

Washington Doings.

The President appointed on August 4, Frederic A. Delano of Chicago, member of the Federal Reserve Board, in place of Thomas D. Jones, withdrawn. The appointment was confirmed by the Senate on August 7, as was also the appointment of Paul M. Warburg. Mr. Delano is president of the Monon railroad. He was also a member of the Commission on Industrial Relations which place he resigned upon confirmation of his present appointment. The Federal Reserve Board thus consists of W. P. G. Harding of Birmingham, Adolph C. Miller of San Francisco, Charles S. Hamlin of Boston, Paul M. Warburg of New York, Frederic A. Delano of Chicago and the ex-officio members, Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo and Controller of the Currency, Williams. [See current volume, page 733.]



Although Congress authorized the issue of one billion dollars emergency currency to meet the demands caused by the European war, only \$137,000,000 had been called for by the banks up to August 7. In commenting on this the Controller of the Currency, John Skelton Williams, is reported to have said "Currency is being supplied to meet the requirements of trade everywhere, by both the large and small banks. There is no reason why this should not be so, neither is there any reason why there should be any suspension of currency payments by national banks anywhere in this country." [See current volume, page 756.]



Although the House of Representatives promptly passed on August 3, the bill opening foreign built vessels to American registry, the Senate delayed until August 11. Then it amended and passed the bill. The Interstate Trade Commission bill, already passed by the House, passed the Senate on Aug. 5 with amendments empowering the Commission to enforce its recommendations and widening its power of investigation. The bill went to conference. [See current volume, page 707.]



The Adamson Waterpower bill was passed by the House on August 4 by a vote of 190 to 47. Before passage it was amended in many ways to partially meet the objections of Gifford Pinchot. It restricts leases to 50 years. It authorizes the Secretary of War to impose a tax on the power companies that may at intervals be increased or diminished and to revoke leases on violation of contract. It further provides that on taking over the property at the end of a lease no more shall be paid than a fair valuation on perishable property and the original cost of land and other non-perishable property. [See current volume, page 765.]

Commission on Industrial Relations.

The Federal Commission on Industrial Relations continued investigation of affairs at Lead, S. D., on August 4. Superintendent Grier of the Homestake Mining Company charged that Bishop Busch opposed his company because the officials refused to favor a plan that would have manned the mines with Catholics exclusively. He further told of welfare work among the employes which brought from Commissioner Garretson the remark that it was a "benevolent despotism." Professor John R. Commons, acting chairman, complimented Mr. Grier and declared labor conditions in Lead to be the best he had found in the United States. To this Commissioners Lennon, Garretson and O'Connell strongly dissented. S. R. Smith, a former merchant and member of the Lead school board, testified that he had been forced out of business for insisting on payment by the mining company of \$6,000 in school taxes. The company finally paid \$3,000. His business had been mainly with company employes, but company detectives influenced the men to deal elsewhere. G. A. Northen, chief of the company's detective force, told of the close tab kept on the political views of employes and of watch kept on their private life. He had reported and caused the discharge of many men suspected of being socialists, agitators or in sympathy with unions. He also reported on men who frequented saloons. [See current volume, page 756.]



The Commission met in Butte, Montana, on August 6. Clarence A. Smith, acting mayor, in Mayor Duncan's absence, a Socialist, declared that the Socialist administration had improved health conditions in the city, reduced the death rate, improved moral conditions, restricted vice and effected economies of administration. An indirect result of a Socialist administration had been the granting by the Anaconda Mining Company of free speech to Socialists and stopping of discrimination against their employment. C. F. Kelly, manager of the Anaconda Company, said that the company operated a closed shop. Wages were on a graduated scale with \$3.50 a day as the minimum for underground work. Loundes Maury, an attorney, testified on August 7 that the Anaconda Mining Company controlled the courts in the county. On this account it was impossible for a miner to get a verdict against the company in a personal injury suit. When judges retire from the bench they are taken care of by the company in various ways, he said, being given employment either by it or by an allied corporation. L. O. Evans, attorney for the company, denied Mr. Maury's statement, and explained the employment of retiring judges by saying that they were all able lawyers and were sought after by corporations for that reason alone. Concerning the recent disturb-

ances in Butte, testimony given by seceders from the Western Federation of Miners was to the effect that the old union officials were arbitrary and corrupt. Complaints concerning conditions in the mines were heard on August 8. One witness charged that affairs were dominated by union men who acted in the interest of the mining company. Men who protested against these "company" union officials were blacklisted. The men underground are forced to do as much work in eight hours as had formerly been done in ten. The Commission adjourned to meet in Seattle on August 10.



Federal Aid Urged for Cattle Raisers.

The conference of the United Master Butchers' Association of America and of the National Retail Butchers and Meat Dealers' Protective Association took place on August 4, 5 and 6 at the Hotel La Salle in Chicago. The decline in the cattle raising industry and resulting scarcity of meat was the principle topic of discussion. Action was finally taken in the following resolutions adopted on August 5:

Be it resolved, That we view with alarm the decrease in our cattle stock and the consequent increase in the high price of meats; that Congress set aside 10 per cent of the national income tax to be used for improving cut-over and other undeveloped lands, on condition said lands be used for live stock raising purposes; that the government have the right to condemn any lands for this purpose.

Resolved, That we recommend that Congress enact laws to prevent the slaughter of female calves for a period of five years.

Resolved, That Congress pass a law that will prevent the slaughter of any calf weighing less than 150 pounds.

Resolved, That Congress be petitioned to repeal the tax on oleomargarine, the elimination of the tariff on wrapping paper and on paper used in making paper bags.

Resolved, That local and state organizations send letters and petitions to members of state legislatures and governors recommending the necessity of raising more live stock.



Municipal Ownership Victory.

The voters of Toledo, Ohio, endorsed on August 4 a proposition to issue \$8,000,000 in bonds to take over the car lines and plants of the local street railway company. The majority in favor was about 1,200. [See current volume, page 565.]



Correction.

An error was made in the report on page 638 of the current volume of the Public regarding passage of a tax reform act by the Nova Scotia legislature. A bill for local option in taxation was introduced, but it failed to pass.

NEWS NOTES

—Senator Thomas P. Gore was nominated to succeed himself by the Democrats at the statewide primary in Oklahoma on August 5.

—Thirty-eight killed and twenty-five injured was the result of a collision on August 5 near Joplin, Mo., on the Kansas City Southern railway.

—Professor Garret A. Droppers of Williams College was nominated by President Wilson on August 4 for Minister to Greece, vice George Fred Williams, resigned.

—Judge James M. Rea of Savannah, Andrew county, Missouri, was renominated without opposition at the Democratic primary on August 4. Judge Rea is known as an active singletaxer and made speeches in the campaign of 1912 in behalf of the proposed singletax amendment.

—At the statewide direct primary in Missouri on August 4 Senator William J. Stone was nominated for re-election by the Democrats over Judge William H. Wallace of Kansas City. Congressman Michael Gill of St. Louis, recently seated after a contest, was defeated for renomination.

—The primary election in Kansas on August 4 resulted in nomination for senator by the Republicans of Charles Curtis, standpatter, over Senator Bristow, progressively inclined. Congressman George A. Neeley was nominated by the Democrats and Victor Murdock received the Progressive nomination.

—A campaign to secure for the twenty-five third class cities of Pennsylvania the same local tax system as prevails in the second class cities, Pittsburgh and Scranton, has been started by the Johnstown Chamber of Commerce. This system provides for gradual reduction of the tax rate on buildings. The Chamber is now questioning legislative candidates throughout the State and is calling on business organizations of other cities to help.

—Spokane, Washington's City Commissioner of Public Utilities, C. M. Fassett, has urged all of the 38 boards of equalization in the State to join in a campaign for amendments to the State constitution that will make it possible to "First. Abolish at once all tax on personal property. Second. Gradually reduce the tax upon improvements on realty until it, too, shall be entirely eliminated." The Spokane county board has already adopted the resolution.

PRESS OPINIONS

The Churches' Opportunity.

Chicago Evening Post, August 8.—In such an hour as this is there no voice through which the armies of the Prince of Peace can speak to the world? Their Most Christian Majesties of Russia, Austria, Germany and England have reversed the scriptural injunction. They have beaten their plowshares into shields and their pruning hooks into swords. Each of them is calling upon his peo-