

house on General Huerta's orders, were released on the 24th.



#### English Politics.

Not in many years has the British government passed through such a crisis as that of the past week. The cabinet was embarrassed by the action of Colonel J. E. B. Seely, Secretary of State for War, who gave written assurances to General Gough and his mutinous officers that they would not be used against Ulster. Such a protest was raised by the Labor and Radical leaders and press that Colonel Seely was forced to resign on the 24th. Associated with him in responsibility were Field Marshal Sir John French, chief of the general staff, and Sir John Spencer Ewart, adjutant general. When Premier Asquith refused to accept Colonel Seely's resignation, Generals French and Ewart resigned. [See current volume, page 302.]



Premier Asquith demanded of General Gough the return of the document given him by Secretary Seely; and issued stringent orders governing the relations of the army to the government. General French and General Ewart declined to withdraw their resignations, and the Premier was compelled to accept the resignation of Colonel Seely. Then came a complete surprise in Parliament. Instead of naming another man as Secretary of State for war, Mr. Asquith assumed the office himself.



The assumption of the new office necessitates the resignation of Mr. Asquith as member of Parliament, and his standing for re-election by his constituency of East Fife. This is considered an adroit move on the Premier's part. For if his seat should be contested, he will have three weeks in which to adjust matters. So grave has been the issue between the people and the army, or rather between the people and the officers of the army, that Ulster and Irish Home Rule have been thrown into the background. Mr. Asquith's firm stand for civil government, and his assumption of the war portfolio, have aroused such enthusiasm among his followers that the trend of opinion is thought to be pronouncedly in his favor.



#### Japanese Politics.

The resignation of the cabinet on the 24th brings to a head the growing discontent with the home government that lately found expression in political riots. Clan government, the radicals claim, has received a severe blow in the disappearance of the Yamamoto cabinet. A statement by the government declared that the cabinet had resigned on account of the failure of the House of Representatives and the House of Peers to agree

on the budget. The opposition journals attribute the fall of the government to the naval scandal, which is undermining the discipline of the navy, and causing the Japanese blue jackets to regard their officers with contempt. The Emperor has ordered Viscount Keigo Kiyoura to form a new cabinet. [See current volume, page 303.]



#### Tax Reform News.

Barney Haughey, one of the members of the Board of Directors of the Colorado Singletax Association, and a tax expert of many years' experience, has been engaged to make a comparative assessment sheet for each taxpayer in Denver, which will show the actual amount of taxes paid for the year 1913 and the amount his taxes would have been under the Singletax, had that method of assessment and taxation been in use. After these comparative assessment rolls are finished, the information will be available to the general public, and any taxpayer, by applying to the association, will be able to learn in dollars and cents just what the saving will be.



The Industrial Tax Exemption Association of New Jersey is pushing the Hennesey-Fisk bill, now before the legislature, which provides for home rule in taxation for municipalities. A public hearing on this bill at the State House in Trenton was held on March 25.



Edward Polak, Register of Bronx Borough, New York City, has published a computation of the tax rate on land and improvements for the next five years under the proposed Herrick-Schaap bill, which provides for a ten per cent reduction each year of the tax rate on improvements until equal to half of the rate on land values. For the present year the assessed valuation of real estate, exclusive of franchises, is:

|  | Land.           | Improvements.      | Tax rate.      |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Manhattan .....                          | \$3,161,949,660 | \$1,612,328,120    | 1.78           |
| Bronx .....                              | 336,116,060     | 253,280,895        | 1.77           |
| Brooklyn .....                           | 783,859,159     | 787,627,773        | 1.84           |
| Queens .....                             | 280,678,120     | 166,008,357        | 1.80           |
| Richmond .....                           | 40,249,108      | 36,687,873         | 1.80           |
| Total value .....                        | \$4,602,852,107 | \$2,855,932,518    |                |
| Total assessed valuation of land and im- |                 |                    |                |
| provements .....                         |                 | \$7,458,784,625.00 |                |
| The total budget for 1914 is.....        |                 |                    | 192,995,551.62 |

Mr. Polak figures that with the same budget the tax rate under the Herrick-Schaap bill for the next five years would be:

| Manhattan:             | On Land. | On Im-    |
|------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Tax rate for 1915..... | 1.85     | 1.66½=90% |
| Tax rate for 1916..... | 1.91     | 1.53 =80% |
| Tax rate for 1917..... | 1.98     | 1.39 =70% |
| Tax rate for 1918..... | 2.07     | 1.24 =60% |
| Tax rate for 1919..... | 2.14     | 1.07 =50% |