

years, and that these leases shall leave with the government regulation of services and prices. Leases may be made to states, counties or municipalities as well as to private concerns. [See current volume, page 9.]



Important Supreme Court Decisions.

The United States Supreme Court on June 22 upheld the right of the Inter State Commerce Commission to establish a zone system for rates. The decision also upholds the long and short haul clause of the inter-state commerce law. This decision reverses the defunct court of commerce. In connection with the recent decision in the Shreveport case, in which rates fixed by the Inter-State Commerce Commission in inter-state shipments were declared to prevail against contrary orders issued by state railroad commissions, the decision just announced clears away considerable doubt on questions that entered into the discussion of the proposed increase in freight rates. The Supreme Court also upheld the law placing all inter-state pipe lines, except those of the Uncle Sam Oil Company, under control of the Inter-State Commerce Commission. Another decision confirms the Southern Pacific in possession of 200,000 acres of oil lands in California said to be worth \$700,000,000. This decision was in reference to a suit brought by private individuals against the company, and does not apparently affect a suit for possession of the same lands being brought by the government. [See current volume, page 541.]



Industrial Relations Commission.

The United States Commission on Industrial relations subpoenaed on June 13 different persons known to have made a study of labor matters, for suggestion of a solution of the unemployed problem. Much testimony along this line was given. Mr. Harry Weinberger of New York testified as follows:

Whenever there are more men than jobs, labor is a commodity, and following the law of supply and demand, wages are forced down to the lowest point of subsistence. For a limited number of men unionism may be an alleviating circumstance, but for the vast majority, this is an iron law.

If anything can be done by the government to create more jobs than men, jobs would be the commodity, each job competing with every other job for the services of men, and wages would then be forced up to the highest economic point that the industry can endure. That is the problem of unemployment and the question of wages.

Idle land means idle men. It is immediately apparent, even upon superficial thought, that if all land is kept out of use, that the human race would become extinct. If a part of the land is kept out of use the natural means for subsistence is to that extent limited. In every city and in every state we

find thousands of acres of land being held out of use awaiting the speculator's rise in value.

New York, let us assume, has only 50,000, or even only 5,000 men out of work, and yet in and around New York City, on Staten Island, Long Island, upstate and across the New Jersey fields are more than 100,000 acres of land, absolutely idle. This idle land is sufficient, if only used for farming purposes, to support these men and their families.

If your Commission would advocate that each state should take the entire rental value of land (and land does not include improvements) no owner could afford to keep his land idle, but would have to put it to its fullest economic use, and thousands, aye millions of jobs would be thus created. As the population increases, the value of land and its rental value increases, and this fund would be more than sufficient for all governmental purposes, thus enabling the government to take all other taxes off industry, and benefiting it thereby. The increased value of land of every state is caused by no man's labor but by the growth of the community, the goodness of its public improvements and the efficiency of its government. This public-created value should be taken by the public for its use and no private individual should be allowed to pocket the same. The New Freedom means that that which a man produces shall be his, but no man shall be entitled to anything which is not the product of his labor.

All land, whether consisting of forests, prairies, mines or water falls now owned by the government, should never be divested from ownership by the government, but all said lands should be leased for a yearly or a longer term at a fair rental value with a further proviso in said lease that upon complaint of employes in said mines, lands, forests, prairies or in or about said water falls, as to the hours of labor or wages or conditions, a board of arbitration shall listen to the lessee and his employes, and the findings of the board upon said controversy shall be final, but if said lessee refuses to accept said findings said lease shall terminate within a time to be fixed by the lease. This would do two things: it would insure that all the vast domain of the States and the United States would be used to its fullest economic extent, and not be kept out of use as is now being done, the condition of labor and the wages of labor would be a proper one, and the increased rental values of the lands and water falls of all the domains as the years roll by, which would be caused by the growth of population of this country, would go to the government for the benefit of all the population.

Let us consider this in reference to the Colorado mining situation, not to mention the former West Virginia situation. The Colorado mines at one time were owned by the United States Government and then sold to private individuals. But if the above method had been used no private individual or corporation would have seen fit to tell the government that they refused arbitration, and if the men had grievances the government would rectify them. Civil war, with its attendant bloodshed, would not have darkened the pages of history, as it will have to be written.

Texas alone, if all its lands were put to its fullest economic use, would be sufficient to house and em-

ploy and support every man, woman and child of the United States. And yet we find that there are people out of employment who desire and seek work, and yet are unable to find it; we find low wages, and poverty, and hunger.

The proposal of taking one per cent of the unearned increment was drawn in bill form by me for the late Mayor Gaynor. The State Legislature has had before it a bill to take off half the taxes on all improvements in the city of New York. Also a bill to take off all taxes on all personalty and all improvements.

Two hands come into the world with every mouth, and in a rude state of society man has earned a living for himself and his family. With the advance of civilization he should be able to make more, when it is considered that the development of industrial power of time and labor saving machinery is one of the principal facts of the last century.

Forcing all land into its highest economic use is the only thing which will restore those conditions, remove unemployment, increase wages, and better conditions—and this can be done by the States and the United States taking the full annual rental value of all land.



Mr. Morris Hillquit said that the remedy is the nationalization of industries. He declared the Socialist Party would abolish the private, irresponsible ownership of property and would substitute social ownership in such form as is in each case best adapted to a given industry. Some industries would be owned nationally and others by the State or municipality. Purely individual industries, such as the various arts and crafts, not based on the exploitation of labor, but based purely upon personal effort, would continue to be owned and managed privately. This system, Hillquit said, would effect a cure of the capital-and-labor war by the simple expedient of abolishing capital. He believed the cure should be brought about politically, through the peaceful use of the ballot.



Vincent St. John, representing the Industrial Workers of the World, declared militant aggression to be the cure. There is a class war in progress, he said, there can never be peace between employers and employed, and the war must continue until the employing class has been annihilated. He advocated organization of workers in one industry, instead of in separate trades, then the general strike and if necessary sabotage and destruction of property.

Samuel Gompers, representing the American Federation of Labor, declared organization and collective bargaining to be the cure. The American Federation of Labor, he declared, aims to promote and advance the interests and rights of the working people, economically, politically, socially and legislatively, and to make their life the better for living in this day, and to let the far-distant

future take care of itself. [See current volume, page 587.]



Sugar Prices and the Tariff.

The Federal Sugar Refining Company of Philadelphia has issued a circular in which it speaks as follows concerning the new tariff law:

Three months' operation under the new tariff shows that the consumer is receiving all the benefit of the 25 per cent deduction in the duty on sugar. Since the new rates went into effect refiners' selling price has averaged 3.819 cents per pound, as compared with an average price for the last ten years of 4.85 cents per pound. The average in-bond price of 96 degree test raw sugars for the same period has been 4 cents per pound. Reduction in the duty, combined with the fact that the world's production this year is the largest on record, is responsible for the prevailing low prices, but that the reduced tariff is directly responsible for a large part of the decline is shown by the following comparison of prices between March 1 and June 1, 1914, with prices for other years when the in-bond price of raw sugars was on the same basis. The average price of refined sugar in other years, when raw sugars were selling in bond at 2.9 cents per pound, as compared with 2.04 cents now, was 4.40 cents per pound in contrast with 3.819 cents per pound during the last three months. It is, therefore, clear that a saving of .581 cent per pound is being effected by the reduced duty, which, figured on the amount of sugar consumed in the United States last year, namely, 8,384,631,360 pounds, would be equal to \$48,714,708.

[See current volume, page 969.]



Labor Trouble in Butte.

Seceders from the Western Federation of miners formed an independent organization at Butte on June 21, and chose Mr. McDonald for president. The officials chosen are said to be members of the I. W. W. The local mine owners are under contract with the Western Federation to employ none but members of that organization which, it is claimed, will debar members of the new organization from employment. [See current volume, page 590.]



Free Speech Fight in Tarrytown.

A meeting led by Upton Sinclair was held on June 21 at Tarrytown on the estate of Mrs. Charles J. Gould. Resolutions were passed urging federal seizure of the Colorado coal mines, and the following communication was sent to Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.:

A public meeting was held in your village this afternoon to discuss the Colorado situation. It was attended by about 500 people. A resolution was carried without a dissenting vote declaring that the crimes committed by the coal operators were such as to prove them unfit to hold the responsibility of operating mines and to justify the President in seiz-