

The Forum

Edited by HOWARD S. ROSS, K.C.

"Let us make our education brave and preventive. Politics is an afterwork, a poor patching. We are always a little late. The evil is done, the law is passed, and we begin the uphill agitation for repeal of that of which we ought to have opposed, the enacting. We shall one day learn to supersede politics by education."—Dalph Waldo Emerson, "Culture."

"The profiteering that cannot be got at by the restraints of conscience and love of country can be got at by taxation."
PRESIDENT WILSON.

The Single Tax on land values means food for the allied armies and peoples, homes for returning soldiers, the end of land monopoly and the beginning of Economic Democracy.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

The inclusion of Proportional Representation in the recommendation of the Speaker's Conference, of Lord Bryce's Committee on the Second Chamber, and of the Irish Convention, and in the provisions of the Scottish Education Bill is an unmistakable sign of the coming victory.

John H. Humphreys, Secretary of the The Proportional Representation Society (British), 82 Victoria Street (Flat 24) Westminster, London, S.W. 1, in a recent letter says: "I particularly direct your attention to the list of distinguished men and women who have consented to be vice-presidents of the Society. We hope to add others. Among the more thoughtful parliamentarians the defeat of the proportional representation recommendations of the Speaker's Conference is regarded as a great national loss. We are approaching a general election in this country in which there will be a very large number of candidates. The parliament that may be elected will in all probability misrepresent the electors. If so, parliament will suffer further loss of prestige, and that at a time when it is most necessary to strengthen confidence in representative institutions."

HOME RULE PROPOSAL FOR INDIA.

A plan of limited home rule for India has been prepared for submission to the British Parliament by Edwin S. Montagu, Secretary for India, and Baron Chelmsford, Viceroy and Governor General of India. The purpose of the plan is to prepare the people for greater responsibilities, and the official announcement says that "declarations of both our own and American statesmen concerning the liberalizing of the aims of the Allies have given new force and vitality to the growing demand among the progressive section of the (Indian) people for self-government." The new government is to consist of (a) Provincial legislatures to be composed of directly elected representatives; (b) a Viceregal Legislature for all India, to be composed of two chambers—the Legislative Assembly of India and the Council of State; (c) the Indian Privy Council, members of which are to be appointed by the King-Emperor; and (d) a Council of Princes. The Assembly is to have a membership of 100, two-thirds of whom will be elective, and the remaining third named by the Governor General. The second chamber, or Council of State, is to be the final legislative authority in matters that the Government regards as essential. Besides the Governor General it will consist of fifty members, of whom twenty-nine are to be nominated and twenty-one elected. The Council of Princes is to consider questions affecting the native States and those of concern either to the Empire as a whole or to British India and the native States in common. Ten years after the proposed new government is organized a commission is to be appointed to resurvey the whole political situation and determine what further power can be transferred to the native governments.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

"I suppose you understand the science of government?"
"To be frank," replied Senator Sorghrim, of the U. S. A., "I'm not as strong on the science of government as I ought to be. I have meant to take it up, but I have been tied right on to my studies in the science of how to get re-elected."

INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY.

Winston Churchill, the American author, says in his new book, "A Traveller in Wartime," published by The Macmillan Company, Toronto and New York: "The real issue of our time is industrial democracy—we must face the fact. And those in America and the other nations who continue to oppose it will do so at their peril. Fortunately, as will be shown, that element of our population which may be designated as domestic Junkers is capable of being influenced by contemporary currents of thought, is awakening to the realization of social conditions deplorable and dangerous."

Agitation has begun in Germany for the annexation of the Ukraine. The Hetman Skoropadsky, whom the Germans made dictator of Ukraine, is quoted by a Vienna paper as saying that Ukrainians can fare well only when closely united to the Central Powers. He expresses great gratitude for the aid Austria and Germany have given him.

The Finnish Government which is in such close accord with Germany has suddenly withdrawn its bill for constitutional reform and the adoption of a monarchy, and has declared the session of the Landtag closed. This action followed when the Government obtained only a bare majority on the second reading of the bill.

UNDER FIRE.

The following brilliant letter to the author of "Under Fire," one of the few great books of the war was made public recently by E. P. Dutton & Co., of New York: To Henri Barbusse, of the 30th Regiment of Territorial Infantry.

My dear Friend,—

I admire *Le Feu* because it is a poem—a great poem, tumultuous and admirably arranged. There is in it what I like most in the world—infinite detail, without meretricious glitter. Such detail is only permissible against a background of inspiration and epic movement. Visionary and man inspired, you are both, that is doubtless why your book commands the admiration even of those who do not accept all the opinions in it. All whom I have heard discussing it up to the present are unanimously agreed on its literary beauty and its tremendously real significance.

I remember the day when you came to say to me: "Viola; I am enlisting because I hate war. The more one thinks as I do, the greater is the necessity to shoulder a rifle this time — which must be the last." Again I see the calm and terrible beauty in your face, and your implacable pallor. It is just that beauty, the frigid and sublime anger in your look, the tranquil exasperation on your features, the haughty poetry that mysteriously surrounded you, the noble hatred which from time to time straightened your tall figure with a start, as you seemed to be already stooping over the stretchers in immense compassion — it is just that beauty that I have completely found again in *Le Feu*. At that moment I knew as I embraced you that you would bring back from the war a masterpiece of tragedy. I did not know at the time that it would mean the institution of the *Croix de Guerre*.

That I am not absolutely of your opinion on one or two points you will readily imagine, but when a man comes back from where you have been, he has a right to say everything and must be given at least a respectful hearing. To hold our tongues and ponder all they tell us, who have been out there, is our sole duty of the moment.

I find, in a poem written a year ago, when I was returning from seeing our silent defenders at the front—

"Heroes! my look said, "No"—

Replied their silence; "We

Are only men." That's less — and better!

Your work proves to me that my impression was the right one. You have modelled in the mud of the trenches the enduring statue of the New Soldier. When you passionately cover the war with mud, in spite of yourself that mud is magnificent. You give to those consecrated being the glory which you say they must not have. And why should they not have it, the saviours of the world and of the future? You have it, yourself, in that you have portrayed them!

It is a splendid thing to have written a Romance from which History will borrow. We will discuss other points later. Meanwhile, superb poet and soldier, I embrace you.

EDMOND ROSTAND,