

Willard Hall, with a special order in the afternoon and another in the evening. The afternoon order was a discussion of the fiscal phases of the Singletax, under the subject-title of "Tax Reform." William S. U'Ren of Oregon, Robert L. Scott of Manitoba, A. B. Farmer of Ontario, and John Z. White of Illinois, were the speakers. The evening order was a symposium on the social phases of the Singletax, under the subject-title of "Poverty." Mrs. Raymond Robins, Frederic C. Howe (from whom a paper was read), Joseph Fels and W. A. Douglass were the participants. At the close of the symposium the Conference dissolved, having taken no action to continue its authority other than the appointment of the Auxiliary Committee, which is directed to report for discharge to the next Conference the Joseph Fels Fund Commission may call, and meanwhile to report to the Commission.

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The Commission has added Charles H. Ingersoll to its number, making the Commission as it is now constituted, as follows: Daniel Kiefer (Cincinnati), Chairman; Lincoln Steffens (Connecticut), Frederic C. Howe (New York), Charles H. Ingersoll (New Jersey), Jackson H. Ralston (Maryland), and George A. Briggs (Indiana). Anthony B. du Pont (Cleveland) is Treasurer of the Commission, and its headquarters are in the Commercial Tribune Building in Cincinnati, where its Chairman may be addressed.

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Woman Suffrage in Great Britain.

Mr. Asquith's announcement on the 7th of the Ministerial agreement on suffrage, and his explanation, drew forth a Suffragette delegation on the 17th, at which Chrystabel Pankhurst was spokesman. Mr. Asquith had on the 7th announced officially that immediately after the Christmas holidays a bill for manhood suffrage and the abolition of the plural-voting evil would be introduced as a Ministerial measure; and had explained that this measure, while not including woman suffrage, would be drawn in such a form that the House of Commons could so amend it as to include women as well as men if a majority of the House desire. [See current volume, page 1170.]

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On the 17th the Suffragette delegation of which Miss Pankhurst was spokesman, was received by Mr. Asquith, Lloyd George and other Ministers, to whom she said, as London dispatches of the 17th report, that the societies the delegation represented "demanded that the Government make the question of woman suffrage a party one," and that these societies "refused to accept the suffrage on any basis narrower than that on which it was proposed to be granted to the men." Inasmuch as

the Prime Minister had already explained that the House could amend the measure so as to make it apply to women equally with men, the interpretation of that demand seems to be that the Ministry must include woman suffrage in their own bill, whether a majority of the House favor it or not, and thereby assume the responsibility of being forced into another general election immediately. Mr. Asquith replied to Miss Pankhurst, according to the same dispatches, that "the question of woman suffrage really lay with the House of Commons, and whatever form of qualification the majority thought best would be adopted for women and in that form would be introduced into the bill." Preparations were thereupon made by these suffrage societies for violent demonstrations in Parliament Square. On the 21st this program was begun, and in consequence a large number of arrests of women for rioting and resisting the police were made. Some were fined, and for non-payment were imprisoned for two weeks; others, charged with damaging property to the amount of more than \$25, were committed for trial. Among those arrested was Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, who was charged with striking a policeman in the face and was sentenced to a month's imprisonment.

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Meanwhile, Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, had addressed a message to the National Union of Woman's Suffrage societies, in which he said:

The Premier's announcement on the attitude which the Government is adopting toward the question seems to me to make the carrying of a woman's suffrage amendment, on broad democratic lines, to next year's franchise bill a certainty. I am willing to do all in my power to help those laboring to reach a successful issue in the coming session next year, which provides a supreme opportunity, and nothing but unwise handling of that chance can compass a failure.

This offer was rejected on the 24th under the signatures of 200 of the riot prisoners. They declared that they would accept nothing less than a Ministerial measure in which women are included on the same footing as men. The interpretation of this declaration seems to be, like Miss Pankhurst's speech, that the policy of the suffrage societies is to try to force the Ministry in to proposing a bill which, if defeated in the House of Commons for lack of a majority, would compel the Ministry to resign and thereby to challenge the Conservative party to another trial of strength at a general election. With the Labor insurance measure pending, also the measure to abolish plural voting and property qualifications, and the Irish home rule bill, to all of which the Liberal party is committed by two recent elections, it is highly improbable that the drastic policy of the Suffragette leaders, if it is as inferred above, will succeed.

Lloyd George has, however, begun an agitation within the Liberal party on his own responsibility, for adult suffrage on a democratic basis. In his speech at the annual meeting of the National Liberal Federation at Bath on the 24th, he devoted half of a long address to an argument, as the cable reports him, for broad democratic suffrage for women, his purpose being to secure a majority of the House of Commons in support of the amendment to the Ministerial bill for which the Ministry has promised, through Mr. Asquith, to provide opportunity. If the majority favors that amendment, the Ministerial bill would enfranchise men and women equally, and upon no other condition than manhood and womanhood together with residence in their respective voting districts.



The Chinese Revolution.

Fighting with heavy loss of life continues at Hankow. The Imperialists claim victory. The Imperialists at Nanking are short of food, with retreat cut off by land and by water. The city was fiercely bombarded all day Sunday by the beleaguers. General Wong, second in command, has been killed. The fall of this city, the ancient capital of China, would be very probably the most decisive event of the war. [See current volume, page 1195.]



The new Premier, Yuan Shi Kai, is practically without a cabinet, only the presidents of the minor boards in the cabinet named by him on the 16th, having accepted office. The Chicago Record-Herald's dispatch of the 26th stated that "the Throne's back has stiffened since Yuan Shi Kai has become Premier, and it now refuses to comply with other demands than those made by him. No notice has been taken of resolutions adopted by the National Assembly with reference to the calendar and the cutting of queues. Unable to induce the Premier to appear before the Chamber and powerless to have its resolutions promulgated in an edict, the National Assembly seemingly has ceased existence." Opinion as to the sympathies of the new Premier varies from day to day, between the extremes of monarchism and republicanism, and between Manchu dominance and Chinese self-government. On the 21st, according to the Chicago Record-Herald, in an interview for the American people, he said:

"I judge from the newspaper reports that the advocates of a republic for China have stirred a sympathetic chord in American hearts. This is natural, but I am sure the most enthusiastic republican, if familiar with conditions in China, would doubt the wisdom of the adoption of such a regime here. The form of government suitable to America, where all the people understand governmental problems, would be a most serious experiment in China, where has

existed through the centuries a crude patriarchal monarchy, whose very slackness has developed in the people little respect for government and less understanding of their responsibilities toward the government. It has been demonstrated that the agitation for a republic has conveyed to the masses only the idea that popular government means no taxes and no government. I fear the embarkation of China on the republic experiment would only lead to the dissolution of the Empire, foreign intervention and the partition of the country. Therefore I believe a constitutional monarchy is best."

Determined to avoid giving any pretext for foreign intervention for financial reasons, the Chinese government has ordered all receipts from maritime customs, including the 1901 Boxer indemnities, to be deposited with the foreign banks to the credit of China's foreign debtors.

NEWS NOTES

—John F. Dryden, formerly United States Senator from New Jersey, died at Newark on the 24th at the age of 72.

—Cipriano Castro, former President of Venezuela, is again reported to be on the borders of his native country with thousands of followers. [See current volume, page 784.]

—Persia has yielded to the Russian demands over a question of the authority of W. Morgan Shuster, the American Treasurer-General of Persia. Apologies will be made, and Russia advances a step further in her domination of an ancient people. [See current volume, page 1196.]

—A mass meeting of women willing "to refuse on moral and political grounds to pay their personal taxes," is to be held from 5 to 7 p. m., December 3, in the Rose Ball Room of the Hotel La Salle, Chicago, under the auspices of the "No Vote No Tax League," of which Belle Squire is president.

—Justice Wright of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia decided on the 23d against the motion of Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison for dismissal of the contempt proceedings pending against them in the Bucks Stove and Range case. [See current volume, page 613.]

—Senator John P. Works of California spoke on the 24th before the Illinois section of the National League of Medical Freedom in opposition to the Owen bill for a Federal Department of Health, arguing that this measure would make an allopathic bureau of medical control. [See current volume, page 1196.]

—"The National Citizens League for the Promotion of a Sound Banking System," incorporated in Illinois on the 6th of June, 1911, has just issued a statement detailing the object and progress of the movement it represents. Prof. J. Laurence Laughlin of the University of Chicago is chairman of the executive committee.

—Chief Justice White of the Supreme Court of the United States denied the application on the 23d of the defendants in the Chicago beef trust case