

and every new circumstance, and what is needed will be adequately done.

I close, as I began, by reminding you of the great tasks and duties of peace which challenge our best powers and invite us to build what will last, the tasks to which we can address ourselves now and at all times with free hearted zest and with all the finest gifts of constructive wisdom we possess. To develop our life and our resources; to supply our own people, and the people of the world as their need arises, from the abundant plenty of our fields and our marts of trade; to enrich the commerce of our own states and of the world with the products of our mines, our farms and our factories, with the creations of our thought and the fruits of our character—this is what will hold our attention and our enthusiasm steadily, now and in the years to come, as we strive to show in our life as a nation what liberty and the inspirations of an emancipated spirit may do for men and for societies, for individuals, for states and for mankind.

[See current volume, page 1045.]



#### Progressive Party Meeting.

The Progressive Party National Committee in Chicago on December 3 decided to maintain the party organization. In its public statement it declares that at the recent election it received 1,750,000 votes and had made encouraging progress in southern States, especially Louisiana and Georgia. It states farther:

The industrial depression and the consequent reaction against the Democratic tariff was undoubtedly the issue which primarily determined the reactionary results of the recent elections.

Both the Republican and the Democratic parties have passed tariffs by the old method of log-rolling and the people have now successively repudiated them both.

As long as the tariff is made in politics and log-rolling there can be no stability of industrial conditions and business can have no peace. The way to provide stable industrial conditions and business peace is to accept the principle of protection as a fixed national policy and take the tariff out of politics.

The Progressive party specifically declared this doctrine in its platform of 1912 and pointed out that the only way to take the tariff out of politics was by the creation of a permanent expert non-partisan tariff commission.

We call attention to the necessity of prompt action on the Murdock tariff commission bill introduced in May, 1913.

Progressive principles are permanent, and now more than ever it is evident that the Progressive party is the necessary organ for their realization.

It was also decided that the committee be called to meet again in January, 1916, to prepare for the presidential campaign. [See current volume, page 1096.]

#### Militarists Become Active.

The National Security League was formed at New York on December 1. It is designed to carry on an active propaganda for increasing the army and navy and strengthening of the coast defenses. To that end it passed resolutions urging prompt action on a resolution to be introduced in Congress by Representative Gardner of Massachusetts for an investigation of the condition of the armament of the United States.



#### Commission on Industrial Relations.

In a statement to the Commission on Industrial Relations at Denver on December 2, Governor Ammons of Colorado gave his views on happenings during the strike. He said that since the last of the million dollar bond issue had been sold to pay expenses of the militia, the President has been asked to withdraw the federal troops. He thought that there would have been no trouble had the miners not insisted on recognition of the union. He declared himself in favor of a mediation act. J. C. Osgood, president of the Victor American Coal Company, told of the hiring of mine guards and purchase of machine guns by the company. He said that no miner employed by his company had made any complaint about wages or conditions before the strike. The majority of the men, he said, object to an eight-hour day that curtails their earning capacity. Governor-elect George A. Carlson declared his intention to recommend to the legislature an act to create an industrial commission to handle all strike troubles in the future, and also to draft labor legislation that would seem to be needed. John McLennan, president of the local miners' union, testified on December 4 and retold the whole history of the strike. Former United States Senator Thomas M. Patterson declared that the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company had intentionally employed foreign miners of different nationalities to prevent co-operation among the men. He said that in elections the coal camps returned almost unanimous majorities for whatever the companies wanted. Jesse F. Welborn, president of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, took the stand on December 5. He was questioned by Chairman Frank J. Walsh, who asked him concerning instructions said to have been sent regarding conduct of the strike by directors of the Rockefeller Foundation. Walsh also asked him concerning the identity of the press agent who has prepared the matter justifying the company's attitude which has been sent in pamphlet form to legislators, congressmen, editors, teachers and others supposed to have influence. He admitted that this press agent is private secretary of a railroad president in Pennsylvania, but declined to say anything more. He told of having ordered \$25,000 worth of arms and ammunition to be used against

the miners. Professor James H. Brewster of the University of Colorado testified on December 7. He declared that as head of the Colorado militia, Adjutant General Chase had disregarded all constitutional guarantees of the rights of citizens. The militia, he said, was recruited with scoundrels, who resorted to illegal searches and other unjustifiable acts. He declared Lieutenant Linderfelt a "brute unfit to associate with anybody," and laid upon him responsibility for the Ludlow battle. Merchants in Las Animas and Huerfano county, he said, had been intimidated by threats of business ruin should they displease the companies. He also read excerpts from campaign speeches of Judge Northcut and Judge McHendrie declaring that their nominations had been secured on a basis "satisfactory to the company." [See current volume, page 1162.]



A preliminary report to Congress was made by the Commission on December 7. The Commission had examined witnesses of all classes, including 181 employers of labor and 183 workers. Seven of the latter were Industrial Workers of the World and six were representative Socialists.

Nine causes of unrest given were as follows:

Largely a world-wide movement arising from a laudable desire for better living conditions. Advanced by representatives of labor, socialists and employers, and generally indorsed.

A protest against low wages, long hours and improper working conditions in many industries. Advanced by practically all labor representatives and assented to by many employers.

A desire on the part of the workers for a voice in determination of conditions under which they labor and a revolt against arbitrary treatment of individual workers and a suppression of organization. This was almost uniformly approved by the labor witnesses.

Unemployment and the insecurity of employment. Generally advanced by witnesses from every standpoint.

Unjust distribution of the products of industry. Advanced by most labor representatives and agreed to by most employers.

Misunderstanding and prejudice. Agreed to by employers and employes.

Agitation and agitators. Generally advanced by employers, but defended by labor representatives and others as a necessary means of education.

The rapid rise in prices as compared with wages.

The rapidly growing feeling that redress for injuries and oppression cannot be secured through existing institutions.

A summary of employers' views on the cause of unrest was as follows:

Normal and healthy desires for better living conditions.

Misunderstanding and prejudice. Lack of conception that interests of both labor and capital are identical.

Agitation by politicians and irresponsible agitators.

Unemployment.

Unreasonable demands arising from strength of organization.

Labor leaders who stir up trouble to keep themselves in office and to graft on employers.

Inefficiency of workers, resulting in ever increasing cost of living.

Rapidly increasing complexity of industry.

Sudden transition of a large number of foreigners from repression to freedom, which makes them an easy prey to labor agitators.

Universal craze to get rich quick.

Decay of old ideas of honesty and thrift.

Misinformation in newspapers.

Too much organization for competitive purposes instead of for co-operation.

Violence in labor troubles.

Sympathetic strikes and jurisdiction disputes.

Boycotting and picketing.

Meddlesome and burdensome legislation.

The closed shop, which makes for labor monopoly.

Financial irresponsibility of labor unions.

The workers' explanation was presented as follows:

Normal and healthy desire for better living conditions.

Protest against low wages, long hours, insanitary and dangerous conditions existing in many industries.

Demand for industrial democracy and revolt against the suppression of organization.

Unemployment and the insecurity which the wage-earner feels at all times.

Unjust distribution of the product of industry. Exploitation of the many by the favored few. Demand for full share of production.

Unjust attitude of police and courts.

There is one law for the rich, another for the poor.

Immigration and the consequent over-supply of labor.

Existence of a "double standard," which sanctions only a poor living in return for the hardest manual labor, and at the same time luxury for persons who perform no useful service whatever.

Disregard of grievances of individual employes and lack of machinery for redressing same.

Control by "big business" over both industry and the state.

Fear on the part of those in comfortable positions of being driven to poverty by sickness, accident or involuntary loss of employment.

Inefficiency of workers on account of lack of proper training.

Unfair competition from prison and other exploited labor.

The rapid pace of modern industry, which results in accidents and premature old age.

Lack of attention to sickness and accidents, and the difficulty and delay incident to securing compensation for accidents under the common law and the statutes of states which have not adopted methods of dealing with those questions.

Arbitrary discharge of employes.

Blacklisting of individual employes.

Exploitation of women and children in industry.

Promotion of violence by the use of gunmen, spies and provokers hired by employers.

National labor exchanges are advocated. It is understood that this preliminary report is to be followed later with a more complete one after the Commission's investigations have been completed.



#### Chicago's Trouble With Corporation Agreements.

After the committee of Chicago's city council had agreed to allow representatives of the city's civic organizations to witness the count of the automatic telephone subscribers, the Illinois Telegraph and Telephone Company, operating the system, formally admitted on December 3 that it has less than 20,000 subscribers. But its attorneys deny that this involves the forfeiture to the city of its plant as the terms of its franchise require. They construe the words "If at any time after June 1, 1911, the company shall cease to operate a telephone system serving 20,000 bona fide subscribers" to mean "ready to serve 20,000 bona fide subscribers." Since they are ready to serve this number, but have not secured them, they hold themselves secure. [See current volume, page 1162.]



Auditors employed by the city of Chicago to investigate the books of the Chicago Railway Company reported to the mayor on December 3 that the company has incorrectly charged to capital account \$6,945,130.40. This error has benefited the company in dividing profits with the city according to the contract of 1907. To rectify the error the auditors say the company should pay into the city's traction fund the sum of \$584,264.29. [See volume xvi, pages 26, 99; current volume, page 558.]



#### The Milwaukee Leader Wins.

The case of City Clerk Peter F. Leuch against the Milwaukee Leader, the Socialist organ, resulted on November 20 in a victory for the Leader. Judge George Clementson, who presided, directed a verdict in its favor, which put the costs of the case on Leuch. The case arose from publication in the Leader on December 9, 1912, of a story charging Leuch with violating the State law forbidding payment for overtime to public employes. Although the Supreme Court of the State had ruled that Leuch's act was illegal, he nevertheless brought suit for libel against the Leader. The case came up the first time in November, 1913, before a jury of anti-Socialists, which returned a verdict for Leuch. The Leader appealed. In the second trial the jury—which contained no member friendly to Socialism—was deadlocked, and the judge took matters into his own hands. Leuch says he will appeal. [See vol. xvi, page 1155.]

#### Mexico and the United States.

Direct communication with the Mexican capital, after an interruption of a week, was restored through El Paso on the 30th. Little authentic news, however, is yet to be had. General Blanco having left Mexico City in advance of the time agreed upon for the entry of General Zapata and General Villa, some disorder occurred, and the merchants begged General Zapata, who was awaiting the coming of General Villa, to take possession at once to restore order. This was done, and after provision had been made for policing the city, the General, in order to show his good faith, retired, to await the coming of Provisional President Gutierrez and General Villa. The new President, entering the city with General Villa, took possession of the national palace of the capital on the 3d. Efforts are under way by Generals Villa and Zapata to give effect to the new government, and to restore order throughout the country. [See current volume, page 1163.]



Sporadic fighting on a small scale is reported from various parts of the country where the forces of General Carranza come in conflict with those of the new government. General Carranza is reported to be at Vera Cruz, from which point he sends copious accounts to his agents in the United States for distribution. No serious campaigning appears to be under way, and little definite information of military movements is at hand. Desultory fighting continues on the Mexican border near Naco, Arizona, and complaints are made by the Americans of the danger from stray bullets. Nothing more has been reported of General Gonzales' assumption of the presidency. The Carranzistas seem to be on the defensive, and although still defiant of the new government set up by the Aguas Calientes convention, are impotent.



#### The European War.

The main center of interest continues in Poland where the Russian and German armies continue their indecisive struggle for the mastery, with the Germans again advancing. Russia is still making headway against Austria, and is laying siege to Cracow. Austria has taken Belgrade, the capital of Servia, and continues a slow advance into Servia. The campaign in the west favors the Allies, but marks little change in the battle line. Turkey continues an unimportant factor, the South African rebellion has collapsed. Nothing of importance is reported from the Sea. The situation as a whole shows little to encourage either side. [See current volume, page 1163.]



#### The Campaign in the East.

What seemed a week ago to be favorable fortune