

that road; and if every citizen is to have the telephone, it must come through the public-service motive, extended through the postal function. . . . Telephone communication is in the same class as express service. It is a natural monopoly, and must be in the hands of the public to be either cheap or efficient.

[See current volume, pages 128, 1132.]



#### Commission on Industrial Relations.

The Commission on Industrial Relations at Denver finally learned on December 8 the identity of the author of the mine owners' pamphlet, "Facts in Colorado's Struggle for Industrial Freedom." He is Mr. Ivy Lee of Philadelphia, executive assistant to the president of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Mr. Lee, the Commission also learned, was employed to write the pamphlet by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. He is a member of the American Economic Association and Fellow of the Royal Economic Society. The mine owning corporations were pledged to keep the authorship secret and it was not until receipt of a telegram from Mr. Lee releasing them from this pledge that J. F. Welborn, manager of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, disclosed the fact to the Commission. Mr. Lee has since been made one of three personal advisers of John D. Rockefeller in regard to the work of the Rockefeller Foundation and other philanthropic work. The Commission also heard read a number of telegrams and letters to J. F. Welborn sent during the strike by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., by trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation, and others of that group. Many more letters which there was not time to have read were ordered entered into the Commission's report. In one telegram Rockefeller seemed concerned about the socialistic leanings of a clergyman in a Wyoming coal camp. In another he expressed fear lest the Republican congressional candidates at the recent election should be defeated. It developed from other communications that Elbert Hubbard of East Aurora had received \$200 for a 1,000 copies of his magazine, *The Philistine*, containing an article favorable to the operators' side of the controversy. On December 9 Sheriff Jefferson Farr of Huerfano County said that he had hired 326 men as deputies on request of E. F. Matteson, division superintendent of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. He had made no effort to learn anything about the character or qualifications of the men. John McQuarrie, formerly an undersheriff under Farr, said that Farr, who has been sheriff for fifteen years, is dependent politically and industrially on the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. Coroner's juries were selected in accident cases in conference with mine superintendents. J. H. Patterson, deputy clerk of the District Court, showed that in 90 cases of death by accident only one was charged to the management of

the mine. In damage suits for injuries during twenty-three years no decision against the company had ever been given. Edward L. Doyle, secretary-treasurer of the local United Mine Workers' organization, testified on December 12 concerning his two trials for contempt of court on charges of violating an injunction which "prevented them from doing anything but eating and sleeping." He said that the trials were farcical. There was no jury and most of the men convicted had not been in a street fight with strike breakers as charged. He had been offered his freedom, after his second conviction, if he would make an apology for articles he had written for the official organ of the United Mine Workers. This offer was made while he was in jail pending an appeal from a sentence of \$500 fine and a year's imprisonment. He refused it, and was released on the judge's orders. He did not know whether the sentence was remitted. The fine was never paid. The Commission will hold a meeting in New York in January to take testimony of Ivy Lee, the trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation; John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and others. [See current volume, page 1187.]



#### Colorado Strike Ended.

The Colorado coal strike was called off on December 8 by the unanimous vote of the convention of District No. 15 of the United Mine Workers of America. It was estimated at the time that 8,500 men were still on strike. J. F. Welborn, president of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, said that owing to dull business it would be long before the men can be given employment, but that all not guilty of violence would be re-employed as quickly as possible. [See current volume, page 1161.]



#### Candidacy of Peter Witt Announced.

Peter Witt will be a candidate for nomination for mayor of Cleveland next year, according to the following public announcement in the Cleveland Press of December 7:

"In order that both friends and enemies may have all the time needed to help or hurt, I announce at this time my candidacy for the office of mayor.

(Signed)

PETER WITT.

[See current volume, page 76.]



#### Assessors Urge Tax Reform.

The State Tax Assessors' Association of Texas met in annual session at Austin on December 8. Every delegate had received from William A. Black of San Antonio's Economic Study Club a request to consider the following questions:

1st. Are money and bank deposits wealth and if not, are they proper subjects for taxation?

2nd. Is it double taxation to tax the creditor upon

a real estate loan and the debtor upon the property mortgaged to secure such loan? If so, is such double taxation either just or wise?

3rd. Are credits of any kind such as notes, mortgages, book accounts, etc., wealth and should they be taxed?

4th. Do merchants and manufacturers actually pay the taxes assessed against their respective properties or do they add the taxes to the cost of the goods or products and indirectly force the consumer to pay same?

5th. Is there valid reason in justice or morals for a continuance of the poll tax? Rather should it be abolished and the revenue now derived therefrom be procured from some other and more equitable source?

Mr. Black addressed the association advocating the Singletax. Mayor Wooldridge of Austin in his address of welcome urged separation of State and local taxes, exemption of credits and taxation of land values at a higher rate than improvements or personal property. There were a number of other talks along the same line. [See current volume, page 1165.]



At the convention of the Oregon assessors, held in Portland on December 4, several county assessors reported that they were assessing land that could be cultivated, but is not made use of to its reasonable possibilities, as "tillable" instead of, as heretofore, "non-tillable." In Wasco County 30,000 acres have been thus raised in classification, and thereby \$450,000 added to the assessment rolls heretofore escaping taxation, to the relief of the land users. Other counties have received similar benefits. The assessor of Klamath County said that he is trying to make the actual settler feel glad that he has improved another forty-acre tract, by being liberal in his interpretation of the law as to assessments on improvements and live stock. Some assessors declared that they do not assess mortgages, because thereby money is encouraged to come into the county from the outside. By exercising his discretion along these lines the assessor of Multnomah County has enabled Portland banks to lend money in competition with San Francisco and Seattle capitalists. The assessor of Multnomah has stricken from the rolls all "residences," "sheds and shacks"—the assessed value of which is estimated to be worth less than \$100. [See current volume, pages 228, 1158, 1183.]



#### Embargo Act Demonstrations.

A mass meetings of Germans and Irish at Chicago on December 1, addressed by Congressmen Bartholdt of St. Louis, Britten of Chicago and Vollmer of Iowa, adopted resolutions in favor of legislation forbidding shipment to belligerent nations of contraband goods. The resolutions declare that armament and supplies are now being

furnished by the United States, that by this means the war is aided and neutrality is violated, since England is alone able, through mastery of the sea, to secure delivery of such purchases. The resolutions further declare

That we, this German-Irish Demonstration of Chicago, in mass meeting assembled, hereby declare that it is the imperative duty of the Congress of the United States to pass the necessary law forthwith that will enable the President of the United States to lay in an embargo upon all contraband of war, having and excepting foodstuffs alone, and thereby withdraw from the contending powers all aid and assistance of this Republic.

That we are in strict sympathy with the Christian endeavor of this nation to appeal to the God of nations that peace may come and reject as hypocrisy and national sacrilege the commercial spirit of the country that is answering our supplications for peace by sending the instruments of destruction and death to the serried armies arrayed in struggle through the empires of Europe.

That we, as joint races, who have sought the shelter of the American flag and have contributed our full share to American peace, American Christianity and American civilization, that we call upon all Americans to join with us in enforcing that strict American neutrality that will give aid and comfort to none of the contending powers and that will withhold American resources from promoting destruction and slaughter among the friendly nations of Europe.

Similar action was taken at a meeting in Philadelphia on December 11.



#### The European War.

The campaign in Poland is still undecided, with fortune again favoring, though slightly, the Russians. The Germans advanced all along the line between East Prussia and Cracow, after taking Lodz, but the Russians have at last checked them in spite of fierce attacks and heavy losses. Austria claims some advantages in Western Galicia, but has retreated in Serbia. In the west the Allies continue to make small advances. The English in the South Atlantic won a notable victory over the German fleet off the Falkland Islands, sinking four of the five German vessels engaged. Turkey remains impotent. The situation as a whole appears slightly to favor the Allies. [See current volume, page 1189.]



#### The Campaign in the East.

Once more fortune turns in favor of the Russians. The three-hundred-mile battle line in Poland is composed of the German army from East Prussia, advancing from Mlawa, a second army from Thorn, and a third army from Lodz, all aiming at Warsaw. This long front accounts for the conflicting reports of victories and defeats from Petrograd and Berlin. The Russians may advance at one point, and the Germans at another point, two or three hundred miles apart. Each