

oughly in sympathy with his work, and an active co-operator.



English Politics.

The Parliamentary situation seems to have settled down to a dogged determination on the part of the Conservative-Unionist forces to oust the Liberals from power. Talk of compromise over Ulster continues, but the demands of the extremists have been enlarged to such a degree that there is little hope of the friends and opponents agreeing. If the government can be overthrown before the passage of the Irish Home Rule Bill, it will be necessary, even should the Liberals be successful at the polls, to wait three years before the measure can be brought to the present stage. Hence, the Unionists will gain even though they should lose the election. This lends zest to their efforts to foment trouble for the government. The naval estimates, the deportation of South African labor leaders, the Mexican killing of Benton, and every possible item of discord is magnified to the utmost. The Unionists won the bye-election of Bethnal Green by a very small plurality in a three-cornered fight. But as both the Liberal and the Labor candidates stood for home rule, the vote was really an endorsement of that issue. [See current volume, page 180.]



More and more attention is given to Lloyd George and his land program. The London Times began a savage attack on him on the 17th, and has followed it with editorials that are spoken of as libelous. He is charged with "political blackmail," "lying" and of being mentally unsound.



Mail advices indicate that Lloyd George took no backward step in his Glasgow speech on the 4th. Basing his stand on the broad proposition "that the land of all countries was created by Providence for the benefit of all those who dwell therein, and that the privileges, rights, or interests attaching for the time being, whatever their origin may be, to the ownership of land that are inconsistent with this great purpose ought, in the interests of the community, to be ruthlessly overridden," he made this significant statement: "Some desire the whole burden of the rates [local taxes] to be transferred from the structure to the site; while others, on the other hand, object to any part of the rates being put upon the site. Frankly, I consider, having regard to vested interests which have grown up, the first proposition as impracticable, and I regard the second proposition as pusillanimous." He expressed the opinion that the special deputation that the city of Glasgow was sending to British Columbia to study the system of taxation there, would be of great help in formulating practical proposals. The United Committee

for the Taxation of Land Values at a meeting on February 9, declared:

This meeting of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values endorses the official resolution adopted at the Chancellor of the Exchequer's meeting in Glasgow on the 4th of February and hails with satisfaction his declaration that the Government is not only pledged to the rating of land values, but also that it intends to give effect to the principle in legislation as an essential feature of its land reform proposals. While welcoming the Chancellor's announcement, the United Committee again affirms and emphasizes its support of the practical policy laid down in the Land and Taxation Reform Memorial urged upon the Government by the Land Values Group in the House of Commons, calling for a national tax on land values in substitution for the breakfast table duties, and in relief of the burden of those national services which now fall upon the local rates.



Mexico and the United States.

Maximo Castillo, the Mexican bandit who was charged with destroying the Great Cumbre tunnel on the Mexican Northwestern railroad, resulting in the loss of about sixty persons, six of whom were Americans, was captured on the 17th by American troops near Hachita, N. M. He was taken to Fort Bliss, at El Paso, on the 19th. Castillo denies that he had anything to do with wrecking the tunnel. [See current volume, page 176.]



President Huerta celebrated on the 19th the anniversary of his elevation to the presidency, by a review of the garrison and the formal decoration of the regimental colors of the Twenty-ninth, the organization that placed Madero under arrest. The president also conferred decorations on several of his officers for distinguished service.



All other Mexican news is overshadowed by the killing of William S. Benton, and the possible international complications that may arise. Benton is said to have been a resident of Mexico for 20 years, but to have remained a British citizen. He is reputed to have been wealthy, and of violent temper. On the 17th he went to General Villa to obtain permission to ship 400 cattle to the United States. A quarrel ensued in which Villa charges Benton attempted his life. He was court-martialed and shot. The American Department of State is making an investigation, and the British government has signified its intention of leaving the whole matter in the hands of the American government. The English Tories are trying to make capital of the incident to embarrass the government.



Arbitration Treaties Confirmed.

The Senate on February 21 ratified eight arbi-