
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, January 6, 1914.

Dissolving Interlocking Directorates.

J. P. Morgan & Co. announced on January 2 that members of the firm had withdrawn from the directorates of a number of corporations. The announcement stated that the withdrawal was due to "an apparent change in public sentiment" and that "in view of the change in sentiment upon that subject we shall be in better position to serve such properties and their security holders if we are not directors." [See vol. xv, pp. 1225, 1227; vol. xvi, p. 824.]

Mr. J. P. Morgan has resigned as director from the following corporations: New York Central & Hudson River Railroad; West Shore railroad; Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad; Michigan Central railroad; New York, Chicago & St. Louis railroad; Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis railroad; New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad; Central New England railroad; New York, West Chester & Boston railroad; Harlem River & Portchester railroad; Milbrook company; New England Navigation company; New England Steamship company; Rhode Island company; Rutland Railroad; Hartford & Connecticut Western railroad; New York, Ontario & Western railroad; Western Union Telegraph company. Other members of the firm have retired from directorships in: Jersey Central railroad; United States Steel corporation; American Telephone & Telegraph company; Astor Trust company; Guaranty Trust company of New York; Chemical National bank; Bankers' Trust company; Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing company; Utah Copper company.

Members of the firm still retain directorships in a number of corporations. J. P. Morgan remains in the United States Steel corporation, Northern Pacific railroad, International Mercantile Marine, National City Bank and National Bank of Commerce of New York City. Other members remain in the Santa Fe railroad; Lehigh Valley railroad; Erie railroad; Southern railroad; Chicago, Indianapolis & Louisville railroad; Chicago & Great Western railroad; Alabama Southern railroad; General Electric company; International Harvester company, Adams Express company; Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad;

Western Union Telegraph company; Liberty National Bank of New York; First Securities company; Bankers' Trust company; United States Life Insurance company; Pere Marquette railroad; Remington Typewriter company; H. W. Johns-Manville company; Fidelity & Casualty company; Cruikshank company; Associated Land company; International Agricultural corporation; First National Bank of New York, and Guaranty Trust company.

Following the announcement of J. P. Morgan & company, Mr. George F. Baker, president of the First National Bank, and also a prominent figure in finance, announced his intention to withdraw from "all the companies that will let me."

Mexico and the United States.

Interest in the diplomatic phase of the Mexican trouble was quickened by Special Envoy John Lind's visit to President Wilson at Pass Christian. Mr. Lind left Vera Cruz on the 30th on the scout cruiser Chester, and was closeted with the President on board the cruiser off Gulf Port on the 2d. Mr. Lind returned to his post on the 3d, and the President announced to representatives of the press that the visit had no significance beyond the fact that a personal interview made possible a freer exchange of views than was possible by mail and telegraph. The President expressed satisfaction with the course of events, and declared anew his faith in passive resistance. [See current volume, page 10.]

Twenty-six of the Deputies arbitrarily arrested by Dictator Huerta last October were released on the 2d. It is expected that most of those remaining will shortly be set at liberty. Huerta is still unable to negotiate an European loan. The National Railways and subsidiary lines defaulted interest January 1st on \$111,000,000. Rumors from Mexico City persist that Huerta will soon resign to take the field against the Constitutionalists.

It is announced that the British Minister, Sir Lionel Carden, has been appointed Minister to Brazil. Minister Carden has been looked upon as holding views distinctly antagonistic to the policy of the United States, having continued the course of Henry Lane Wilson, former United States Minister to Mexico. His removal is said to be in deference to the protests of the Washington Administration. This action on the part of the British government is likely to have a very depressing effect upon General Huerta's fortunes.

Military operations for the week have centered

about Ojinaga on the Rio Grande, where the Constitutionalists have battled six days to drive the Federals, who fled from Chihuahua to Ojinaga, into the river. The attacking force, under General Ortega, is given as 6,000, and the Federals as 4,000. The fighting has been fierce, though intermittent, during the six days. The dead and wounded of both sides are thought to number about 1,000. The wounded of both Federals and Constitutionalists are sent to the American side of the Rio Grande to be cared for by the Red Cross Society of the American army. General Villa, who paid a flying visit to Juarez on the 4th, is on his way to Ojinaga to take command of the Constitutional forces. He will meet en route reinforcements from Chihuahua numbering 2,200.



Illinois Senatorial Situation.

Formal announcement was made on January 1 of the candidacy of Roger Sullivan for the Illinois Democratic Senatorial nomination to succeed Senator Lawrence Y. Sherman, Republican. He is so far the most prominent representative of the reactionary element to be mentioned. The leading candidates opposed to him are John Z. White, Carl Schurz Vrooman and Harry Woods, now Secretary of State. Mr. Woods in announcing his candidacy referred to the fact that the term of a reactionary Republican was coming to an end. Regarding the choice of a Democrat to succeed him, he said:

The battle will be in the primary. To select a reactionary Democrat as the standard bearer for the State would jeopardize every candidate's chance for success. I have been requested by many who fear the result of the primary to be the candidate of the democratic Democrats for the United States Senate.

[See vol. xvi, pp. 531, 916.]



In behalf of his candidacy, Mr. Vrooman has issued the following signed statement:

Last winter as the candidate of the Wilson-Bryan progressive Democrats, I received 34 votes in the Illinois Legislature for the United States Senatorship. These representatives and senators were all believers in the brand of progressive Democracy now dominant at Washington, and voted for me because they knew that I was, and for twenty years had been, an active and uncompromising advocate of the great principles they hoped to see prevail.

After consulting with leading progressive Democrats in various parts of the state, as well as with a number of our foremost national leaders at Washington, I have decided to allow my name to be presented to the voters of Illinois at the primaries next September, for the Democratic nomination for United States Senator.

I am unalterably opposed to the baleful alliance between predatory finance and crooked politics, with its illegitimate spawn of "bosses" and financial freebooters, that fatten and batten off of the toll, the tears,

and the very souls of the defenseless men, women and children. This pestilential alliance must be broken up and utterly destroyed, if we are to remain a nation of self-respecting and self-governing freemen.

I believe in "regulated competition," as advocated by President Wilson and other exponents of the "new freedom"; I heartily approve of voluntary co-operation in business and industry wherever it is possible successfully to conduct co-operative enterprises. Wherever regulated competition and voluntary co-operation are not practical, however, I believe in the gradual adoption of public ownership and operation of what are commonly known as "natural monopolies." As first steps in the carrying out of the demand in the Democratic National platform for the abolition of all private monopoly, I am in favor of the recommendation by President Wilson and Secretary Lane, that we proceed at once to the building of a system of Government railroads in Alaska, and of Postmaster-General Burleson's suggestion that we nationalize the telephone lines of the country, to be run by the nation as a combination telephone and telegraph system.

As a result of a long and careful first-hand study of the workings of the initiative and referendum in Switzerland and in the various states, I strongly favor the passage by the nation of the "Gateway Amendment," so ably championed by Senator Owen—in order that the people of the United States may have the power, after due consideration and discussion, to amend their constitution expeditiously and intelligently. Moreover, I shall use whatever influence I may possess to secure an amendment to our state constitution, giving the people of the state a workable constitutional initiative, as well as a legislative initiative and referendum.

I am in favor of the recall, properly safeguarded and intelligently applied; home rule; the short ballot, as a much-needed corollary of our present primary law; and the full right of suffrage for women.

I believe in the right of Labor to organize, and hold the fact to be self-evident, that the Government should not impose the same restriction upon Labor Unions, organized for mutual protection and benefit, that it finds necessary to impose upon predatory combinations of Capital, organized primarily for the purpose of exploiting alike competitors, employees and the consuming public.

I pledge myself to work unremittingly for the abolition of human exploitation in *all* its forms.

Every day it becomes clearer that it is now the duty and the supreme privilege of progressive Democrats to get together and from this time on to conduct the most vigorous educational campaign ever seen in the State of Illinois. Questions of principle should be brought to the fore and questions of personal political ambition made secondary. Later in the campaign, the progressive Democrats of the entire state undoubtedly will rally around the men, who, during the critical and crucial months that are upon us, shows the requisite qualities of leadership, and in the natural course of events, will unite upon him as their candidate for the United States Senate.

In common with the other progressive Democratic Senatorial candidates, I feel that the occasion demands the heartiest co-operation on our part in the