

99 per cent of the citizens of the city have expressed their approval of his plan by cheerfully signing the assessment rolls as prepared by him, should not deter your Honorable Body from a literal enforcement of the law by assessing at its full value personal property and credits of every description. Your oath of office compels you to do this, regardless of how it may effect the prosperity of the city and of what wreck and ruin may result from complying with the request of the public spirited patriots composing the Houston Tax Kickers' Association.

[See current volume, page 414.]



#### French Cabinet Crisis.

Following the final election returns, which left the Doumergue minority a slender working majority in the Chamber of Deputies, the Cabinet resigned on the 3d. President Poincare called upon a number of political leaders successively to form a new Cabinet. Among those who have declined, or who have failed in the attempt to form a new ministry, are Jean Dupuy, a former premier, Rene Viviani, Paul L. Peytral, and Theophile Delcasse. The venerable Senator Felix Ribot, who ran against Poincare for the presidency, is the latest to attempt the formation of a Cabinet. This uncertainty as to the dominant political force involves the two and three-year military service, and indirectly influences the international relations between France and Russia, and France and Germany. The radicals, under Caillaux, and the Socialists under the leadership of Jaures, constituting the largest working force in the new Chamber of Deputies, are inclined toward the Kaiser, rather than toward the Czar. [See current volume; page 538.]



#### English Affairs.

Ulstermen have decided, according to report, to make no move against Irish Home Rule until the bill becomes law. Meantime they continue their military preparations. Another gun-running feat, by which 3,000 Mauser rifles were landed in Ulster, was accomplished by an Irish yachtsman. [See current volume, page 513.]



The Parliamentary recess has been marked by an apparent growth in Liberal sentiment, and by opposition to a general election this year. Chancellor Lloyd George's definite pledge to continue this Parliament until plural-voting has been abolished, has renewed the fighting spirit of the Commons. [See current volume, page 537.]



Sir William Lever, one of the English millionaires subject to the super-tax of the Lloyd George Budget, estimates that a man with an income from \$5,000,000 would pay one-third of it to the gov-

ernment. "I like it," he said. "In my view the ideal system of taxation, both local and imperial is through the income tax, the supertax, death duties, land tax, site value tax, and taxation upon luxuries, such as alcohol, tobacco, etc. Everything else free."



Three of the largest trade unions in the country, the miners, the railway men, and the transport workers have decided to form a huge labor combination for self protection. This will unite 1,350,000 well organized workers. Among the articles of agreement it is provided that when one body goes out on strike the others will support it. All wage demands will be presented simultaneously.

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## NEWS NOTES

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—The Federal Court at Trenton, N. J., ordered on June 2 the dissolution of the American Thread Agency known as the Thread Trust.

—The Court of Appeals of New York State on June 2 upheld the validity of the impeachment proceedings of Governor Sulzer. [See current volume, page 207.]

—The Florida direct primary on June 2 resulted in the nomination of Senator Fletcher for re-election on the Democratic ticket. He had about 3,000 majority over his opponent, John N. C. Stockton.

—Militarism is provoking a spirited protest from Austro-Hungarian taxpayers. The minister of war asks for \$186,000,000. The army needs \$115,000,000, the navy \$36,000,000, and the militia \$35,000,000. Seven years ago the total was \$96,000,000.

—William Marconi, on the 8th, talked over his wireless telephone between London and Berlin, a distance of 600 miles. "I could not hear all the words," he said, "but the test was most promising, considering the distance. [See current volume, page 494.]

—The insurgent force threatening Durazzo, the Albanian capital, was defeated by government troops on the 8th. George Fred Williams, the American Minister to Greece, left Athens on the 8th for Albania to offer his services as a disinterested mediator. [See current volume, page 517.]

—To test the electric towing locomotives at the Gatun Locks, the Panama Railroad steamship Alliance, a vessel of 4,000 tons, was passed through the locks on the 8th. There were no delays or accidents, and the time required each way was about one hour and a half. [See current volume, page 442.]

—All passengers refusing to pay more than a three-cent street carfare in Toledo are still being carried free. A threat by the company on June 2 to eject all such passengers was rescinded on the following day. About 20 per cent of the riders are estimated to be of this class. [See current volume, page 348.]

—Walter Theodore Watts-Dunton, English poet, novelist, and critic, died on the 7th. Mr. Watts-