

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.