

William T. S. Doyle, chief of the Latin-American division of the State department, to effect a settlement with the rebels, thereby restoring peace and unobstructed financial sway by the United States over the customs houses of Santo Domingo." [See current volume, page 1021.]

—By a decision of the Illinois Supreme Court on the 26th, thousands of Chicago saloons are legalized. This decision sustains the validity of the so-called "Harkin" ordinance insofar as it limits the number of saloons to one for every 500 inhabitants, and nullifies it insofar as it provides for assigning and renewing licenses. Under the latter part of the decision the "property interest" of breweries in about 3,000 licenses is destroyed. [See vol. viii, p. 779.]

—Police-lieutenant Charles Becker was sentenced at New York on the 30th by Justice Goff to die in the electric chair at Sing Sing prison during the week of December 9th. He is now confined, garbed as a convict, in the "death house" at that prison as "No. 62499" along with ten other convicts who await the death penalty. As he entered the prison he said: "I come here an innocent man. I never had a chance. I was railroaded. But the fight has only begun. I expect a reversal of the verdict and a new trial." [See current volume, page 1045.]

—The Department of State of the United States had been officially notified on the 31st of the ratification of the income-tax amendment to the Constitution of the United States by 32 States. The number still lacking to make this amendment effective is 4. The States rejecting the amendment are Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Utah; those yet to report action are Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming. [See vol. xiv, p. 682; current volume, pages 639, 729.]

PRESS OPINIONS

That Missouri Single Tax Amendment Being Voted on This Week.

The (St. Louis) Mirror (Wm. Marlon Reedy), Oct. 31.—Under the so-called single tax amendment, its opponents say, the rich man's home and the poor man's home are taxed the same. The rich man's house and the poor man's house are to be untaxed the same. Neither will pay tax. Ah, but the rich man and the poor man will pay the same tax on their land. If their land value is the same, they will pay the same tax. But if their land value is the same, then the poor man is rich or the rich man is poor, and they rightly pay the same, on the same level. The rich man will not pay on his cash in bank, his stocks and bonds and mortgages. He doesn't pay now—at least never more than enough to save his face with his fellow-citizens. He rids himself of most of his cash, securities and mortgages for the day on which he makes oath to his possessions. But tax land values and you get all the stocks, bonds, mortgages, etc. They are based on land values in various forms—railway and other franchises, mines, terminals, docks, water-power sites, timber areas.

The land value tax is the tax that will get all the property of this sort that escapes now. Ah, but some men's land decreases in value: shouldn't they be compensated if they are taxed on increased value? No. If I lose money on a land deal I don't lose it to the community, but to some other speculator. If my land increases in value I get the land value from the community. Ah, but isn't there unearned increment in houses? Not at all. It will always cost to reproduce a house just what it cost originally. There's just so much labor in a house. If you hear a house has increased in value, look and listen again and you'll find it's the land that has increased in value. The single tax would not oppress the poor. Nor would it oppress the rich. It would tax each for what the community gives him of value. It would tax neither on what he gives the community in any form of service. It would not raise rents, but it would raise wages. The land value tax would not discourage land improvement, building, etc. A landowner now may make money by just letting his land lie idle. A landowner under single tax would have to improve his land or let it go. You never find a leased lot vacant. If you find a vacant lot it is an owned lot. Under single tax there's no profit from land except in use. This promotes improvement. Profit in land without use retards improvement. The so-called single tax amendment is not inimical to business, to capital, to labor. In point of fact, so long as all the unearned increment, all the rent of land is not taken for the community, the amendment will cause a real estate boom rather than stagnation. It will promote building and make activity in all the trades. It will bring millions of taxed money from other States to this, to be put into untaxed production here. Everybody will profit by the amendment—even those who pay more taxes will profit by increased business activities.



Self-Government in Cuba.

(Chicago) Record-Herald, October 30.—Last week there was rioting in Havana over politics, in which some forty persons were shot. The rioters were suppressed, order was quickly restored by the police and the government's military forces, and the whole affair may be put down as due to intensity of feeling between partisans. It did not justify intervention by the United States to supervise the election, which some interests desired. Intervention again will not be justifiable except on a clear showing of Cuba's inability to govern itself. A nation must learn self-government through self-effort.



The Next Excitement.

The (St. Louis) Mirror (Wm. Marlon Reedy), Oct. 31.—By this time next week all us editors will be busy with our cabinet-making. That is even more exciting than showing who will be or can't be elected President.



John Bull: "I trust it was not simply my free trade principles that made you love me?"

Japan: "Dearest, let us not pry too curiously into the sources of our sacred affection."—London Punch.