

this value the progressive taxes proposed by the bill are as follows, stated in the bill in terms of the pound sterling, but here translated into dollars at the rate of \$5.00 to the £1:

\$2,500 to \$12,500,	2 mills per \$1.
\$12,500 to \$25,000,	3 mills per \$1.
\$25,000 to \$50,000,	4 mills per \$1.
\$50,000 to \$75,000,	4½ mills per \$1.
\$75,000 to \$100,000,	5 mills per \$1.
\$100,000 to \$125,000,	5½ mills per \$1.
\$125,000 to \$150,000,	6 mills per \$1.
\$150,000 to \$175,000,	6½ mills per \$1.
\$175,000 to \$200,000,	7 mills per \$1.
\$200,000 to \$225,000,	7½ mills per \$1.
\$225,000 to \$250,000,	8 mills per \$1.
\$250,000 to \$300,000,	9 mills per \$1.
\$350,000 to upwards,	12 mills per \$1.

The minimum tax proposed by the bill is 2s 6d, equal to about 62 cents; and the following exemptions are made:

To owners of land values of less than \$2,500, a total exemption; to owners of land values under \$12,500 an exemption on \$2,500 thereof; to owners of land values above \$12,500, the \$2,500 exemption diminishes at the rate of \$5 of the exemption for every \$10 of the excess in value, so as to leave no exemption on land values exceeding \$17,500. On land owners who do not reside in the State of Victoria the tax rates are increased 50 per cent.

In advocating his bill on second reading, August 31, the Prime Minister said:

This bill seeks to impose a progressive tax upon unimproved land values, first of all with the object of promoting conditions favorable to more extensive agricultural settlement, and, secondly, with the object of raising additional revenue to meet the approaching shortage in customs returns from the Commonwealth.

In seeking to place in this bill, as we do, such conditions upon the holders of land as will induce them to put it to a higher productive use or sell it to those who will use it to better advantage, the Government are animated by the conviction that a man who holds land out of use, or in comparative idleness, while others are searching for acres to cultivate, is opposed to the progressive development of the State. We are also desirous of putting a fair share of the charges of government upon the soil of Victoria, and of restoring to society some portion of that increment which the expenditure and enterprise of the State, and the consequent settlement of population, have created. This bill, therefore, I claim, rests upon the sure foundation of public necessity and public justice.

When proposals of this kind are in the air or before Parliament we often hear the argument that a tax on land is unfair, because it singles out one class of men and one class of interest for taxation. My answer is a frank admission that it does, but I see ample justification for it. I want honorable members to look at the holder of land in town and country in his relations to the rest of the community. Every land-holder derives many general and

many special benefits from society and government. As to his general benefits we can say that he shares those in common with the rest of the community, and pays for them, as a general taxpayer, when he pays on his consumption through the customs house or on his profits through the income tax office. This is in return for good government, which gives protection to his life and liberty, as it does to the rest of us. But the real property-owner, the owner of real estate, enjoys many special benefits for which he should make special returns to the State. He is specially indebted to society for the protection which its good government affords to his property. Land values—we are clear on this point, no one will dispute it—are highest in countries where government is stable and protective. Here is the argument in another form. What would the value of agricultural land in Victoria be in these days of keen international competition in staple products if the State did not mesh the country with roads and railways and other facilities for transportation and trade? Every advance in civilization and in the scientific development of production and exchange promotes, perceptibly or imperceptibly, but surely the interests of the land-holder.

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Disorders in Greece.

The army and navy of the little modern kingdom of Greece (p. 825) have never been brought up to modern European standards of efficiency, partly because of the national poverty, and partly apparently, from lack of executive ability on the part of the military leaders. The younger officers in both branches of defense, organized as the Military League, have lately made violent protests, coupled with demands for the removal of the Crown Prince Constantine from the position of commander in chief of the army. On October 15 the Chamber of Deputies abolished the right of the sons of the King to hold military commands. Earlier in the same day King George, grasping the situation, persuaded his sons—Constantine, George, Nicholas and Christopher—to resign their commissions. The Military League then demanded further, on the 27th, the enactment within twenty-four hours of an ordinance suspending all promotions for five years, the abolition of the post of Rear Admiral heretofore held by Prince George, together with two vice admirals and fifteen positions of lesser rank. A compromise offered by the Premier was refused, and thirty naval officers retired to the Island of Salamis, where they seized the arsenal. On the 29th a little battle was fought, between the insurgents in a flotilla of torpedo boats, headed by Lieutenant Tibaldos, and government forces, in the historic seas by the Island of Salamis, where in B. C. 480 Themistocles defeated the Persians. The insurgents were worsted, with but small bloodshed, on that day and again on the 30th; their force melted away, and the arsenal surrendered. The Military League has disowned Tibaldos.

Four British warships turned up near Athens on the 31st.

NEWS NOTES

—Gen. O. O. Howard, of Civil War and Freedman's Bureau fame, died suddenly at Burlington, Vt., on the 26th at the age of 79.

—Cremation has been declared illegal in Austria by the supreme court of the Empire, on the ground that it is opposed to the Christian idea of burial.

—Violent earthquake shocks were reported from northern California on the evening of the 28th. Chimneys and windows were shattered in many places, but no serious damage was done.

—The second deep water ways convention (vol. xi, pp. 684, 685) met at New Orleans on the 30th. At the conference of State Governors, one of the features of the convention, Governor Deneen presided.

—Menelik, the powerful old Negus of Abyssinia, whose health has been breaking for many months (p. 157), was stricken with apoplexy on the 28th, and on the first was reported to be at the point of death.

—Mayor Busse named on the 1st the committee for idealizing Chicago on the basis of the Commercial club's plans (p. 1060), appointing Charles H. Wacker as chairman. The committee, which was authorized by the City Council (p. 988) on the 6th of July last, consists of 300 members.

—Three deaths from football violence were reported on the 31st, making eleven in all for the football season of 1909. The most notable of the three was that of Eugene A. Byrne, a West Point Cadet, who was injured in the game with Harvard on the 30th. Football at West Point has consequently been forbidden for the year.

—Chicago friends of Charles R. Crane, whose mysterious recall as American minister to China (pp. 1009, 1018) has excited national comment, have tendered him a banquet at such time as he may indicate, but Mr. Crane, while expressing his appreciation of the tribute, has found himself unable to accept because of his early departure for Europe.

—The will of Francisco Ferrer, executed at Barcelona on the 13th (p. 1038), was published in Paris on the 27th. His executor is charged to continue the publication of Ferrer's works on the modern schools and education. The testator stated that history would vindicate his innocence, but adjured his friends not to bother about his memory, as "in this life only acts count."

—The thirty-second and thirty-third bomb explosion in connection with the war in Chicago of the "unprotected" upon the "protected" gamblers (pp. 623, 661, 685) occurred on the 31st. One explosion was at 260 State street and the other at 170 Madison street. Gambling implements were found in both places, and it is understood that both were "protected" pursuant to pre-election promises made two years and a half ago.

—The National Women's Trade Union League at its convention in Chicago (pp. 949, 970) adopted resolutions urging "the American Federation of Labor

to take action toward the formation of a labor party pledged to forward the higher interests of the toiling millions as against the selfish interests of a privileged minority, and which shall welcome to its membership all persons of whatever other affiliations who shall subscribe to the above line of action."

—The decision of Judge Wright ordering the imprisonment for contempt of Samuel Gompers, Frank Morrison and John Mitchell (p. 396) was affirmed on the 2d by the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia. Chief Justice Shepard dissented on the ground that so much of the injunction as the defendants had disobeyed was null and void because opposed to the constitutional provision regarding freedom of the press.

—Syrians in the United States who believe they are threatened with being regarded as neither white men nor Negroes and therefore disqualified for naturalization, have brought their appeal to Washington, on the basis of a letter written October 27, by Richard K. Campbell, chief of the division of naturalization of the Department of Commerce and Labor, to the United States Attorney, at New Orleans, suggesting that he refrain from bringing naturalization cases affecting Syrians before the courts.

—At the Boston election on the 2d there was a referendum vote on the new charter, the referendum proposition allowing a choice between "Plan 1," which provides a straight two year term for the Mayor, nomination by party convention, and for a Council of thirty-six; and "Plan 2," which provides for nomination of Mayoralty candidates by petition, a four year term with recall privilege at end of two years, no party designation on ballots, and a council of nine. The result of the vote is not yet at hand.

—The assassination of the Japanese statesman, Prince Ito, at Harbin, in Manchuria, by a Korean, on the 26th (p. 1045), has been followed by rioting at Seoul, the capital of Korea, with signs of revolt in the south. The assassin has been identified as Inchan Angan, a former editor of a Seoul newspaper. He has declared that he was one of an organization of twenty Koreans who had taken an oath that they would kill Ito. Prince Ito's body has been taken to Tokio, where it is to lie in state at his residence, to be interred on the 4th.

—An amendment to the constitution of the Universalist Church changing its congregational form by vesting administrative power in a single head to be known as the president of the Universalist Church in the United States, failed by a few votes, at the biennial convention in Detroit on the 26th, to receive the necessary two-thirds majority. The matter accordingly was laid over until the next biennial convention. A similar proposal came up at the convention two years ago but was ruled out of order. Charles L. Hutchinson of Chicago was elected president and Marion D. Shutter of Minneapolis was selected as preacher of the next convention sermon.

—The Nicaraguan revolutionists, under General Estrada, are still gaining over President Zelaya (p. 1045). The revolutionists occupy the east coast. The Charleston News and Courier says that "the master hand of President Diaz of Mexico" may be seen in this revolution, and remarks further, as is noted in The Literary Digest: "The suspicion has