

der the auspices of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, the Scottish League for the Taxation of Land Values, and the Highland Associations; and Mr. Duncan Mactavish, president of the Inverness-Shire organization of the Liberal party, presided. About 50 delegates were in attendance. One of the resolutions adopted declared it to be the opinion of the conference that—

The existing system of land tenure and taxation is directly responsible for the deplorable and backward condition of our agricultural industry and the poor condition of the country population, inasmuch as it enables the landlord class to appropriate in rent the legitimate earnings of farmer, crofter, cottar, market gardener, and laborer; keeps millions of acres of land from being put to its best use, and labor from its natural field of employment; stands in the way of valuable building land in town and country being put to its proper use for the growing requirements of the people; directly causing bad trade, poverty, slum dwellings, and chronic destitution; and that any system of landlordism which compels the people who work to yield up under the name of rent the produce of their labor to other human creatures for the privilege of living upon God's earth is a robbery of labor, and, obviously, a wicked violation of the benevolent intention of the Creator.

Another of the adopted resolutions approved the land policy of the British ministry, and another made the following declarations on the subject of the House of Lords:

That this Conference believes that the existence in Parliament of any body of non-elected persons is at once an insult to the intelligence of a free people, and a danger and a menace to the democratic institutions of the country; that the assumption by the House of Lords of the right to control and reject the legislative proposals of the elected representatives of the people in the House of Commons is both mischievous and intolerable; that this power of veto of the House of Lords over the Commons reduces the voting power and will of the people to a complete farce.

The resolution earnestly called upon the Ministry and the progressive members of Parliament to put an end to this veto at the earliest possible moment. At the close of the conference a public evening meeting was held as a finale to the conference, and Mr. Alexander Ure, solicitor-General for Scotland, made the principal speech.

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Integrity of the Ottoman Empire Threatened.

In the midst of her joy over her first days under a constitution (p. 566) Turkey finds herself confronted with difficulties on her borders. The status of provinces and nationalities under Turkish control was regulated by the treaty of Berlin, signed in 1878 by the Great Powers. Under this treaty the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, lying on the Adriatic, south of Austria and

west of Serbia and Montenegro, though still reserved to the Ottoman Empire, were handed over to the Austro-Hungarian government for administration and military occupation; while the little district of Novi-Bazar, extending between Serbia and Montenegro, was to be occupied by an Austrian military force, and administered civilly by Turkey. By the same treaty Bulgaria, lying south of Rumania, and between the Black Sea and Serbia, was constituted an autonomous principality, tributary to Turkey. Eastern Rumelia, lying between Bulgaria and Turkey proper, by the treaty of Berlin was to remain under the direct political and military authority of the Sultan, but by revolution in 1885 succeeded in attaching itself to Bulgaria.

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A disquieting announcement of the 4th that Bulgaria had assumed control of the East Rumanian section of the Oriental railway—a Turkish enterprise—was followed on the 5th by proclamation at the old Bulgarian capital of Tirnova by Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, of Bulgaria as an independent kingdom, and of himself as Czar of the Bulgarians—a title understood to mean more than Czar of Bulgaria would mean, since it intimates sovereignty over all people of Bulgarian blood in the Orient. On the evening of the same day the Turkish council of ministers at Constantinople refused to recognize the independence of Bulgaria. On the day following Austria-Hungary gave recognition to Bulgaria as an independent state.

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Still more seriously threatening to the peace of Europe was the unexpected announcement by Austria, on the 5th, of her intention to annex Bosnia and Herzegovina. As a slight offset she is withdrawing her troops from Novi-Bazar, with the purpose of abandoning that little district wholly to Turkey. This seizure of the two provinces by Austria is regarded as a far more dangerous violation of the Berlin treaty than the effort of a tributary province like Bulgaria to become independent, disturbing as the latter may be to the young Turks, who are naturally desirous in the first flush of popular rule, to preserve the integrity of their Empire. France, England, Russia and Italy give indications of readiness to prevent a general war, and are planning to call a conference of the signatories to the treaty of Berlin, to consider what action should be taken in regard to violations of that treaty.

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Stationer: "Typewriter ribbons? Yes, sir, we have all kinds. What particular brand do you wish?"

Private Secretary (of trust magnate): "Have you any that—er—when you use 'em, you know, the—the writing will fade away entirely in a few days?"—Chicago Tribune.