

added, "the readjustment of the burdens of local taxation is an essential preliminary."



Educational needs were provided for by the scheme proposed by the President of the Board of Education, which readjusts the burden of local taxes, and makes a further advance on the road to an improved educational system. The young must no longer remain untrained while the "flood of political controversy rolls on." In readjusting the burdens of taxation the speaker continued: "We are of the opinion that a national system of valuation for local taxation must be set up—a system far more equitable and more impartial between classes and localities than the present system. We propose that this valuation should be a valuation and assessment of the real value, and should separate the site from the improvements. There is no intention to transfer the whole burden from the composite subject to the hereditament of the site, but we do intend that the taxation of the site value shall henceforth form an integral part of the system of local taxation."



The Chancellor illustrated the relief given by taking three cases of property valued at £50. "In the first case the land value is £10, and the improvements worth £40. In the second the land value is £25 and the improvements are worth £25. In the third the land is £50, and there are no improvements. Assuming that the reduction proposed is equal to a one shilling rate on improvements the first would receive a relief of £2. . . . In the second case where there are improvements of land of equal value the relief will be 25 shillings. In the case where there are no improvements not a penny of this relief will go. This will be a guarantee that the relief will not go to the owner of the site as such. Where the owner of the site has spent money upon it he will get relief. We mean to distribute the relief in such a way as to give the greatest proportion of help to the most hard-pressed areas—where the services are heavy and the ratable value is low, and not merely to the poorer districts, but to the districts which have shown the greatest public spirit in carrying out their municipal duties. They will receive the largest share of relief."



The British Lords and a Suffrage Bill.

In the British House of Lords on May 5 the Earl of Selbourne, Unionist, moved the second reading of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill—introduced by himself—and spoke at length in favor of the measure, taking prominent occasion on his way to denounce militancy as a hindrance to the suffrage cause. Lord Curzon moved the

rejection of the bill, which consisted of one short clause proposing that:

Any woman shall be qualified to be registered in a constituency as a Parliamentary elector, and, whilst so registered, shall be entitled to vote at an election of a member or members to serve in Parliament for that constituency if she is a local government elector for the purposes of any local government election in that constituency.

After two days' debate the bill was rejected by a vote of 104 to 60, its discussion having disclosed two classes of objectors to the measure: those against it because they were opposed to woman suffrage; and those against it because they regarded its limitations of suffrage as undemocratic. [See current volume, page 369.]



Mexico and the United States.

Mediation sentiment continues to grow, and the prospect of practical results are decidedly brighter. The three delegates who will represent General Huerta at the Niagara Falls peace conference, Emilio Rabasa, Augustin Rodriguez and Luis Elguero, together with a staff of secretaries, and members of their families, arrived in Washington on the 16th, where they were entertained by the Department of State until their departure for the meeting on the 20th. The hopeful atmosphere surrounding the mediation question was revived by the statement on the 18th that the Mexican delegates had been empowered by General Huerta to present his resignation, if necessary, to secure peace. [See current volume, page 464.]



Though this statement comes with all the appearance of authority, details are lacking. The conditions of General Huerta's withdrawal, as given out at the time, were that he have some voice in the naming of his successor, that General Carranza be barred, that America lend Mexico \$400,000,000 to be expended under a commission of two Americans two Mexicans one Englishman one German and one Frenchman and that the United States take a ninety-nine year lease of Magdalena Bay for naval target practice at an annual rental of \$1,000,000. Should the delegates submit this proposition and the United States accept it the following questions will be asked: What are the plans of the United States following the resignation of General Huerta? Who will become the provisional president of Mexico? Who will be barred from running for the presidency? Will the United States call a halt on the advance of the Constitutionalists to Mexico City?



President Wilson is reported to have told the American delegates, Justice Lamar of the Su-

preme Court of the United States, Frederick W. Lehmann, former solicitor general, and Diplomatic Secretary H. Percival Dodge, on the eve of their departure for the conference at Niagara Falls, Ontario, that the United States regards the settlement of the Mexican problem in a definite form as a prerequisite of the withdrawal of the American forces from Vera Cruz. Aside from this and the well known fact that President Wilson wishes the Mexican question settled on comprehensive lines that will include the economic contentions of both Zapata and Carranza, no instructions were given. The date of the meeting of the conference was changed from the 18th to the 20th, in order to give the Mexican delegates time to stop in Washington.



The military events of the week show a marked advance of the Constitutionalist forces. Tampico was evacuated by the Federals under General Zaragoza on the 13th, after five days of continuous fighting. The casualties have been heavy on both sides. The Federals retreated in the direction of San Luis Potosi, but are likely to receive rough treatment at the hands of the Constitutionals. General Gonzales, the victorious general, promises order in Tampico, and invites Americans and other foreigners to return and resume business.



Tuxpam, a port midway between Tampico and Vera Cruz, and the shipping point of rich oil fields, was evacuated on the 15th. It was in this section that Lord Cowdray and the English syndicate had extensive holdings. Tepic, on the Pacific coast, and capital of the State of Tepic, was reported captured by the Constitutionals on the 16th. Mazatlan, north of Tepic, still holds out against the Constitutionals, but its garrison and defenses are said to be in a desperate condition. General Villa is converging his forces on Saltillo, which he seems confident of taking without delay.



Carnegie International Peace Report.

The special commission appointed by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace has completed its report. The commission was composed of Dr. Josef Redlich, professor of public law in the University of Vienna, Austria; Baron d'Estournelles de Constant and M. Justin Cerdart, Chamber of Deputies, France; Dr. Walther Schucking, professor of law, University of Marburg, Germany; Francis W. Hirst, editor of the Economist, and Dr. H. N. Brailsford, journalist, of Great Britain; Professor Paul Milyoukoff, member of the Russian Douma; and Dr. Samuel T. Dutton, professor in the Teachers' College, Co-

lumbia University, New York. The report of the Commission, made after an exhaustive study on the scenes of conflict, is one unbroken and unrelieved tale of rapine, murder, and outrage, in which Turks and Christians alike were guilty, before, during, and after the recent Balkan wars. The report closes with these significant words:

What, then, is the duty of the civilized world in the Balkans especially of those nations which by their location and history are free from international entanglements? It is clear in the first place that they should cease to exploit these nations for gain. They should encourage them to make arbitration treaties and insist on their keeping them. They should set a good example by seeking a judicial settlement of all international disputes. The consequences of the recent war, economic, moral and social, are dreadful enough to justify any honest effort by any person or by any nation to alleviate the really distressing situation.

[See vol. xvi, p. 973.]



Suit Against Fairhope.

In his bill filed in the chancery court at Mobile, Alabama, on April 30, asking for a dissolution of the Fairhope Singletax Corporation, Alexander J. Melville declared that the corporation had failed in its purpose to demonstrate the benefits incident to the singletax theory and must continue to so fail because "the singletax theory can never be tried out or demonstrated in any jurisdiction whose laws deny the essentials of that theory." He further charged that "rentals have been arbitrarily increased far beyond their actual values," and that "the monies are being expended for the benefit of only a portion of the members, in that considerable sums are paid from the rent fund to maintain telephones and waterworks and to pay taxes on about 2,500 acres of unoccupied land." He complained that its "open practice is to cause all of its lands and all of the property of its lessees, except money and credits, to be assessed for taxes under the general laws of Alabama and to pay all of said taxes out of the corporate taxes realized from the rent of its land." This practice he complained caused the same rent to be charged for two adjoining lots of the same size and character. "if one have a mansion thereon and the other a hovel," while "at the same time, the occupant of the mansion will have all taxes upon his carriages, automobiles, pianos, elegant furniture and valuable silverware paid out of the rent fund, while the owner of the adjoining hovel gets for his share only the meagre amount, if any, levied as a tax on the scanty and cheap furniture of his humble home." He also complained that lessees under this system cannot get the benefits accruing from land ownership and that "such a system is a miserable parody upon the teachings of Henry George." [See current volume, page 435.]