

Fort and Purple hill were carried successively. At noon on the 2nd three of the city gates were forced simultaneously. The Imperialists were already in parley, and the bloodshed of the act of occupation was slight. Subsequently the Manchu quarter of the city was looted and burned, according to the dispatches. The rest of the city quickly resumed business under the police patrol of the Republicans. On the 3rd the city of Urga, the capital of Mongolia, was reported to have declared its independence of the Chinese Empire, and to have expelled the Imperial officials. The revolution is also making headway in Manchuria, where it is receiving assistance from the Japanese. [See current volume, page 1219.]

#### Persia Facing a Crisis.

The ancient kingdom of Persia, situated in the western part of Asia, south of the Caspian Sea, west of Afghanistan, east of Asiatic Turkey, and north of the Persian Gulf, has been advancing during the past six years out of autocracy into constitutionalism. The Shah Muhammed Ali was forced to abdicate in 1907, and his young son Ahmed was put on the throne under a regency. Although claiming independent nationality, Persia has been obliged in recent years to submit to the extension of spheres of influence over her northern provinces by Russia, and over her southern provinces by England. These spheres were delimited by an agreement between Russia and England, ratified in August, 1907; but the agreement between these two European nations included an assertion of the possible necessity of financial control of the Persian revenues. In order to avoid further European control, and fearing the complications of European diplomacy, the Persian National Assembly early in the present year turned to the United States for assistance in getting its finances on a stable footing. It may be remembered that, aided informally by the United States Government, arrangements were made with a small group of American financial experts who sailed for Persia in April, and that on their arrival one of their number, Wm. Morgan Shuster, was put in charge of the national finance with the title of Treasurer-General. Since that time the ex-Shah, with the scarcely concealed assistance of the Russian Government, has tried vainly to establish himself upon the throne. With the failure of that project Russia protested against certain confiscations ordered by the Assembly and carried out by Mr. Shuster; also against some of his appointments. Russian troops were started into Persia, and it was reported last week that Persia had yielded and made apologies, in the face of so threatening a situation. [See current volume, pages 351, 585, 1004, 1173, 1219.]

The report of the submission of Persia now ap-

pears to have been an error. The Russian ultimatum called for the immediate dismissal of Mr. Shuster, and demanded a cash indemnity for the dispatch of Russian troops to Persia. Mr. Shuster begged the National Assembly to consult only the interests of the country, and not to consider him. The National Assembly, however, rejected the ultimatum by a large majority. The Russians have thereupon proceeded on their way toward Teheran. An appeal to Sir Edward Grey, British Foreign Secretary, by the Persian minister at London, drew out only the advice that Persia should comply with the Russian terms. In the terror of the moment several prominent reactionary Persians have been assassinated. The populace at Teheran approves the attitude of the Assembly, and messages from the provinces pledge unlimited support to the Government. A general boycott on Russian goods has been started, and people are hindering the use of the Russian tramway. Placards are posted on the walls in Teheran, proclaiming "Death or Independence," and 10,000 persons marched through the streets on the 3d under such banners. On the 4th the National Assembly telegraphed an appeal for aid to the American Congress and to the other national parliaments of the world. Turkey was reported on the 4th to be marching troops toward the northwest Persian frontier, desiring, according to the dispatch, to share in the partition of Persia, if that day is at hand. But another report of the same date announced that Turkey has appealed to the Powers asking that the independence of Persia be respected.

The English Liberal press is divided on the situation. The Daily Telegraph, acknowledges and takes the consequences of the Russian partnership, saying: "By the terms of our agreement with Russia we are bound to take into consideration the wishes of our partner, even though she seems to have acted with peremptory harshness." While the Daily News declares that Russia's advance means a partition that will enable Russia, whenever she be so inclined, to fight a battle for India on the plains of Persia. The United States Government, according to the news reports of the 2nd, has sent instructions to the American minister at Teheran, to see to it that Mr. Shuster's person and property and liberty are protected in his official capacity, and if he suffers in that matter through the breaking of his contract of employment by the Persian government, even though that government is under duress from Russia, he must look to Persia for indemnification. Mr. Shuster's own statement of the situation, sent to the American press under date of November 30, is as follows:

Russia's demand for my dismissal is really actuated by my refusal officially to recognize her so-

called sphere of influence in northern Persia. To do so would be to betray the people I am serving.

The Russian bureaucracy is further embittered by the unexpected repulse of the ex-Shah and the solidarity and energy of the constitutional government; also by my refusal to submit to official bullying regarding the confiscated properties of Persian reactionaries protected by Russian officials against taxation.

Russian consuls have been so long accustomed to intimidating Persian officials of all ranks they are unable to comprehend any one desiring an impartial execution of the laws.

Being convinced that the Americans intended neither to become her tools nor to adopt the *laissez faire* policy, Russia now takes advantage of the embroiled European situation, Sir Edward Grey's timidity regarding Germany, and Turkey's war with Italy, to openly violate the Russian agreement and Persian sovereignty by occupying the coveted northwestern provinces, and also seeks a pretext to march on Teheran by making demands tantamount to the absolute abdication of Persia's sovereignty.

From the beginning Russia never intended to permit serious financial reforms or a strong Persia. The throwing off of the mask was merely hastened by the European situation and the insincere English foreign policy here. I have no apologies to offer for my course.

## NEWS NOTES

—Thirteen cardinals were appointed by the Pope last week, three of them being American bishops.

—The centenary of the birth of Wendell Phillips, the great Abolition orator, was celebrated in Boston on the 29th.

—The 19th session of the National Irrigation Congress opened in Chicago at the Auditorium on the 5th. [See vol. xiii., pp. 925, 946.]

—Charles Frederick Adams speaks at El Paso, Texas, on the 10th and 11th, and at Los Angeles, Cal., on the 16th. [See current volume, p. 1196.]

—When Mrs. Pankhurst of England, accompanied by Mrs. Harriet Stanton Blatch, tried to speak in Wall street, New York, on the 27th, she was prevented by the outrages of a mob of men.

—The Eastern expedition of Governors of Western States passed through Chicago on the 28th, Grand Rapids on the 29th, Toledo on the 30th, Cleveland on the 1st, and Buffalo on the 2nd. [See current volume, page 1220.]

—John D. Rockefeller resigned on the 4th as president of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, and John D. Archbold was elected in his place. Mr. Rockefeller resigned also as a director. [See current volume, page 934.]

—The Congress of Santo Domingo on the 2nd elected Senator Eladio Victoria provisional President of the Republic, in succession to General Ramon Caceres, who was assassinated November 19. [See current volume, page 1196.]

—An order of the Postmaster General of the United States made public on the 2nd, forbids secret soci-

ties within the Post Office service. It is understood to be aimed at the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, a constituent body of the American Federation of Labor.

—The fifth annual meeting of the American Association for Labor Legislation, of which John E. Andrews (Metropolitan Tower, New York City) is secretary, will be held at the New Hotel Raleigh, Washington, D. C., from December 28th to 30th. [See current volume, page 980.]

—The grand jury at Kissimmee, Florida, decided on the 2nd against an indictment of Egbert Gillett and Elizabeth Sears, of the Shaker colony there upon accusation of homicide for humanely hastening the death of Sadie Marchant, of the same colony, who was suffering in the last stages of consumption. [See current volume, page 1004.]

—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (20 Vesey St., New York) is raising a fund of \$1,500 to publish a report of the facts about lynching in the United States, of which the appeal for funds says: "This form of lawlessness has now overstepped its former bounds, its former excuse, and even the confines of one race," and "is rapidly becoming a question of sheer civilization."

—A Washington state organization of Singletaxers has been effected with Oliver T. Erickson of Seattle as president, W. H. Kaufman of Bellingham as secretary, William Mathews of Spokane as treasurer, W. H. Proctor of Everett as auditor and A. W. Steers of Bellingham as organizer. A meeting at Seattle to perfect permanent organization is to be held in January, the arrangements for which are in charge of the secretary.

—Lectures by Charles H. Mann are continued at 352 Adelphi Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., the subjects for the next seven meetings being as follows: Dec. 12, "The Supersession of Ecclesiasticism"; Dec. 19, "Personal Immortality in Human Unity"; Dec. 26, "Human Nature in the Making"; Jan. 2, "The Divinity in Human Unity"; Jan. 9, "Life in Achieving; not in the Achievement"; Jan. 16, "The Sanction of Human Spontaneity," and Jan. 23, "The Cup of Hemlock." [See current volume, page 1123.]

—The California League for Home Rule in Taxation has been organized by the election of James G. Maguire as president, Mayor J. Stitt Wilson, of Berkeley as first vice-president, Herman Gustadt as secretary, Joseph Leggett as treasurer, and A. Lawrence Johnson, Walter MacArthur, Mrs. Lillian Harris Coffin, M. J. Dodge and Mrs. Helen Moore as the additional executive committee members. To secure a Constitutional amendment giving home rule in taxation to the counties and municipalities of California is the object of the League.

—In the Appellate Court at Chicago on the 29th Judge Windes' was reversed in his ruling on the valuation of certain long-time public school leases under 10-year revaluation clauses. For the ten years ending in 1915 a valuation of \$65 a square foot by the appraisers, provided for in the leases before the Court, had been set aside by Judge Windes for irregularities in the appraisal, and a much lower valuation fixed by him. The supposed irregularities are held by the Appellate Court to have been regular. In consequence the appraisers' valuation is sustained.