

on the 21st. Announcement is made by the Commission that—

the investigation will deal with every feature pertaining to the ownership or operation of private equipment. Cars' cost, their maintenance, earnings, distribution and the profit or loss attendant upon their use will be gone into. Information also will be sought as to the time made by cars of different shippers. Not the least important phase of the investigation is that dealing with refrigeration. The Commission has asked for data with respect to icing stations, the source of the ice supply and its actual cost in the car bunkers, together with the price charged the railroads therefor and the price then charged the shippers by the railroads.

[See current volume, page 9.]



The Labor War.

The Houghton County, Michigan, grand jury returned indictments on January 15, against thirty-nine members of the Western Federation of Labor. Among the indicted ones are Charles H. Moyer, president of the federation, C. E. Mahoney, vice-president, and Yance Terzich, an organizer. The men are charged with conspiracy to prevent non-union men working in the mines. Seven members of the grand jury are said to be employees of mining companies or dependent concerns. No indictments were returned against any one implicated in the deportation of Moyer. [See current volume, page 59.]



That there will be no investigation by the House of Representatives of either the Michigan or Colorado strike situation seemed assured by the action on January 17 of the Democratic members of the committee on rules. At a conference of these members a vote calling for an investigation was defeated by five to two. Those favoring investigation were Congressmen Henry of Texas and Foster of Illinois. Those opposed were Pow of North Carolina, Hardwick of Georgia, Garrett of Tennessee, Cantwell of Kentucky and Conroy of New York. In the Senate, Senator Ashurst's motion for an investigation was referred, on January 14 to the Committee on Education and Labor.



Mexico and the United States.

President Huerta's decree repudiating the interest on the national debt for the past six months appeared on the 13th. Mexico's total bonded debt approximates 500,000,000 pesos (\$250,000,000). Of this total a 200,000,000 peso issue was authorized by the present administration, and about half of it has been floated. The passing of the interest on the bonded debt, most of which is held abroad, has led some of the European governments to urge the United States to take some action looking to pressure on the Dictator. But no answer is made

by the Administration. Huerta's reason for defaulting interest on the national debt is that it is better that the money be used for the pacification of the country; but there are many who believe the move also is taken with a view to compel action by the United States. All evidences point to a continuing decrease in the Dictator's hold upon the situation. Lack of money, and the successes of the Constitutionalist arms clearly are hastening his fall. [See current volume, page 58.]



Adolfo de la Lama, Mexican minister of finance, who recently went to Paris on a mission connected with the finances of his country cabled his resignation to General Huerta as a protest against his action in defaulting interest of the national indebtedness. De Lama says he was not aware of the contemplated action. European papers for the most part do not attribute much significance to this attempt to force the hand of the Washington Administration.



General Villa, with his victorious army, arrived in Chihuahua on the 15th, and immediately began preparations for an advance southward. He is reported as now having in his command 15,000, which he contemplates uniting with 10,000 under General Carranza.



The soldiers and civilians who fled from Ojinaga to the United States to escape the fury of General Villa, and who were ordered to Marfa, the nearest railroad station, arrived there on the 19th. Although the march was but sixty-seven miles, the soldiers and civilians were poorly equipped for the ordeal, and were completely exhausted at the close of the four-day hike. They will be sent by rail to El Paso, Texas, where they will be interned at Fort Bliss. A barbed wire stockade has been built around the fort, from which neither General Mercado, who commanded the Federals at the battle of Ojinaga, nor any of his officers or men will be permitted to pass. The civilians having elected to share the fate of the soldiers, will receive the same treatment. All will be fed at the expense of the United States Government, and the cost charged to the Mexican Government.



Safety-at-Sea Conference.

The revision committee of the international conference on safety at sea practically concluded its labors on the 18th. The international conference, comprising delegates from the United States, Great Britain, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Russia, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Spain, Canada, and New Zealand, met in London, November 12, 1913, to consider means of increasing the safety of men and ships at sea. Details of the