

crease their burdens when it would, in fact, lighten them. It is thus a demagogic appeal to ignorance, and known to be such by prominent officials of the State Board of Commerce and by the Journal of Commerce. Land values on farms, exclusive of improvements, are very small compared with land values in cities and values of franchises. So, of course, under the singletax the smallest share of taxation will fall on working farmers. Now, Ohio farmers are asked to support a proposed amendment on the ground that it will make a system impossible that would lighten their burdens. Laborers are asked to vote for an amendment that will make impossible a system opening to them more opportunities for employment and increasing the purchasing power of their wages. If the proposed amendment has any merit at all the Journal of Commerce does not mention it. It only points out a very serious objection and tries to palm it off as a recommendation. S. D.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE PREFERENTIAL VOTE IN NEW JERSEY.

Trenton, N. J., April 14.

The New Jersey Legislature, a few days ago, passed an act which has been signed by the Governor and now is a law, providing for the election of Commissioners in all Commission governed cities in the State, by what is substantially the Spokane system of preferential voting. The Commission Government Law of New Jersey before this supplement was passed, provided for the election under the Des Moines system of a double election, the first, called the primary election, being held to select the highest ten from whom five would be chosen at a subsequent election. This law places, at one stroke, all cities in the State which have adopted Commission Government, and all which may hereafter adopt it, under the system of election by preferential voting and is perhaps the most important step that has been made in that direction because of the number of municipalities affected. The cities which have adopted this form of government and come under this act include Jersey City, Trenton, Atlantic City, Bordentown and a number of smaller municipalities in the State.

LINTON SATTERTHWAIT



"Write a short paragraph about the Mayflower compact," said a teacher in a certain high school, "telling for what group of people it was drawn up, why it was drawn up, and giving the main provisions of the compact."

This is one pupil's answer:

"The Mayflower was a ship that the Pilgrims used. It was drawn up for the Pilgrims in 1830. It was drawn up because the Pilgrims could not get along with the people who lived by them. The provisions were roasted corn and wild turkey."—Judge.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, April 21, 1914.

Mexico and the United States.

The flag salute incident has steadily grown in importance until it has assumed the possibility of war. General Huerta at first declined to order the firing of the salute to the American flag at Tampico. A long conference of the Cabinet on the 14th led to President Wilson's ordering the Atlantic and West Indies fleets, as well as those of the Pacific to proceed to Mexico. General Huerta agreed on the 16th to fire the desired salute, on condition that the United States return the salute. This offer was accepted by President Wilson. But on the 17th General Huerta conditioned his offer with the stipulation that the Americans should answer his salute gun for gun, as fired. This was held by President Wilson to be an evasion of the point at issue, and General Huerta was given until 6 o'clock of the 19th to make final answer. General Huerta refused to recede from his position. [See current volume, page 369.]



President Wilson laid the matter before a joint session of Congress on the 20th, delivering in person the following message:

It is my duty to call your attention to a situation which has arisen in our dealings with General Victoriano Huerta at Mexico City, which calls for action, and to ask your advice and co-operation in acting upon it.

On the ninth of April a paymaster of the U. S. S. Dolphin landed at the Iturbide bridge landing at Tampico with a whaleboat and boat's crew, to take off certain supplies needed by his ship, and while engaged in loading the boat was arrested by an officer and squad of men of the army of General Huerta. Neither the paymaster nor any one of the boat's crew was armed. Two of the men were in the boat when the arrest took place, and were obliged to leave it and submit to be taken into custody, notwithstanding the fact that the boat carried, both at her bow and at her stern, the flag of the United States.

The officer who made the arrest was proceeding up one of the streets of the town with his prisoners when met by an officer of higher authority, who ordered him to return to the landing and await orders, and within an hour and a half from the time of the arrest orders were received from the commander of the Huertista forces at Tampico for the release of the paymaster and his men.

The release was followed by apologies from the commander and later by an expression of regret by General Huerta himself. General Huerta urged that martial law obtained at the time at Tampico; that

orders had been issued that no one should be allowed to land at the Iturbide bridge, and that our sailors had no right to land there.

Our naval commanders at the port had not been notified of any such prohibition, and, even if they had been, the only justifiable course open to the local authorities would have been to request the paymaster and his crew to withdraw and to lodge a protest with the commanding officer of the fleet.

Admiral Mayo regarded the arrest as so serious an affront that he was not satisfied with the apologies offered, but demanded that the flag of the United States be saluted with special ceremony by the military commander of the port.

The incident cannot be regarded as a trivial one, especially as two of the men arrested were taken from the boat itself—that is to say, from the territory of the United States. But had it stood by itself it might have been attributed to the ignorance or arrogance of a single officer. Unfortunately, it was not an isolated case.

A series of incidents have recently occurred which cannot but create the impression that the representatives of General Huerta were willing to go out of their way to show disregard for the dignity and rights of this government and felt perfectly safe in doing what they pleased, making free to show in many ways their irritation and contempt.

A few days after the incident at Tampico an orderly from the U. S. S. Minnesota was arrested at Vera Cruz while ashore in uniform to obtain the ship's mail, and was for a time thrown into jail. An official dispatch from this government to its embassy at Mexico City was withheld by the authorities of the telegraphic service until peremptorily demanded by our chargé d'affaires in person.

So far as I can learn, such wrongs and annoyances have been suffered only to occur against representatives of the United States. I have heard of no complaints from other governments of similar treatment.

Subsequent explanation and formal apologies did not and could not alter the popular impression, which it is possible it had been the object of the Huertista authorities to create, that the government of the United States was being singled out and might be singled out with impunity for slights and affronts in retaliation for its refusal to recognize the pretensions of General Huerta to be regarded as the Constitutional provisional President of the Republic of Mexico.

The manifest danger of such a situation was that such offenses might grow from bad to worse until something happened of so gross and intolerable a sort as to lead directly and inevitably to armed conflict.

It was necessary that the apologies of General Huerta and his representatives should go much further, that they should be such as to attract the attention of the whole population to their significance and such as to impress upon General Huerta himself the necessity of seeing to it that no further occasion for explanations and professed regrets should arise. I, therefore, felt it my duty to sustain Admiral Mayo in the whole of his demand and to insist that the flag of the United States should be saluted in such a way as to indicate a new spirit and attitude on the part of the Huertistas.

Such a salute General Huerta has refused, and I have come to ask your approval and support in the course I now purpose to pursue.

This government can, I earnestly hope, in no circumstances be forced into war with the people of Mexico. Mexico is torn by civil strife. If we are to accept the tests of its own Constitution, it has no government. General Huerta has set his power up in the city of Mexico, such as it is, without right and by methods for which there can be no justification. Only part of the country is under his control.

If armed conflict should unhappily come as a result of this attitude of personal resentment toward this government, we should be fighting only General Huerta and those who adhere to him and give him their support, and our object would be only to restore to the people of the distracted Republic the opportunity to set up again their own laws and their own government.

But I earnestly hope that war is not now in question. I believe that I speak for the American people when I say that we do not desire to control in any degree the affairs of our sister Republic.

Our feeling for the people of Mexico is one of deep and genuine friendship, and everything that we have so far done or refrained from doing has proceeded from our desire to help them, not to hinder or embarrass them. We would not wish even to exercise the good offices of friendship without their welcome and consent.

The people of Mexico are entitled to settle their own domestic affairs in their own way and we sincerely desire to respect their right. The present situation need have none of the grave complications of interference if we deal with it promptly, firmly and wisely.

No doubt, I could do what is necessary in the circumstances to enforce respect for our government without recourse to the Congress and yet not exceed my Constitutional powers as President; but I do not wish to act in a matter possibly of so grave consequence except in close conference and co-operation with both the Senate and the House.

I, therefore, come to ask your approval that I should now use the armed forces of the United States in such ways and to such an extent as may be necessary to obtain from General Huerta and his adherents the fullest recognition of the rights and dignity of the United States, even amid the distressing conditions now unhappily obtaining in Mexico.

There can, in what we do, be no thought of aggression or of selfish aggrandizement. We seek to maintain the dignity and authority of the United States only because we wish always to keep our great influence unimpaired for the uses of liberty, both in the United States and wherever else it may be employed for the benefit of mankind.

The House of Representatives adopted by a vote of 337 to 37 the following resolution:

“Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled, that the President of the United States is justified in the employment of the armed forces of the United States to enforce the demands upon Victoriano Huerta for unequivocal amends to the government of the United States for affronts and indignities commit-

ted against this government by General Huerta and his representatives." The Senate passed the resolution on April 22 by a vote of 72 to 13.

Vera Cruz was taken by the fleet under Admiral Fletcher on April 21. Four Americans and 200 Mexicans are reported killed and twenty Americans wounded.

General Carranza and General Villa met in Chihuahua on the 20th to discuss future policies. This is the first meeting of the two men in four years, but there was every appearance of friendliness and accord. It was given out after the conference that the revolution would be prosecuted regardless of the action of the United States, so long as Constitutional territory was not invaded or threatened.

Six days' fighting between the Federals who evacuated Torreon, and the troops under General Villa, reported to number 12,000 of the former, and 10,000 of the latter, ended in the routing of the Federals at San Pedras de las Colinas, forty miles east of Torreon. The final battle was very severe, and is reported to have resulted in 5,000 killed and wounded.

Militaristic Measure Held Up.

The Hay bill which passed the House December 3, 1913, was suddenly reported out of the committee on Military Affairs to the Senate with some amendments on April 20 by Senator Chamberlain of Oregon, chairman. The bill makes the militia of each State subject to call for service as part of the regular army. It gives the President, instead of the Governors, authority to appoint volunteer officers. Militia organizations would be taken over bodily with their officers. The Senate promptly passed the bill without opposition. But before it could be sent to conference, Senator Reed of Missouri moved a reconsideration and this probably will delay final action for several days. [See vol. xvi, p. 1188.]

Miscellaneous Congressional Doings.

Chairman Clayton of the House Judiciary Committee introduced on April 14 a revised administration anti-trust bill. It contains a prohibition of interlocking directorates described as being less drastic than any formerly proposed. Banks of less than \$2,500,000 capital are excepted from its provisions. It allows a corporation to acquire the stock of a competitor for investment purposes, but not to such an extent as to create a monopoly. It provides that labor unions and other mutual organizations "not having capital stock or conducted for profit" shall not be re-

strained from carrying out their "legitimate objects." But they may be prosecuted if they commit acts held by the bill to be illegal. The bill establishing an Interstate Trade Commission with very limited powers of control over corporations doing an interstate business was favorably reported to the House on the same day by the Committee on Inter-State Commerce. [See current volume, page 275.]

The House on April 17 put an end to the allowance of twenty cents a mile for traveling expenses to members of Congress. This allowance has been the custom ever since the formation of the Government. The appropriation just made, however, only allows members actual traveling expenses.

Oscar S. Straus, Secretary of Commerce and Labor during Roosevelt's administration, appeared before the Senate Committee on Inter-Oceanic Canals on April 15, to urge repeal of the tolls exemption clause of the Panama Canal act. He held the exemption to be an indefensible subsidy to the coastwise shipping trust and a violation of the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty. He declared that the exemption would not lower rates but would give to the shipping trust \$1,500,000 or \$2,000,000 annually. [See current volume, page 323.]

English Politics.

Little or no progress in the Home Rule movement is apparent. The Unionists in general are still humble from their blunder, but Sir Edward Carson is fast recovering his fighting spirit and is busily engaged in drilling his Ulster volunteers. Premier Asquith, upon his re-entry into Parliament after his election for East Fife, was greeted with an inspiring ovation. [See current volume, page 369.]

The Independent Labor party, at the closing session of its annual conference at Bradford on the 14th, adopted a resolution by a vote of 233 to 78, instructing the Labor members in Parliament to act independently of the Liberal party. Cabinet rule was denounced by the resolution, as suppressing the right of individual members of Parliament to voice the policy of his party. Members of the Labor party in the House of Commons were requested to vote on all issues in accordance with the principles of the party. A resolution to readmit the Socialist party to the ranks of the Labor party was voted down.

The Labor War.

"Mother" Jones was released on April 16 from military imprisonment at Walsenburg, Colorado. The Supreme Court had cited General Chase to