

Art. 5—The sums collected for rent will go to the special working fund of the Agrarian Commission.

Art. 6—The cultivation of a lot under this decree will carry no future property right in the land.

Art. 7—A renter will be strictly responsible for any misuse of his lot and can use it only for agriculture.

Art. 8—In each district the highest civil (or military) official will have charge of distributing the lots. The land must be divided so as to give every applicant an arable lot and it must be handled so as to get it all into cultivation. The lots must not exceed $3\frac{1}{2}$ hectares in area and must be distributed impartially.

Art. 10—Any renter who fails to sow his lot at once, as agreed, will lose it and it will be assigned to another.

Art. 12—Renters shall be free to sell their harvests how and where they choose.

Art. 13—The State will record the names of those farmers who raise the best and biggest harvests and such will be favored in the definite distribution of land.

Art. 16—The difficulties which arise in administering this decree will be decided by the highest local official with a right to appeal to the central State authorities.

Art. 18—Any local officials who show partiality or bad faith in administering this decree and favor their private interests, or their relatives and friends, will be subject to fine or imprisonment; as will also private citizens who impede this decree.

Art. 19—On receiving this decree the local officials will assemble all citizens and stimulate them to get their land under cultivation as soon as possible.

On the seizure of Vera Cruz in April, Huerta organized a number of delegations to visit the Rebel chiefs and persuade them to join him against the Yankee "blonde pigs." In many cases these delegates, while pretending to parley with a chief, expected to secretly delude his ignorant followers; but they were seldom given this chance, for most delegations were arrested at once and held for ransom. Many delegates were young students and they had many adventures before regaining their liberty, as often the only ransom accepted for them was arms and cartridges. The Federal press hurrahed mightily at the acceptance by some Zapatista bands of Huerta's amnesty offers, but little was said when these same bands decamped to the hills a few weeks later, all provided with a complete new military outfit.

At present writing the Rebel armies are within 100 miles of the capital to the north and west, while to the south and southwest the Zapatistas and other irregulars have possession of everything, except the largest cities, and only allow the railroads to run by sufferance. The whole democracy is in arms and further resistance of the landed aristocracy seems hopeless.

RESIDENT OBSERVER.



TAX REFORM IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Washington, D. C., July 15.

Disfranchised, there is nothing left for the residents of Washington to do but to conduct a campaign of education as regards reform in assessment and taxation conditions, so that when the opportunity offers and the people of the rest of the United States again give us the franchise we shall be prepared to adopt the best and most scientific methods of assessment and taxation, which the "George" report shows that we are in so much need of.

With this object in view, the Tax Reform Association of the District of Columbia was organized last fall, with Mr. H. Martin Williams from Illinois, Reading Clerk of the House of Representatives, as President, and a strong advisory committee with Mr. Herbert J. Browne, the real estate expert of the Congressional Committee, as chairman. The association adopted the following Declaration of Principles:

1. An equitable assessment of property, inequalities to be corrected.
2. Abolition of the Personal Property Tax.
3. Abolition of taxes on occupations and enterprise, except liquor license and similar restrictions.
4. Taxes on franchises and monopolies.
5. Gradual shifting of taxes from improvements to land values.
6. A graduated inheritance tax.

There are in the District of Columbia about sixty Citizens' Associations which have regular monthly meetings. These associations take up matters of interest to their respective districts together with questions of general interest, and occasionally invite speakers to address them on subjects of importance. Besides these strictly civic organizations, there are about sixty labor unions and numerous organizations of a fraternal and religious nature. In the early winter we sent circulars to many of these associations offering to furnish speakers to address them on the subject of assessment and taxation in the District of Columbia.

As a result of the interest aroused by these circulars, we received numerous invitations to furnish speakers, and during the winter and spring about 50 meetings were addressed on the subject of taxation, and an aggregate of over 3,000 persons were present to learn of modern methods of assessment and taxation. After the formal address opportunity was given to ask questions, and at the close literature was given to those interested, including copies of the "George" report on conditions in the District of Columbia. Usually reporters were present at the meetings, and we secured considerable publicity in the two morning and two evening papers. The meetings were not especially advertised, except through the regular notice sent out by the Secretary of the Association to be addressed. The maximum attendance at the meetings was 250 and the least number was 20, but often we would get the best newspaper notice with the smallest audience, so that these smaller meetings were fully as important as the larger ones.

In order to make the meetings as effective as possible we devised a series of paper charts on conditions in the District as shown by the official reports of the Assessor, Auditor, Police Department, "George" Congressional Committee, and so forth. These were later photographed and made into lantern slides, and used in this way where the organization addressed had a stereopticon. Many organizations were induced to have us address them through our advertising the use of these charts.

The season closed with a lecture, or rather addresses on taxation by two of our members on the Fourth of July at the dedication of a fire-engine house at a nearby suburb. Most of the civic organizations do not meet in the summer, but we hope

to continue our campaign of education another season.

W. I. SWANTON,
Secretary Tax Reform Ass'n of the Dist. of Columbia.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

WHAT IS THE REMEDY?

Chicago, August 4.

The United States Industrial Commission, which recently visited Chicago, held public meetings at the La Salle hotel, for the purpose of taking testimony of the men and women who are supposed to know the real cause of the general unrest of the people of the United States, that some conclusion might be reached and a remedy applied. That there is unrest is apparent, and that the present administration recognizes it is commendable. At no session of these commission meetings, which I attended, did I hear, or have I read a report of any witness having suggested an intelligent remedy which could be universally valuable.

There were suggestions, such as arbitration in labor troubles, and raising of wages of working people, such suggestions which would apply only to a small portion of the people in any community, and thus these meetings were disappointing to the laymen who were not supposed to be competent to give testimony or suggest remedies. It was surprising to listeners to find that our professional reformers were so uninformed in regard to ways and means of social, political and industrial betterment—in fact, they seemed to be ignorant that there is a real effective specific.

In the first place, it is true that there is "discontent and restlessness," all of which is a sign of universal health, and shows a receptive condition, and that the masses are ready to adopt a remedy; it also indicates, if a change is not forthcoming, and the restlessness settles down to despair, that there is a danger of revolution.

In my humble opinion the cause of discontent is due to the fact that the great masses of the people are disinherited.

The ground or soil upon which they move and have their being is not their own, and thus the landlord is forever calling "Step lively," "Be quick or you're dead."

Human beings being land animals and unable to exist without land, and having no land upon which to exist, feel consciously or unconsciously unsafe, insecure, for the only people who are really safe are those who have access to the land.

Now, then! Feeling unsafe, being insecurely situated, is quite enough to create restlessness, is it not?

For a concrete example, review the Philippine Islands. Americans had not titles to the lands of the Philippines before we invaded that territory (so a learned bishop who visited those islands for the purpose of investigation, said recently in an address to a Chicago audience. "But," he further said, "the first thing the splendid big business men of our country did was to secure titles to their

lands," and this bishop declared it a great stroke of successful diplomacy.

He then told of the fine roads that have been built by the Filipinos for the use of the Americans and their automobiles, while the roads for themselves were inferior. He declared the Filipinos a happy class of people, and "all they needed today was an opportunity to work." "They want jobs," he said. Now, then, why are they thrown out of jobs? Why are they jobless and becoming restless and discontented? Any one capable of reasoning from effect back to cause will see that it is directly traceable to the fact that these Filipinos were disinherited when the "American gentlemen" secured deeds and titles to their lands, and the Filipinos must now "step lively" to the tune of their landlords.

History is repeating itself, and our industrial commission need look no further. Let them investigate the Henry George idea and experiment with his theories, and put a stop to the cause of inequality of opportunity.

The Henry George idea can be put in operation without working hardship to any living thing.

There is another kind of restlessness which is temporary and artificial, and is founded upon pure cussedness on the part of men who have been deprived of political power, political office, or some special privilege. These people are willing to lose money, to lay off help, to shut down factories, to refuse to loan money, to talk panic, to exhibit fear and mistrust, to fake news for the purpose of educating the people to believe that there is no prosperity possible unless the Republican party is in power and they spend money to prove it, and so they breed discontent and restlessness, but the people are no longer to be fooled. The Missourian spirit "Show me," is becoming dominant.

MINONA S. JONES.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, August 18, 1914.

The European War.

Western Europe.

The formation of the gigantic battle-line on the Franco-German frontier, where along the amazing distance of 216 miles millions of German soldiers have been preparing soon to meet millions of French, English and Belgian troops—this stupefying fact has dominated the news from Europe since August 11. During the long resistance of the Liege forts in Belgium, almost regardless of such repulses as that of August 15 at Dinant in Southeastern Belgium and both defeats and victories in Alsace, the Kaiser's infantry battalions, well screened by cavalry, have moved hugely on