

such a storm of dissatisfaction that hundreds of people have called on the assessor and angrily protested their grievances.

So much for the public mind on taxation.

But another weighty reason why we should win at our election is found in the state of alarm which exists because of the terrible conditions which have continued for eight or nine months in the Colorado Strike District. Feeling against Big Business has been growing intense among the poorer classes, and even Big Business has been shocked to such an extent that many of those who profit by it are more willing to lend a sympathetic ear to any one who thinks he has the real remedy to offer. Many people who would have been ashamed ten years ago to be seen talking with a Socialist or a Singletaxer are more anxious to listen to their proposals than they would be willing to admit. And this is due not only to the strike trouble. The present lasting industrial depression has been having its effect upon that conservative class of people made up of the "respectable" professions, such as lawyers, physicians, musicians, etc. For if the people are so poor that bills cannot be paid, what will they do who are but an adjunct to the main mass?

The Fels Fund is duplicating all money raised here, and this generous assistance, together with the practical hard-headed methods of George J. Knapp and the never-tiring efforts of a couple of dozen inveterate Singletaxers, make us confident of victory when our proposition is submitted to the voters next spring.

ERNEST A. SINTON,
Secretary, The Colorado Springs Singletax Club and
Tax Reduction League.

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, June 2, 1914.

English Politics.

The Irish Home Rule bill, introduced in the British House of Commons, April 11, 1912, and passed for the third time, May 25, 1914, and now under consideration by the House of Lords, is just what its title indicates, a bill to give Ireland control of Irish affairs. The machinery to secure this end consists of an Irish parliament, composed of a Senate and a House of Commons. The Senate contains 40 members, nominated in the first instance by the Imperial executive for a fixed term; and as the members retire by rotation their places are to be filled by the Irish executive. The House of Commons has 164 members, of which Ulster has 59 and the universities two. The members are to be elected from existing constituencies, but no constituency is to have less than 27,000 inhabitants. The executive will be a lord lieutenant, nominated by the imperial executive, after the

manner of colonial governments. The cabinet form of government will prevail. The Irish parliament will have no power over the army, the navy, the crown or imperial affairs. Temporary restrictions are laid upon its control over the Irish land purchase, the old age pensions and national insurance acts, the Irish constabulary, the post office savings bank, and public loans. The Irish constabulary is to be transferred automatically to the Irish government after six years. The old age pensions and insurance may be taken over, by giving a year's notice to the imperial government. Religious equality in Ireland is guaranteed, and the Irish parliament cannot make laws, directly or indirectly, to establish or to endow any religion, or to prohibit the free exercise thereof, or to give a privilege or preference to any religion, or to make any religious ceremony a condition of validity of any marriage. The lord lieutenant has the power to veto or suspend any bill on the instructions of the imperial executive. The judicial committee of the privy council is to give the final decision as to the constitutionality of any act passed by the Irish parliament. The collection of taxes remains in the imperial service, which will pay over to the Irish executive an amount equivalent to the expenditure on the Irish services at the time of the passing of the act. An additional sum of \$2,500,000 will be paid to Ireland the first year, to be diminished \$250,000 yearly until it is reduced to \$1,000,000, at which point it will remain an annual payment. The Irish parliament is to have power to reduce or discontinue the imperial taxes excepting the income tax the stamp tax, and the estate duties. It will also have power to alter the excise duties, but in the case of beer and spirits it is debarred from adding to the customs duties anything that will give a greater increase than 10 per cent. The Irish representation in the British Parliament will be 42. [See vol. xv, p. 367; current volume, page 513.]



The present situation of the Home Rule Bill revives interest in the Parliamentary Act of 1911, which now governs its destiny. This act, passed by the Lords under the threat of the Liberal Government to create a sufficient number of new peers to out-vote those in opposition, provides that, "If a Money Bill, having been passed by the House of Commons, and sent up to the House of Lords at least one month before the end of the Session, is not passed by the House of Lords without amendment within one month after it is sent up to that House, the Bill shall, unless the House of Commons direct to the contrary, be presented to His Majesty and become an Act of Parliament on the Royal Assent being signified, notwithstanding that the House of Lords have not consented to the Bill." The Parliamentary Act also provides that, "If any Public Bill other than a Money Bill, or a

Bill containing any provisions to extend the maximum duration of Parliament beyond five years, is passed by the House of Commons in three successive Sessions (whether of the same Parliament or not), and, having been sent up to the House of Lords at least one month before the end of the Session is rejected by the House of Lords in each of those Sessions, that Bill shall, on its rejection for the third time by the House of Lords, unless the House of Commons direct to the contrary, be presented to His Majesty and become an Act of Parliament on the Royal Assent being signified thereto, notwithstanding that the House of Lords have not consented to the Bill: Provided that this provision shall not take effect unless two years have elapsed between the date of the second reading in the first of those Sessions of the Bill in the House of Commons and the date on which it passes the House of Commons in the third of those Sessions."



There have been absolutely no disturbances in Ireland since the Commons passed the bill. And the Liberals are awaiting action by the House of Lords. They doubtless will amend the bill by incorporating Carson's demands. And then will begin such haggling and concessions as will either secure the passage of the bill by consent, or its enactment according to the Parliament Act.



Sinking of the Empress of Ireland.

The Canadian Pacific steam, Empress of Ireland, bound from Quebec to Liverpool, was rammed by the Danish collier Storstad shortly before dawn of the 29th. The collision occurred in the St. Lawrence River off Father Point, about 150 miles below Quebec. A fog had shut down on the two ships after they had sighted each other, and owing to misunderstandings and mismanagement the Storstad struck the Empress of Ireland amid-ships. The latter sank in a few minutes, drowning 964 of her 1,367 passengers and crew. The collier, although damaged, proceeded to port under her own steam. A commission has been appointed by the Canadian government to investigate the disaster.



British Militant Suffragists.

Many acts of violence and vandalism on the part of the British militant suffragists have been reported during the month of May. Several paintings in public galleries have been injured with hatchets, among them being Herkomer's portrait of the Duke of Wellington and J. S. Sargent's of Henry James, the latter probably ruined. On May 17 buildings at the Birmingham race course were destroyed by fire. On the 20th near the King's and Queen's tent at Aldershot a great brush fire was lighted; and next day a deputation of militants

fought fiercely with clubs in an attempt to present a petition to the King at Buckingham palace. Mrs. Pankhurst, her daughter Sylvia, and thirty other suffragists were arrested, and, when arraigned in the police court next day, made a tremendously noisy disturbance. Mrs. Flora Drummond was released on the 21st from her jail sentence for camping on Sir Edward Carson's doorstep and promptly rearrested for immediately thereafter having stationed herself at Secretary McKenna's door. The King and Queen were harangued by suffragists in the theater on the 22nd, and the same day Miss Annie Kenney, while forcibly seeking an interview with the Archbishop of Canterbury, was re-arrested under the "cat-and-mouse" act. Sunday, the 24th, was apparently chosen for a time of special activity. Sylvia Pankhurst, chained and handcuffed to fifteen women and surrounded by other supporters, marched with a long procession to Victoria Park. There the police managed to shut the gates with only the chain-group inside. Miss Pankhurst was then forcibly freed from her manacles and arrested. Meanwhile outside the park, suffragists and anti-suffragists fought until separated by the police. Further demonstrations on this day were reported to be several window-smashing raids and the interruption of religious services at Westminster Abbey and Newcastle cathedral by women who fiercely resisted ejection. There were indications on this Sunday of angry animosity on the part of the people toward the violent suffragists—anger said to have been aroused in particular by the recent acts of art vandalism and of interference with the King. This recent singling out of the King for especial attack, and remembrance of the frantic death of a militant suffragist at the Derby last year caused the Derby race course and the King's box at Epsom Downs on May 27 to be most thoroughly guarded. No disturbance of any moment was reported during the day, but that night windows were smashed at Buckingham palace, where the King and Queen were, by two suffragists who evaded the guards. [See current volume, pages 369, 488.]



French Elections and Militarism.

Later advices give a different interpretation to the recent elections, from that of the earlier press dispatches. Instead of its being an endorsement of the military policy of President Poincare, it is held by European critics to be the reverse. It is claimed that the Three Years' Service Bill will be repealed as a result of the heavy gains of the Socialists, and the losses of the Briandists. The government musters only 315 out of a total of 602 deputies. The second balloting raised the number of Socialist deputies to 102, which is taken as a victory for the democrats and anti-clericals. [See current volume, pages 418, 516.]