

the time is ripe for a fundamental alteration. A Bill will be submitted to you to authorize the making by the Government of a valuation of all lands in the State other than Crown lands; such valuation to specify both the improved and the unimproved values of all such lands. Provision will be included to enable municipalities at their option to rate upon either such improved or unimproved valuations.

A proposal will also be laid before you to alter the basis and incidence of land taxation in such a way as to promote the subdivision and more profitable occupation of the private lands of the State. It will be remembered that in England and her colonies municipal taxes are called "rates."

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At a Labor Conference for all Australia, in session at Brisbane, Queensland, July 7, the question of the imposition of a land value tax was made the subject of a great deal of discussion. Delegates generally favored a fairly high exemption, but others desired to make the tax apply to holdings of comparatively low value. Ultimately, after the matter had been considered in all its bearings, and most of the delegates had expressed their views, it was decided that the following should be adopted as a plank in the general platform of the party: "A graduated land value tax on all estates of over £5,000 in value; the valuation to be on the unimproved basis."

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Suppression of Tolstoy's Teachings.

The editor of the *Rusky Viedmosti* has been fined about \$1,500 for publishing the article from Count Tolstoy which appeared in English and American papers last month (pp. 388, 398), arraigning the Russian government for its murderous policies. The London Labour Leader says that despite all penalties, the advanced journals continue to brave the censor. Various papers have published a letter from Mr. Repin, the famous Russian artist, in which he passionately endorses Tolstoy's recent article, which, he says, voices the feelings of the anguished souls of all Russians.

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An acquaintance of Tolstoy's having been tried and sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment on the charge of having some of Tolstoy's books in his house, Tolstoy has again called upon the Russian government to attack him, the author of the books; and he says: "If it be true, as I have been told, that a certain minister has devised the plan of tormenting my friends in order to stop my activity—this plan will not at all attain its aim. It will not attain it because, however painful my friends' sufferings may be to me, I cannot as long as I live stop my activity, for in it I do not seek any external aim but fulfill the demand of the will of God as I understand it, and cannot help understanding it. So that the only

thing that those who do not like my books can do is to shut up, execute and torment me alone, who am the cause of the whole affair."

NEWS NOTES

—It is reported from Washington that peace has been fully restored in Central America (p. 446).

—Canada has reduced her postage rates on letters mailed in her cities for local delivery, to one cent.

—The fourth international Esperanto congress opened at Dresden on the 17th (vol. x, p. 443; vol. xi, p. 394).

—The Atlantic-Pacific fleet (p. 471) left Auckland, New Zealand, for Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, on the 15th.

—Ira D. Sankey, the singer and hymnwriter, who long co-operated with the late D. L. Moody, died on the 13th at the age of nearly 68 years.

—The Dominion government is intervening in the strike in all the mechanical trades on the Canadian Pacific Railway reported last week (p. 470).

—A *modus vivendi* for the Newfoundland fisheries for the season of 1908 has been agreed upon by the governments of Great Britain and the United States (vol. x, p. 492).

—Ainsworth R. Spofford, Librarian of Congress from 1864 to 1897, and connected with the library for a still longer period, died at Holdness, N. H., on the 11th, at the age of nearly 83 years.

—A Taft and Stevenson club has been incorporated in Illinois, to work for the election of the Republican nominee for President, and of the Democratic nominee for Governor of the State.

—It was not Osman Pasha, but Shemsî Pasha, who was killed at Monastir on July 17, at the beginning of the present Turkish revolution, according to mail advices. The cabled news reported Osman Pasha as assassinated (p. 393).

—The Socialists plan to send a special train twice across the continent for their campaigning. Mr. E. V. Debs, the Socialist candidate for President (p. 178), will be the chief speaker. The train is to be known as the Red Special.

—The liquidation of the old French Panama canal company, which has been going on since 1889, was completed on the 13th, when a Paris tribunal authorized a last payment to creditors of one per cent and issued a decree of discharge to the receivers.

—A private expedition for the discovery of the South Pole, headed by Dr. Jean Charcot, sailed from Havre, France, on the 15th (vol. ix, p. 560). The expedition is fitted out for three years. Several ice automobiles are being taken along, to aid in traversing the ice fields.

—An epidemic of wife desertions, due to the hard times, is reported by the visitors of the New York Children's Aid Society (p. 339). "Conditions in my district," said Mrs. Edith M. MacArthur, the visitor of the East 88th street station, "are so bad that I believe that if work is not forthcoming immediately for the men the whole neighborhood will degenerate into a condition which will shock New York. The