

but there is no navigable river in the country (there is a little one in the far south) and few lakes.

B. F. BUTTERFIELD.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

NOT A "RADICAL COLONY."

New York, August 24.

The continual reference by newspapers to "Free Acres" as a "radical colony" necessitates this explanation: "Free Acres," as expressed in its Constitution and provided in the Deed of Gift, is intended as a working model of the Singletax. Like our other Singletax Settlements, it is not a "radical colony" in the generally accepted sense; nor is it composed of radicals any more than of republicans or church workers. We have some of all. No one's opinions are asked as a condition of taking a perpetual lease; all he has to do is to pay his rent and to mind his own business. Our people are lawyers, secretaries, merchants, doctors, salesmen and literary people, and so on, whose opinions are mostly the current opinions. We do not necessarily share our opinions; the only thing all have in common is the rental value of the land. This seems to me the most hopeful basis on which to establish any colony. The colony has had its most successful summer in all respects.

BOLTON HALL.



A DISFRANCHISING SCHEME.

Los Angeles, Calif., August 22.

The California State Realty Federation stands sponsor for asking the voters of California to vote Yes on having their voting rights abolished.

Their bill proposes to prevent every person from voting at bond elections in this State who does not own property. Apparently an advertising scheme to sell some of "their" big land holdings to the propertyless, so that they may vote with dignity or have a home to fight for in case of a war.

About 35 per cent of the people of California own their homes free today out of an approximate present population of 3,000,000. A mathematical calculation applied to this scheme will evidence the fact that about 1,950,000 persons will be denied the privileges of their fellow kind in the future. This certainly "looks good"—to the 35 persons who are said to own one-seventh of this State. Francis B. Cutting, who used his ingenuity in drawing up this dangerous bill for the State Realty Interests, says, in support of it, that it will allow only "the interested, intelligent and affected classes" to express themselves where bonds are voted.

This initiated measure was not much seen on the streets of California cities during the work of soliciting of signatures. I understand it was chiefly circulated among the employes of real estate, title and railroad companies and banks. What the proponents of this bill overlooked was the common sense of the "other classes." These "other classes" do pay their share of bonded indebtedness and interest besides, when they pay their rent on the "interested, intelligent and affected classes" property. Prof. Carl C. Plehn of the Department of Economics of University

of California, says that questions of taxation are too complicated and technical for the average person to understand and vote upon. The Professor usually spends his vacation telling the people that.

President Joseph F. Sartori of the Security Savings and Trust Bank, who was so successful in preventing the United States Government from establishing a regional reserve bank in this city, and also in preventing the people from adopting the Home Rule in Taxation Amendment two years ago, is another friend of the Realty Board's measure. He favors particularly the retaining of the poll tax, an automobile tax to maintain good roads, and the abolition of the State tax on real estate. The State Realty Federation is going the limit to beat the Home Rule in Taxation Amendment, which is on the ballot as Local Taxation Amendment No. 7.

WALDO J. WERNICKE.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, September 1, 1914.

The European War.

The general features of the war are the advance of the Germans in France, the advance of Russia in Prussia and Galicia and the successes of England on the sea. [See current volume, page 826.]



On the Franco-German Frontier.

The decisive events of the war have been confined to the Franco-German frontier. The steady pounding of the German forces has compelled the allies to fall back from their advanced position in Belgium, Lorraine and Alsace, and reform in France on the strategic first line of defence. The four days' battle which ended in this change of front was accompanied by enormous casualties, but no official detailed reports have been received.



While the German army has advanced along its whole front, the extreme right, essaying to turn the Allies' left, has pushed its way toward Paris as far as La Fere, or within 60 miles of the French capital. The English troops are co-operating with the French at this point, and although both fought valiantly they were compelled to retire before the overwhelming number of the German troops. The retreat of the Allies has been made in good order, and the men have not lost their spirit. An attempt was made by the French to draw off some of the Germans who are overwhelming their extreme left by a vigorous attack on the Lorraine border in the entire Vosges region, but even this did not stop the steady advance of the Kaiser's troops toward Paris.

France has called out the class of 1914, which will give its army 200,000 more men. The active reserve and the oldest classes of the territorial reserve have also been called out, making an additional 400,000 re-inforcements; but they will not be immediately available. Meantime, preparations are going forward at Paris to withstand a siege. Houses in the suburbs that might offer shelter to the Germans, or interfere with the fire from the forts, are being demolished, and non-combatants are advised to leave the city. The seat of government will be moved in the event that siege becomes a certainty.



Belgium has ceased to offer effective opposition to Germany except in the immediate vicinity of Antwerp. This not only opened the way into France, but it enables the Germans to withdraw a part of their troops, and send them against the invading Russians. The results of the campaign on the Franco-German border to date favor the German troops.



Russia.

Russia has been advancing into Germany and Austria at the same time the German troops entered France. The same censorship and the same conflict of reports follow the movements of Russia as accompany the activities along the Franco-German border. At the same time the Russians entered Galicia, the Austrians invaded Russian Poland. Unofficial dispatches announce the defeat of the Austrians at Zamose, a city of 12,000 inhabitants in the Province of Lubin on the Wieprz. The same confusion attends the account of the Russian invasion of Germany. On the one hand the Russians have been reported in the outskirts of Konigsberg; on the other hand 30,000 Russians have been reported captured by the Germans. Much alarm is reported in Berlin at the Russian invasion; and it is announced that the Kaiser has left his army in France to meet the Russians in Eastern Prussia.



Southeastern Europe.

Austria severed diplomatic relations with Japan on the 25th. She declared war on Belgium on the 28th. To meet the Russian attack Austria weakened her army invading Serbia to such an extent that the Serbian forces have driven them entirely from their territory, and have made a counter move by invading Bosnia with 150,000 men. Prince William of Wied, who was nominated by the Powers to govern Albania, is reported to have fled his country. Neither Turkey nor Greece has yet declared war, though such declaration is hourly expected.



On the Sea.

No sea battles of moment have yet taken place. The German and Austrian fleets stick close to well

mined harbors, and their cruisers have for the most part been driven from the sea. Announcement was made by the British admiralty on the 27th that the German armed merchant cruiser, Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse of 14,000 tons and armed with ten 4-inch guns, had been sunk off the west coast of Africa by the British cruiser High Flier. Announcement came at the same time of the destruction by the Russian fleet of the German cruiser Magdeburg, which had run ashore on the Isle of Odensburg in the Gulf of Finland. Several ships have been blown up by floating mines in the North Sea. The British steamship Holmwood, 4,238 tons, was sunk off the Brazilian coast by the German cruiser Dresden.



The most important sea fight that has taken place occurred on the 28th off the Island of Heligoland between German and English fleets of cruisers, destroyers and submarines. According to the crews of the British destroyers returning to England, eleven German ships of various sizes were sunk. The German loss in killed and wounded is given as 870, the English, at 67.



A British force from New Zealand on the 29th captured Apia, the commercial metropolis of the Samoan group of islands, and capital of the German part of the group.



Asia.

Japan's activities against Kiao-Chau have not yet led to open warfare. Japanese troops are reported to have landed at several points on the coast near the German colony. Kiao-Chau is said by military experts to be very strongly fortified, and to be provisioned for three months.



Former Chinese rebels are taking advantage of the present confusion to return to their own country. The Chinese government has asked foreign legations to prevent revolutionists from securing refuge in the foreign settlements.



England.

It is more and more apparent as the war in Europe proceeds that the outcome is dependent upon England. That she realizes this and is determined to put forth her full strength is evident from the union of all elements at home, and the enthusiasm of the colonies. Lord Kitchener, Minister of War, in a speech before the House of Lords on the 25th, after calling attention to the fact that the war would entail big sacrifices, and strain the forces of the empire, said:

The terms on which I am serving are the same as those under which some of the finest portions of our manhood, now so willingly stepping forward to join

the colors, are engaging. That is to say, my term of office is for the duration of the war, or for three years if the war should last longer than that. . . .

While other countries engaged in this war have under their systems of compulsory service brought their full resources into the field, we, under our national system, have not been so compelled. Therefore, we still have a vast reserve to draw from the resources of both the mother country and the dominions. . . .

The empire with which we are at war has called to the colors almost its entire male population. The principle we on our part shall observe is this: That while the maximum force undergoes constant diminution the re-enforcements we prepare will steadily and increasingly flow out until we have an army in the field which in numbers will not be less than in quality and not be unworthy of the power and responsibility of the British Empire.

I cannot at this stage say what will be the limits of the force required or what measures may eventually become necessary to supply and maintain it.

The scale of the field army which we are now calling into being is large and may rise in the course of the next six or seven months to a total of thirty divisions to be maintained continually in the field.

But if the war should be protracted and if its fortunes should be varied or adverse, exertions and sacrifices beyond any which have been demanded will be required from the whole nation and empire. And where they are required we are sure they will not be denied to the extreme needs of the state by parliament of the people.



Premier Asquith announced in the House of Commons on the 31st that when Parliament re-assembled September 9th, the government would proceed with the Home Rule and Welsh Disestablishment bills.



Election of a New Pope.

The Conclave of Cardinals to elect a new Pope met in the Vatican on August 31. In accordance with custom the door of the conclave hall has been locked, not to be reopened until an election has taken place. All means of communication with the outside world will, until that event, be shut off. [See current volume, page 828.]



Mexico and the United States.

A report was published August 30 that General Frederick Funston, in command of the American forces at Vera Cruz, had made a request three days previously for reinforcements. The cause was attributed to friction between Generals Funston and Carranza. The friction was said to have been the result of an order issued by Carranza closing the port of Vera Cruz and suspending train service to the city from interior places. Acting Secretary of War Wotherspoon made a statement on August 31 denying that General Funston had asked for additional troops. The suspension of train service,

Carranza had explained, was due to transportation of troops south of Mexico city, and had already been re-established. [See current volume, page 829.]



General Obregon was reported on August 25 to have been sent to Sonora by General Carranza, ostensibly to smooth out local troubles, but in fact to confer with General Villa and bring about harmony. General Villa has outlined to the United States Government the following two proposals, either of which he is willing to accept: First, a conference of military chiefs to be called as agreed to at the meeting at Torreon when the first Villa-Carranza break was adjusted, one delegate representing every one thousand men in the army; this convention would designate a man to be provisional president who, under the constitution, could not succeed himself, but would call a general election. Second, Carranza can be designated as provisional president by the proposed convention, but he must agree to abide by the constitution and not succeed himself.



Washington News.

The Senate on August 29 confirmed the appointment of Attorney General McReynolds to the Supreme Bench by a vote of 44 to 6. By the same vote Thomas Watt Gregory was confirmed as Attorney General. The appointment of Charles F. Clyne as District Attorney of Chicago to succeed James F. Wilkerson was held up pending investigation of a charge that Wilkerson's action in pressing certain cases was the cause of his removal. Wilkerson has been summoned to testify before the Senate committee. The six Senators who voted against confirmation of McReynolds were Clapp of Minnesota, Cummins of Iowa, Norris of Nebraska, Jones of Washington, Poindexter of Washington and Vardaman of Mississippi. [See current volume, page 830].



The bill to create a federal bureau of marine insurance with a \$5,000,000 fund to meet possible losses, passed the House on August 29 by a vote of 230 to 58. The bill had already passed the Senate, but the House amended it before adoption, thus necessitating its return to the Senate. [See current volume, page 830.]



Protest Literature to Be Published.

Upton Sinclair, whose address is now Croton-on-Hudson, New York, has issued the following appeal:

I am making a collection of the literature of protest against social injustice, both prose and poetry, from all languages and times. I am looking not merely for socialist material but for anything which voices