

impossible to debate the main proposals without the details. [See current volume, page 254.]

Sir Edward Carson continues his threats of armed resistance. Telegraphing to Belfast on the 14th, he said: "So far as our preparations are concerned, the pronouncement of the government, if anything, necessitates a still more forward movement this year. We are going to make good in action all we have been saying and preparing for during the last two years." Winston Spencer Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, speaking in Yorkshire on the same day said: "The first soldier or coast guard who is attacked and killed by the Orangemen will raise such an explosion in this country as the Tories will little appreciate, and it will shake the foundations of society."

Rumors of all kinds fill the air, and predictions are freely made regarding the outcome. Though the Liberals present a solid front to the opposition, Unionists profess to believe the Premier will make further concessions to Ulster, some going so far as to say he will at the last moment abandon the Irish cause entirely. Predictions are also made that the King will exercise his long disused prerogative and veto the Home Rule bill, which would mean the resignation of the cabinet, and a new election.

The letter of John Galsworthy, the author, attacking Parliament for wasting time over non-essentials, while the great wrongs of humanity go unredressed, has attracted much attention, and drawn expressions of opinion from prominent men and leading newspapers. H. G. Wells says: "A new situation which confronts our liberal intelligence is the discontent of the enfranchised, the contempt and hostility of voters for their elected delegates and the government." Several critics declare the membership too large, and the rules antiquated. Frederick Harrison would have the membership of the House of Commons reduced to 500, or less instead of the present 670. Mr. Wells advocates sane voting as a remedy, and urges proportional representation with the single transferable vote.

Mexico and the United States.

General Huerta's government bank that was to issue fiat money has been delayed in starting. The government has not abandoned the idea, but the minister of finance, Mr. De la Lama, and the conservative element of the capital, have induced the radical members of the cabinet to first consider other means of securing funds. Foreign exchange sold on the 10th at \$3.50 for \$1 gold. [See current volume, page 253.]

The dispatch of two additional regiments of American infantry to Eagle Pass and Laredo, to more effectually guard the border, raises the number of troops in Texas to nearly 18,000, 3,000 more than General Shafter led into Cuba in 1898. The lack of recognized authority in a great part of the Mexican territory along the international boundary makes brigandage hard to prevent. A general store, containing the post-office and customs office at Tecate, Cal., near the boundary, was burned and the postmaster murdered the night of the 14th. Three men, said to be Mexicans, committed the act. Martial law was proclaimed along the border on the 16th, and anti-Mexican feeling runs high in the vicinity of the crime.

General Carranza has modified his position on international relations until he is practically in accord with the officials at Washington. Report is current that the Carranza commission has caused the arrest of Major Rudolfo Fierro, one of General Villa's officers, as the slayer of William S. Benton, the British subject. General Carranza has also appointed a commission to pass on forfeited estates that fall into the hands of the Constitutionalist armies. The military government issued a decree on the 11th, distributing public lands among soldiers of the present revolution, disabled veterans of the Madero revolt, and widows and orphans of the two uprisings. It is estimated that each beneficiary will receive a farm of 62 acres, which will not be subject to execution for debt, nor be sold by the owner within ten years.

Military operations center about Torreon, which is the key to the road to Mexico City. The Constitutionlists, under General Villa, have invested the place, but all dispatches are censored, so that none of the rumors of engagements can be verified.

NEWS NOTES

—A memorial meeting in honor of John S. Crosby was held by the Philadelphia Singletax Society on March 12. Addresses were delivered by W. L. Ross and Frank W. Garrison.

—The federal census bureau reported on March 14 an amount spent by the different States for support of benevolent institutions in 1910. On 5,408 institutions the total spent was \$118,379,859.

—Omaha defeated a proposed new charter at a special election on March 10. At the same time an initiated proposal was carried requiring the local traction company to sell seven tickets for twenty-five cents.

—After addressing a meeting at Bloomington, Illinois, on February 28 in behalf of the commission