

man presented figures showing the ownership of property in the District to be approximately as follows:

Land.	
United States .....	\$ 90,000,000
Private parties .....	225,000,000
Improvements.	
United States .....	\$210,000,000
Private parties .....	262,500,000

This does not include the public streets, the triangles and circles caused by intersections or Rock Creek park and Potomac park. It does include all other public parks and grounds about public buildings. Mr. Newman argues that the streets and parks excluded are such as any other city of the size of Washington would be expected to have and consequently should not be included in the taxable area. In raising local revenue he suggests that improvements be exempt from taxation since these "are the result of the energy and thrift of the individual for the manifestation of which he is now penalized." Before presenting the suggested change to the Commercial Club Commissioner Newman placed it in the hands of President Wilson for his consideration. [See vol. xvi, p. 633, current volume, page 253.]

About seventy-five property owners of Houston, Texas held a meeting on April 7 to express dissatisfaction with the Houston system. Resolutions were adopted protesting against increase of assessment, objecting to continuance of the Houston plan and urging return to old methods. On the other hand up to April 7, 9,092 property owners had signed the assessment roll, thus expressing approval of Tax Commissioner Pastoriza's assessments, and the approval of about two hundred more was expected. The objectors are nearly all large holders of vacant lots. Commenting on the protest, Mayor Ben Campbell was reported by the Houston Press as saying:

If that bunch of tax-dodgers doesn't like the Houston plan of taxation, I don't give a hang. This government is being run for the people now and the plan won't be changed. If any man has a just complaint, he can make it to the equalization board or the council. If it is found just, it will be cheerfully rectified. We invite such complaints. Our patience will never be exhausted attending to them.

Isn't everybody who has land faring alike? Isn't everybody who has houses faring alike? Isn't everybody who has money faring alike? There is absolutely no discrimination. The fact that everybody has been treated alike is what has caused the overwhelming majority to sign and be satisfied. And it has also caused a very few who want discrimination in their favor to be dissatisfied. Under our present system of taxation Houston has prospered like it has never done before. We have accomplished a great deal under our new form of taxation. One of the best features of the Houston plan is that it is no longer necessary for people to commit perjury when making their assessments. Men can be gentle-

men now when they do their assessing. It is no longer necessary for people to send their money to New York the last of December and have it sent here January 15 in order to keep from paying taxes on their money. It is my observation that some of those who are behind this new movement, trying to stir up trouble, have done little for the upbuilding of Houston, although many of them have been in a position to do so. There are some who wish to be parasites on the community and to get rich from the industry of others. These men who have purchased in Houston at extremely low figures in the past and who are now holding it for purely speculative purposes without improving it, do nothing for the advancement of Houston.

[See current volume, page 341.]

The Hennessy-Fisk home rule in taxation bill which had passed the New Jersey State Senate was defeated on April 8 in the House by a vote of 31 to 15. [See current volume, page 324].

#### Self-Government for Washington.

Congressman Warren Worth Bailey of the Nineteenth Pennsylvania district introduced on April 10 a bill to give local self-government to the District of Columbia. It amends the Act of June 11, 1878, under which the District is now governed by making the Commissioners elective instead of appointive, but otherwise makes the act the charter under which the District is to be governed. Amendments to the charter may be made through initiative petition of five per cent of the voters. In the same way a charter convention may be called.

#### Final Outcome of Mulhall Charges.

The Judiciary Committee of the House on April 7 voted to censure Congressman J. T. McDermott of Chicago for his part in the lobby scandal. It further decided to do nothing to punish the officials of the National Association of Manufacturers, holding that the House lacks power to inflict penalties on private citizens for acts of contempt during a previous session. [See current volume, page 323.]

On April 8 an anti-lobbying bill was introduced by Congressman Floyd of Arkansas by direction of the House Judiciary Committee. All lobbyists are required, under this bill, to register the names of the interests for which they are working. A penalty of a fine is provided for violations.

#### The Labor War.

The Supreme Court of Colorado on April 8 issued a writ of habeas corpus for the release of "Mother" Jones, held as a military prisoner at Walsenburg. The writ is returnable in ten days.

The action was taken on petition of the attorney for the striking miners, Horace N. Hawkins, who asked the court to assume original jurisdiction. [See current volume, page 347.]



I. W. W. leaders arrested for rioting at a meeting held on April 4, in Rutgers Square, New York City, were discharged by Magistrate Freschi on April 8. The evidence showed that the police had interfered without cause and had been guilty of acts of rowdyism and brutality. In discharging the prisoners the magistrate rebuked the police. A protest against further police action of the kind was made by Lincoln Steffens to Mayor Mitchel, which resulted in an order requiring the police to abstain from interference with free speech. As a result a meeting was held on April 12 at which Alexander Berkman was the principal speaker. It proceeded without trouble. [See current volume, pages 252, 277, 301 and 326.]



The end of the Michigan copper mine strike came at a referendum election on April 12 of the local unions of the Western Federation of Miners throughout the copper district. A majority voted to accept work on the operators' terms. That means that the men must give up their membership in the union and apply for work as individuals. The operators say that all will be re-employed as soon as there is work for them, except those who have engaged in violence. [See current volume, page 346.]

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## NEWS NOTES

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—The women of Alaska, according to press dispatches, took prominent and decisive part in the municipal elections of April 7. [See vol. xvi, p. 299.]

—Mrs. Lillian M. Stevens, president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union since the death of Frances Willard in 1898, died on April 6 at the age of seventy in Portland, Maine.

—Congressman Henry George, Jr., is announced to address the West Side Sunday Night Club, Third Presbyterian Church (Ogden and Ashland Aves.), Chicago, on Sunday evening, April 19, at 7:30 o'clock.

—The number of lives lost by Bulgaria during the recent war is given by Professor Tsankoff as between 55,000 and 58,000, or between six and seven per cent of the adult male population. The monetary cost is placed at \$548,000,000. [See current volume, page 86.]

—The campaign to reduce the postage between France and England from 5 cents to 2 is thus stated by the Paris Gaulois: "The penny stamp between Great Britain and France will have an enormous moral importance, and will be a symbol of the friendship uniting us to our neighbors."

—Ex-President Taft is said to be sending letters to judges and attorneys throughout the country urg-

ing them to organize in opposition to the recall of judges and of judicial decisions. One of these letters received by Justice Scott of the Colorado Supreme Court was made public on April 11.

—Improvements now under way on the Suez Canal contemplate a depth of 40 feet and a width at bottom of 196 feet. Contrasted with Suez the Panama Canal has a depth of 41 feet minimum, and 45 maximum. The width in the narrowest place, the Culebra Cut, is 300 feet. Elsewhere it is 1,000 feet wide. The locks are 110 feet wide.

—A treaty between the United States and Colombia to settle the controversy growing out of the secession of Panama in 1903, was signed at Bogota on the 7th. According to information given out by Mr. Bryan, Secretary of State, Colombia has been awarded \$25,000,000, and free passage of her war ships and troops through the Canal. [See current volume, page 62.]

—Universal transfers for street railway passengers have been secured by St. Louis through an order of Circuit Judge Hugo Grimm, issued on April 6 directing the United Railways Company to comply with the ordinance which requires it to let a passenger ride from any point in the city to any other point on payment of one fare, regardless of how many transfers may be required.

—Replying to a Parliamentary inquiry as to the number of persons in Great Britain assessed for super-tax, the Secretary of the Treasury said: "I cannot undertake to classify in separate divisions incomes exceeding \$500,000 a year. The number of persons assessed for super-tax in respect to an income exceeding \$500,000, according to the latest figures available is sixty-six."

—Viscount Keigo Kiyoura's failure to form a cabinet has thrown the Japanese Empire into political confusion. Party government is now the prediction of those conversant with Japanese affairs. Western ideas so permeate the Empire that the old order of government, by the elder statesmen, is breaking up into factions, which it is thought will reform into political parties. [See current volume, page 303.]

—A new means of press censorship has been discovered in Germany. Wishing to discipline a newspaper for printing matter objectionable to the government, the Saxon finance minister informed the editor that if the offense were repeated the sale of the paper would be prohibited in all places controlled by the government. As the government controls the railroads and stations, the threat was sufficient.

—A constitutional amendment providing for the Referendum but not the Initiative was submitted by the Maryland legislature on April 4. It now goes to a vote of the people. The Initiative provision failed of passage by one vote. An amendment was also submitted providing local home rule for the city of Baltimore and the counties of the State. A third amendment provides for classification of property for taxing purposes.

—Freight rates on Canadian railroads operating between Winnipeg and the Pacific Coast have been reduced by the railway commission from 5 to 30 per cent on nearly all classes of goods, to take effect September 1. The commission also has divided the