

affair had the mark of gravity; there was no laughter, no outcries and no disputes. As one of the collectors passed a Chinese laundry on Roosevelt street, the occupant came to the door with two ten-cent pieces in his hand. "Me helpee, too," he said.

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Reaction in China.

The Chinese Regency (vol. xi, pp. 801, 831, 879) by edict on the 2d suddenly deprived Yuan Shi-Kai, China's able and progressive prime minister, of his offices, and ordered him to leave Peking within five days. Na Tung, comptroller of customs, was appointed in his place. The move is regarded as indicating a dangerous and foolhardy Manchu dominance in the government, with perhaps Japanese instigation back of it. It is certain that if China can be wrecked by reaction, Japan is the only power that can profit by it. The friends of progress in China feared for the immediate safety of the deposed minister, but he made good his escape from Peking, and on the 4th was reported to be at Tientsin, seventy miles to the southeast, and to be under the protection of Great Britain. Yuan Shi-Kai, it is said in the dispatches which record his removal, has been for years one of the most influential and powerful statesmen in the Chinese Empire. We quote from the Chicago Record-Herald:

He is a thoroughly practical man and brought business methods to the administration of the Empire. His watchword was that China was capable of accomplishing just as much as had Japan. He inspired a national patriotism which is to-day doing much to sweep away middle-age superstition and rebuild the Empire. When he became a member of the grand council he relinquished the post of viceroy of Chi-Li, but it was in this office that he gained the greatest renown. Yuan Shi-Kai organized an army in China that was the wonder and amazement of foreign military critics. He succeeded in obliterating all the popular and caste objections to military service, so that the sons of the nobility to-day are proud to appear in uniform. He substituted modern text books for ancient classics. He compelled the abolition of torture and transformed Peking from the filthiest city in the world into a metropolis, well paved and cleanly kept, that compares favorably with many cities of Europe and America. It is an undoubted fact that Yuan Shi-Kai encouraged and represented the most progressive ideas in the central government.

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Military Executions in Russia.

The military court at Yekaterinoslav pronounced forty-one death sentences (vol. xi, p. 733) on the 1st. Thirty-two of the condemned men were strikers in the railroad troubles of October, 1905. In addition to the death sentences twelve strikers were condemned to penal servitude for life, forty-eight to lesser terms of exile, and thirty-nine were acquitted. The dispatches state

that these sentences grew "out of the events of 1905, when strikers numbering hundreds and thousands throughout Russia attempted to tie up the whole railway system, telegraph lines and gas and electric light plants. The demonstrations at Yekaterinoslav were particularly desperate, many persons being killed and injured." It is important to note that criminal prosecutions of these strikers have only recently been instituted, a majority of them having until lately been in the enjoyment of full liberty, and some of them being even in the employ of the municipality. The death sentences have created a painful impression, and they brought out a stormy debate in the Douma (vol. xi, p. 804) on the 2d. Mr. Milyoukoff, leader of the Constitutional Democrats (vol. x, p. 1091), proposed an order of the day expressing the horror of the Douma at this growing harvest of death, which, he said, was blunting the moral sense of the community and destroying the honor and prestige of Russia as a civilized state. The Socialists and the members of the Labor party supported the resolution. When it was rejected the Opposition left the hall in a body. Mr. Guchkoff, speaking for the Octobrists, while justifying condemnation of the strikers, deplored the severity of the sentences imposed, and announced that steps were being taken to secure their mitigation. During the debate the hall was in an uproar, and cries of "Murderers!" "Cut-throats!" and "Hangmen!" were exchanged.

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Tolstoy's Reply to the Single Tax Leagues of Australia.

It will be remembered that at the time of the commemoration of Tolstoy's eightieth birthday last September a birthday address was sent to him by the Single Tax Leagues of Australia (vol. xi, p. 539); and that it was reported by C. T. Haggberg Wright, bearer of an address to Tolstoy from his English friends, that "the most touching of all the addresses" received by Count Tolstoy "were from the single taxers of Australia, the followers of Henry George, and one from the waiters of a music hall in Moscow (vol. xi, p. 637). The Standard, of Sydney, N. S. W., for November 16, contains Tolstoy's reply to the Leagues' address, as follows:

To the Federation of Single Tax Leagues of Australia:

Dear Friends:

Your address has deeply touched me.

To my regret I have done too little for the cause so dear to you and me which unites us. Of late I have been thinking more and more about it, and should I yet be afforded power for work, I will endeavor to express the teaching of Henry George—who has as yet been far from appreciated according to his merits—as clearly, as briefly, and as accessibly to the great mass of land workers as possible.

The injustice and evil of property in land has long ago been recognized. More than a hundred years

ago the great French thinker, Jean Jacques Rousseau, had written, "The one who first fenced in a plot of land and took upon himself to say, 'This land is mine,' and found people so simple-minded as to believe him, that man was the first founder of the social organization which now exists. From how many crimes, wars, murders, calamities, cruelties, would mankind have been delivered, had some man then uprooted the fences, and filled up the ditches, saying, 'Beware, do not believe this deceiver, you will perish if you forget that the land cannot belong to anyone and that its fruits belong to all.'"

The injustice of the seizure of the land as property has long ago been recognized by thinking people, but only since the teaching of Henry George has it become clear by what means this injustice can be abolished.

In our time the realization of this teaching has become specially necessary not only in Russia—where the land problem is unfortunately being solved in a way most contrary to justice, to the people's consciousness, and to reason—but also in all so-called civilized states. This problem, i. e., the abolition of property in land, at the present time, everywhere demands its solution as insistently, as half a century ago the problem of slavery demanded its solution in Russia and America.

This problem insistently demands its solution because the supposed right of landed property now lies at the foundation not only of economic misery, but also of political disorder, and above all the moral deprivation of the people.

The wealthy ruling classes, foreseeing the loss of the advantages of their position inevitable with the solution of the problem, are endeavoring by various false interpretations, justifications and palliatives with all their power to postpone as long as possible its solution.

But the time comes for everything, and as fifty years ago the time came for the abolition of man's supposed right of property over man, so the time has now come for the abolition of the supposed right of property in land which affords the possibility of appropriating other people's labor. The time for this has come and is now so near at hand that nothing can arrest the abolition of this dreadful means of oppressing the people.

Yet some effort, and this great emancipation of the nations shall be accomplished.

I therefore particularly sympathize with your cause, with the efforts you are exerting, and will be very glad if I shall be able to add my small efforts to yours.

LEO TOLSTOY.

2-15 Sept., '08.

Yasnaya Polyana, Toula, Russia.

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The following note was received by the League with the above message:

Gentlemen: For the purpose of affording the enclosed letter to you from Leo Tolstoy the greatest possible publicity in the interest of the cause you are serving, I have with his consent, forwarded a copy of it to the press by this same post. You will therefore possibly become acquainted with the letter before it reaches you enclosed herewith. It

is in order that you might know the cause thereof that I have added this explanation.

With warmest wishes for the further success of your noble work,

Yours sincerely,

V. TCHERTKOFF.

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Venezuela.

Fighting between adherents of President Castro and acting President Gomez (p. 13) of Venezuela was reported from Port of Spain, Trinidad, on the 29th. Twenty men are said to have been killed, but the report is to be taken with due allowance. On the 1st from Caracas, by way of Willemstad, conferences were reported between Commissioner Buchanan for the United States, and the Venezuelan foreign minister.

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The "Golden Rule" for Policemen.

In his Daily Bulletin to the police force of Cleveland, the issue of January 1 and 2, Chief of Police Kohler (vol. xi, pp. 244, 254, 293) tells of the results of the "golden rule" experiment which he adopted a year ago. "For the twelve months just past," he says, "the one thing most noticeable is the intelligence with which the force has carried out my instructions, and the able manner and good judgment used in disposing of minor or petty offenses that have been brought to your notice. You have certainly rendered a great service to those unfortunates who, from circumstances surrounding them, are most likely to do wrong. You have prevented loss of time and money to them, and suffering to their families, and imposed no hardship on anyone, and still improved conditions in the entire community. There has been less crime committed in Cleveland, the growth of the city and industrial conditions considered, and less property stolen than in the previous year." Following is Chief Kohler's tabulation of arrests:

Total for 1907, before "golden rule".....	30,418
Total for 1908, after "golden rule".....	10,085
Disposition of 1908 arrests:	
Intoxicated persons released on waivers by officers in charge of precincts without appearing in court, and approved by the Police Judge.....	2,512
Turned over to other authorities by the Police	470
Bound over to Common Pleas Court.....	653
Sent to Workhouse.....	1,124
Fined money (paid)	911
Cases continued into 1909.....	260

(Of the total number of arrests made during the year 1908, 260 have been continued from time to time, and in some instances as many as 5, 6 or 7 times, until now some will have to be carried into 1909.)

The remaining 4,155 arrests were allowed to go free by the police judge.