

Chicago School Questions.

The Chicago Board of Education by a vote of 13 to 8 on January 7 discontinued the "personal purity" lectures which were begun in the high schools last October. This action was taken without debate, after caucus consideration. Much opposition from many sources had developed during the autumn, and press reports indicated that, considering the critical questions now at stake in the Chicago school system, those in favor of this instruction did not consider the matter of importance enough to make a stand upon at present. [See vol. xvi, pp. 708, 1116.]

At this same meeting of the Board, Peter Reinberg was re-elected president and John W. Eckhart, a new appointee, was chosen vice-president. Mrs. McMahon, a champion of Mrs. Young during the recent controversy, was appointed by President Reinberg chairman of the School Management Committee to succeed Dean Sumner, also a staunch champion of Mrs. Young. Charles S. Peterson was made chairman of the Finance Committee in place of Mr. Rothmann, whose opposition to Mrs. Young, along with that of Mr. Sonstebly, was plainly in evidence at this meeting, as at those preceding the December school crisis. [See current volume, page 10.]

The Chicago Tribune of January 11 made sensational and specific charges of graft in the purchase, during Mr. Lipsky's chairmanship of the Sites Committee, of public school sites on the part of certain West Side real estate dealers and certain relatives or friends of Congressman A. J. Sabath. The charge was that these persons bought up land just before its selection for school purposes and sold to the Board of Education at a large profit. Two investigations into this affair were provided for on the 12th. The City Council ordered its Committee on Schools to inquire and report; and the Board of Education, after an executive session, appointed a special committee of investigation consisting of eight men—five Board members, two real estate board officials, and a building construction employers' official.

Rangel-Cline Defense.

A committee has been formed at Los Angeles to raise funds for the defense of fourteen men in jail on a murder charge at San Antonio, Texas. The appeal for funds makes the following statement:

Fourteen men have been thrown into jail in Texas, one of them having been given already a life sentence and another one of twenty-five years. Eleven are still awaiting trial at San Antonio, and their lawyers assure us that six are in serious danger of

being sent to the gallows. These cases have their origin in the regulations forbidding men from entering Mexico with arms, and are, therefore, of exceptional interest just now. The prisoners were trying to cross the international frontier and were attacked without warning by Texas officials, who killed one of their party. In a subsequent encounter they lost two more men and two were wounded. They themselves killed a deputy sheriff, for which the murder charge has been brought against them.

The letter is signed Rangel-Cline Defense Fund per Victor Cravello, P. O. Box 1891, Los Angeles, California. The correspondence committee consists of M. Lissner, Jaime Vidal, M. Fasano and William C. Owen.

Mexico and the United States.

The capture of Ojinaga is the most striking feature of the week's news, marking, as it does, the end of Huerta's authority in the north. General Villa with an army of 6,000 men led the attack on the village the afternoon of the 10th, and by 10 o'clock the federal army of 4,000 was in flight, a few men and officers escaping by way of the river banks to the mountains, but the mass wading across the Rio Grande to surrender to the American troops guarding the frontier. Nearly all the civilians in Ojinaga accompanied the federals in their flight. Men and women waded breast deep through the water, carrying children, and such meager belongings as they could. The refugees were taken in charge by the American troops, the soldiers disarmed, the wounded cared for, and all given such aid as was possible. Secretary Garrison has ordered the Mexican officers and men, about 3,000 in number, transferred to Fort Bliss, where they will be interned indefinitely. The 1,500 civilians who are still at Presidio, will be allowed to remain in the United States, subject only to the restrictions of the immigration laws. [See current volume, page 33.]

No marked change is apparent in the situation at Mexico City. The financial phase is uppermost. Not only is Huerta short of money for his government, but business shows the lack of circulation. With a view to relieving the stress Huerta has undertaken to coin 200,000 silver half pesos—equal to 25 cents in American money—a week. He is also forcing the issue of State bank notes. Much depends upon the reception of this paper issue.

General Zapata is reported to be operating close to Mexico City on the south. His successes with his small army of bushwhackers—or brigands, as many call them—taken with General Villa's triumph in the north and the financial situation confronting Huerta, lend color to the report that

the American Government is massing men and ships near Vera Cruz and other ports leading to the interior with a view to preserving order when the government falls.



Germany and Its Army.

The courtmartial that considered the charges against the commanding officers in the Zabern garrison has returned a verdict of acquittal. Charges of arbitrary subversion of civil authority and of individual brutality were substantiated by good witnesses, and were tactily admitted by the judge-advocate, when he sought to mitigate the court's rigor by asking a sentence of seven days' imprisonment for Colonel von Reuter, and three days' imprisonment for Lieutenant Schad. But the court, recurring to the almost forgotten decree of 1820, which authorized the military commander to assume control whenever in his judgment it was necessary, approved the very acts that the Imperial Chancellor, Von Bethmann-Hollweg, in December declared to be unquestionably illegal. [See vol. xvi, p. 1212; current volume, page 1.]



This is a triumph for the army, but it is likely to end in arousing the people. The parties that put through the vote of nonconfidence in the Reichstag at the time of the trouble in Alsace between the garrison and the citizens are lining up in defense of constitutional principles. Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg is again defiant of his liberal critics, which means a further tightening of the lines between the people and the military.



Chinese Affairs.

Parliament was formally dissolved on the 11th by proclamation of President Yuan Shi Kai. This is the end of a Parliament that from lack of capable leaders and a coherent policy has been impotent from the beginning. The supreme control now rests in the hands of the President and the administrative council. The council was established by Yuan, November 12, and consists of 71 members made up from governors of provinces, military men, and members of the cabinet. President Yuan's latest proclamation says that Parliament will be reconvened in due course of time. [See vol. xvi, p. 1114, current volume, page 37.]



Z. F. How, founder and managing director of the Commercial Press, Shanghai, is reported assassinated on the 11th. He was an active, aggressive man who from a small printing office is said to have built up the finest printing house in Asia. Many educational works have been issued from this house, which have contributed toward the enlightenment of the people.

South African Labor Trouble.

Scarcely was the conflict between the whites and Hindus of Natal brought within bounds, with a prospect of peaceful solution, than the embers of discord in the Johannesburg mining region were fanned into flame, and the strike extended into the other mining camps, with a general strike imminent. The trouble already includes the railway employes; and the other unions are balloting on the question of a general sympathetic strike. Not only the miners of the Johannesburg district, but the various trades in the city have voted to go out. The strike of the Johannesburg branch of the typographical union is taken to mean the people of Johannesburg will have no newspapers. The grievance of the railway men is due to the policy of retrenchment of the South African railway company, which has led to the discharge of men. The men claim this is a move to reduce wages. [See vol. xvi, pp. 661, 1164.]



The government has ordered a general mobilization of troops, and it is estimated there are now 20,000 armed men on the Rand, many of whom saw service in the Boer War. Attempts to dynamite railroad bridges and other railroad property have been followed by orders to the guards to shoot to kill.



Coincident with the general unrest is the outbreak of 900 natives who escaped from the compound of the diamond mines at Jagersfontein on the 9th, when fifty negroes and two whites were killed. A second outbreak occurred on the 10th, resulting in the killing of seven and the wounding of thirty-six natives. This uprising is independent of the trouble at Johannesburg, and is said to be due to the killing of a Basuto by a white overseer.



The Labor War.

Governor Ferris of Michigan began on January 6 his investigation of conditions in the copper mine strike district. He first called on Sheriff Cruse of Houghton County for information. Sheriff Cruse reported that he had at the time 220 paid deputies throughout the county and between 1,500 and 1,600 others, who were employed and paid by the mining companies, but had been appointed by him. Only four of whole number, he said, were gunmen, furnished by the Waddell-Mahon strike-breaking agency. Some of the deputies were members of the State militia. Sheriff Hepting of Keeweenaw County reported that he had about seventy deputies, some of whom were employed by the mining companies and included in these were nineteen gunmen. Prosecutor Lucas of Houghton County told the Governor that the Waddell-Mahon strike breakers had mis-