of secret signs or passwords. And member found guilty of renting or trying to rent land from under a member of this union without the consent of said member, shall be expelled from the union. No member of this union shall be allowed to pay more than one-fourth of cotton for

rent and one-third of grain. It shall be the duty of the union to send a committee of three members to the persons promising said money rent or attempting to rent from under any member. All white persons over 16 years of age, of good moral character, who are tenant farmers or farm laborers, are entitled to membership; provided that land owners who have no tenants and cultivate their own land shall be eligible. No one who holds land for speculative purposes, or who subrents or who rents more than a reasonable amount of land or who employs more than a reasonable number of laborers necessary in an emergency shall be eligible.



Hugh N. Moore of Chilton, Texas, is president of the organization. A. G. Maxey, R. 3, Lorena, Texas, is secretary.



### The United States Warns Mexico.

The killing by the Orozco insurrectos of a Federal prisoner of war who was an American—Thomas Fountain by name—together with the destruction of American properties and the endangering of American lives in the disorders now existing in Mexico, has brought on a warning issued by the United States on the 14th to the Mexican government, as well as to General Pascual Orozco, leader of the insurrectionary forces, to the effect that—

The United States demands that American life and property within the Republic of Mexico be justly and adequately protected; and that this government must hold Mexico and the Mexican people responsible for all wanton or illegal acts sacrificing or endangering American life or damaging American property or interests.

The United States government, by special instructions to Ambassador Wilson at Mexico City, authorized the statement that intervention was not contemplated by the United States. [See current volume, page 349.]



### The Chinese Republic.

Wu Tingfang, formerly minister to the United States from the old Chinese Empire, has been nominated by President Yuan Shi Kai to represent the new Republic of China in the United States. [See current volume, page 349.]



The great central city of Hankow, burned by the Manchus during the revolution, is to be rebuilt, with lofty buildings, wharves, broad roads and other commercial facilities, according to the North China Herald. The landowners will contribute 10 per cent of their acreage for the highways and for sites for public buildings and parks. The landowners have been instructed to establish their claims to their respective holdings in the

burned area, and new title deeds will be issued. The Commercial Building Corporation will float a loan of 15,000,000 taels (\$9,200,000), guaranteed by the Republican Government, it is said, and this will provide for the erection of 30,000 houses.



Acting upon recommendation of the Committee on Foreign Relations the United States Senate on the 13th adopted a House resolution congratulating the people of China upon their assumption of power. The resolution, which was presented by Senator Lodge, was adopted without division. It expresses confidence that in the adoption of a republican form of government the Chinese people will insure the maintenance of their rights, liberties and happiness. The measure was changed in form from a joint resolution to a concurrent resolution so as to obviate the necessity of the President's signature, the idea being only to express the views of Congress.

## NEWS NOTES

—Major General Frederick Dent Grant, eldest son of President U. S. Grant, died at New York City on the 12th at the age of 62.

—The President has signed the Esch bill for a prohibitive tax on white phosphorus matches. [See current volume, page 349.]

—Eugene Henri Brisson, distinguished French statesman, and three times elected President of the French Chamber of Deputies, died on the 14th at the age of 76.

—The Congressional act creating a bureau of child labor in the Department of Commerce and Labor was signed on the 9th by President Taft. [See current volume, page 350.]

—Abbas Effendi, the third leader, in succession, of the Bahai religious movement which originated in Persia a half century ago, has arrived in New York, and is to travel over the United States before he returns.

—Dr. Ira Remsen, President of Johns Hopkins University since 1901, resigned the presidency on the 10th, but will continue in the professorship of chemistry which he has held since the establishment of the chair in 1876.

—The House committee on election of President and Vice President reported favorably on the 13th on the Henry bill, which provides for publicity of all contributions to campaign funds to aid candidates for President and Vice-President. The vote was unanimous.

—An application before the Supreme Court of the United States, joined in by the government, for a rehearing of the recent decision holding that in selling a patented machine the patentee may require the purchaser to use only such supplies for the machine as are purchased from the owner of the patent notwithstanding that the supplies are not patentable,

was denied by the Supreme Court on the 8th. [See current volume, page 269.]

—The tour of the Secretary of State, Mr. P. C. Knox, through the Central American and northern South American countries, begun in February, closed with a visit to Cuba last week, and on the 13th Mr. Knox and his party left Havana for Norfolk. [See current volume, pages 159, 171, 180.]

—The reclamation of 70,000,000 acres of over-flow lands in the United States and an appeal to the government for assistance, was the object of the second annual convention of the National Drainage Congress, which began a four days' session at New Orleans on the 10th. [See vol. xiv, p. 1269.]

—By a majority of more than 23,000, of 25,000 votes cast, the locomotive engineers on fifty railroads east of Chicago and north of the Norfolk and Western have authorized their officials to call a strike if further negotiations with the railroads for increased pay fails. [See current volume, pages 255, 338.]

—The crest of the Mississippi floods has passed farther and farther down the river. New levee breaks occurred in Arkansas on the 9th, while the waters up at Cairo and Memphis were receding. In the St. Francis basin in Arkansas 500,000 acres of rich farming land were submerged by the 9th. By the 14th the Louisiana was the region of greatest danger and suffering. Sickness is reported from many points in the wake of the flood. [See current volume, page 348.]

—The monthly statement of the United States Treasury Department for March, 1912, shows the following thus far for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1912 [See current volume, page 255]:

Gold reserve fund.....	\$150,000,000.00
Available cash .....	131,534,096.15
Total .....	\$281,534,096.15
On hand at close of last fiscal year, June 30, 1911 .....	283,200,599.23
Decrease .....	\$ 6,666,503.08

—The statistics of exports and imports of the United States (vol. xiv, p. 831), for the first eight months of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1912, as given by the statistical sheet of the Department of Commerce and Labor for February, were as follows:

	Exports.	Imports.	Balance.
Merchandise ..	\$1,506,027,907	\$1,047,159,706	\$458,868,201 exp.
Gold .....	38,436,009	31,750,675	4,685,334 exp.
Silver .....	42,371,124	29,924,456	12,446,668 exp.
Total ....	\$1,584,835,040	\$1,108,834,837	\$476,000,203 exp.

—A woman's vocational conference, the first of its kind held in the United States, was opened on the 10th at Madison, Wisconsin. The principal participants were university women. "We want to show there are other things that a woman can do than teach school," said Katherine Lenroot, daughter of Representative Lenroot. "We want to show that woman has a field in professional and business work." Richard Lloyd Jones spoke on "Opportunities for Women in Journalism," and the address of welcome was by President Van Hise of the State University.

—Clara Barton, first President of the American Red Cross Relief Association, died at her home in Maryland on the 12th, at the age of 90 years. Miss Barton was born in Massachusetts, and taught school