

a case of money having been squandered," he said, "but a case of service at less than cost." He intimated that an increase in the rate of fare will be ordered.

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#### The Extradition of Rudowitz.

Some 200 meetings have been held throughout the United States in behalf of Christian Rudowitz (p. 900), petitioning the President to refuse the demand for his extradition to Russia, on the ground that his offense is not criminal, but political. The Chicago Federation of Labor and the Woman's Trade Union League have adopted the following resolutions for presentation to the President of the United States and the Secretary of State:

Whereas, The Russian Government in its attempt to exterminate revolutionists at home, is now endeavoring to show them that in case of failure the doors of the civilized world would be closed against them, and for this purpose is seeking the extradition in New York of Jan Pouden and in Chicago of Christian Rudovitz, both natives of Russia, who participated in the Russian revolution of 1906, and have since come to this country where they are seeking to earn a living by honest work; and

Whereas, In both cases, on the mere declarations of witnesses not taken in the form of depositions under the solemn oaths required by American law, and despite the clear testimony of witnesses heard in open court and cross examined by the counsel for the Russian government, and a mass of documentary evidence showing beyond question the existence of a tremendous revolution in Russia at the time of the alleged crimes, and that any participation therein by the defendants was under orders of revolutionary committees and as part and parcel of the great revolution, the United States Commissioners have ordered the extradition of Pouden and Rudovitz; and

Whereas, The Honorable Elihu Root, Secretary of State of the United States, in reviewing the first attempt to extradite Pouden, quashed the proceedings, and notwithstanding this, the Russian government is again attempting to secure extradition; and

Whereas, In the judgment of many legal authorities who have reviewed the evidence in the Rudovitz case, he is as clearly a political refugee as were Kosciuszko, Garibaldi, Kossuth, Schurz, Slegel and others; and

Whereas, It is a matter of common knowledge that the Russian government is treating all wrongs committed in revolutionary territory by revolutionists as political crimes, and not as common crimes, so as to be able to execute the defendants, contrary to the common law of Russia; and

Whereas, It is alleged that one Urban, a companion of Rudovitz, on the night of the alleged crimes, has been shot by the Russian government as a political criminal for the very acts now charged against Rudovitz, and not as a common criminal; and

Whereas, It is utterly impossible for poor and friendless men, such as Pouden and Rudovitz, ignorant of our language and our legal procedure, properly to secure a hearing and a review of the commis-

sioners' findings unless legal and other assistance be rendered to them by the American people; therefore be it

Resolved, That we pledge ourselves in these and in other cases in which an attempt may be made by the despotic power of the Czar to secure the return of those who were engaged in the great Russian revolution on charges that they are common criminals, to furnish them such assistance as lies in our power to sustain their defense that they are political refugees.

Resolved, Further, that we appeal to the Hon. Elihu Root, Secretary of State, carefully to review the findings of the United States Commissioner, giving to the defendant the benefit of every reasonable doubt in accordance with the fundamental principles of American law, and specifically to require of the Russian government that it furnish proof of the fate of Urban, and to require before any man shall be extradited that the burden of proving him to be a common criminal and not a political refugee be fully and completely sustained by the demanding government; and

Whereas, From the aforesaid cases it has become evident that the Russian government intends to abuse the rights given to it under the extradition treaty now in force, and in order to frustrate such attempts great expenditure of time and money on the part of the American people will be required; and

Whereas, The said treaty is of no advantage to the American government, therefore be it further

Resolved, That we do appeal to the Congress of the United States and to the Executive thereof to terminate said treaty in accordance with the privilege so to do reserved therein.

These resolutions are recommended by the Political Refugees' Defense League of Chicago.

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#### Haiti Has a New President.

The Chamber of Communes and the Senate of Haiti, meeting in joint session on the 17th (p. 901), unanimously elected General Antoine Simon, leader of the late successful revolution, as President of the Republic of Haiti. President Simon took the oath of office on the 20th. His government has been officially recognized by the United States.

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#### The First Turkish Parliament of This Generation.

In accordance with the new program in Turkey (p. 901), forced upon the Sultan by the "Young Turks" last July (pp. 393, 419, 445, 469), the first parliament to sit in Turkey since the abortive effort of thirty-two years ago, and with that exception the only Turkish parliament of history, was opened at Constantinople by the Sultan in person on the 17th. In the address from the throne, read by the Chancellor Ali Bjevad Bey, the Sultan thus announced his adherence to constitutional forms of government:

When I first proclaimed a constitution thirty-two years ago there were many difficulties in the way of its execution, and I was advised to suspend it mo-

mentarily. In the interval great efforts were made toward popular education and for the establishment of institutions of a nature calculated to elevate the public enlightenment. I am now happy to know that the people are more able to understand the benefits of a constitution, and I was heartily glad to restore it, notwithstanding influential advice to the contrary. My will is definite and unalterable, and henceforth the constitution will regulate the affairs of the nation. The cabinet which Kiamil Pasha has formed will fulfill our decisions.

According to the dispatch of the Chicago Inter Ocean, "the scene was perhaps one of the most remarkable in the political history of the world. All the creeds and races of the Turkish empire sent their duly elected representatives, and the varied costumes of the delegates, some in flowing silk robes and others in the fashionable frock coat, formed a gorgeous and multi-colored picture never before witnessed in a legislative gathering in Europe. Albanians, Syrians, and Arabs were among the Moslem representatives, while Greeks, Armenians, and Bulgars represented the Christian nationalities. Members from Jerusalem and Mecca rubbed shoulders with their colleagues from the European provinces and the far off Kurdish, Armenian, and Arab districts on the confines of the Indian ocean." Enormous crowds, greater than ever seen before in Constantinople, lined the streets as the Sultan proceeded to and from the Parliament, a remarkable feature being the great number of Turkish women filling the windows and balconies along the line of march. A never to be forgotten scene was presented at the mosque of St. Sophia, the roof of which was crowded with spectators, even to the summit of the central dome. The Grand Vizier, Kiamil Pasha, insisted upon the Sultan's passage being by the road which leads through the European quarter of Pera and through Stamboul, thus bringing him into contact with the masses, instead, as suggested by the timid hearted, of proceeding by water; and by this move gained further popular prestige. At night the city was brilliantly illuminated.

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#### Land Value Taxation in Great Britain.

Advices from London indicate a growing pressure of the land values taxation movement in Great Britain (p. 894) upon the Ministry, and "Land Values" for December is full of news upon the subject not heretofore published in this country. To begin with, a conference on the policy of making the taxation of land values an item in the Parliamentary budget (the fiscal measure with which the House of Lords cannot tamper) has been called by invitations to some 4,000 societies—trades unionist, labor, and Liberal. They are asked to send delegates to the conference which is to be held in London in February. Meanwhile a group of radicals in Parliament—led by Josiah Wedgwood, Dundas White and Philip Mor-

rell—had called a Parliamentary caucus on the subject. It met in one of the Committee rooms of the Commons on the 3rd of November, and was presided over by Mr. Whitley, one of the Liberal "whips" and a leading single taxer. At this conference a petition to the Prime Minister was adopted, asking that the taxation of land values be included in next year's budget. This petition, signed by 245 members of Parliament, was presented to the Prime Minister on the 11th of November. Another meeting of members of Parliament was held at the House of Commons on the 16th of November to consider the same general subject. It was presided over by Sir Charles Dilke and favored a valuation of land by imperial authority with a view to taxing land values. The city council of Glasgow also has acted in the matter of taxing land values immediately through the budget. By a vote of 30 to 14 on the 19th of November, this body resolved to petition the Ministry "to include in or in connection with the next budget the provisions necessary to give effect to the principle of the taxation of land values." Another body acted to the same end in London on the 5th of December. This was a conference of delegates from Boards of Guardians and other public bodies, including mayors of cities. After a two days' session at the Guild Hall, they adopted unanimously a resolution asking the Ministry to put a tax upon land values in the next year's budget. Joseph Fels addressed this body an hour before leaving London for the United States, where he arrived three weeks ago; and one of the most active supporters, who is reputed to have silenced such carping criticism as there was, was George Lonsbury, a British socialist of the Keir Hardie type.

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## NEWS NOTES

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—The British Parliament (p. 879) adjourned on the 19th. The next session will begin in February.

—Donald Grant Mitchell, famous before the Civil War as "Ik Marvel," author of "Reveries of a Bachelor," died at New Haven on the 16th, at the age of 84.

—Governor Hughes of New York has appointed a commission to inquire into the conditions under which speculation is carried on in the stock and commodity markets in New York. Horace White is chairman.

—The Fairhope Single Tax corporation is to celebrate its 14th anniversary with a reception and dinner at the Fairhope Hotel, Fairhope, Ala., on the 1st of January. Joseph Fels and Daniel Kiefer are to be among the guests.

—The third annual convention of the American Sociological Society (p. 949) will meet at Atlantic City, N. J., on the 28th, 29th and 30th. The American Economic Association, the American Statistical Association and the American Association for Labor