

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