

one reason why the towns don't appeal so often as the corporations do. But the chief reason is that they are generally exhausted of both funds and patience after fighting a case before the commission. The corporations charge up legal expenses as a part of the rates they are allowed to collect. But taxes spent for that purpose can't be thus passed on. They "stay put." It takes the fight out of the public to have to finance the adversary as well as its own defense.

I conclude therefore that state regulation in Wisconsin is not a sympathetic protection to public interests. The commission does not, like a wise and benevolent father, relieve the cities and towns of all just concern over their utility problems. That, of course, is the pretext. But the real effect has been to fasten new and tighter bonds upon them just at a time when, in a strictly legal view, the old ones were about to fall off. And it has not only created arbitrarily new obligations, but has complicated the old process of getting final judgment, increasing the cost and difficulty of the contest and consequently public unrest and exasperation.

STILES JONES.

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## NEWS NARRATIVE

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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 Monday, June 29, 1914.

### Mexico and United States.

A peace protocol was signed at Niagara Falls on the 24th by the Mediators, and the American and the Huerta delegates. The protocol signed reads

Article 1. The provisional government referred to in the protocol No. 3 shall be constituted by agreement of the delegates representing the parties between which the internal struggle in Mexico is taking place.

Article 2. (a) Upon the constitution of the provisional government in the City of Mexico, the government of the United States of America will recognize immediately and thereupon diplomatic relations between the two countries will be restored.

(b) The government of the United States of America will not in any form whatsoever claim a war indemnity or other international satisfaction.

(c) The provisional government will proclaim an absolute amnesty to all foreigners for any and all political offenses committed during the period of civil war in Mexico.

(d) The provisional government will negotiate for the constitution of international commissions for the settlement of the claims of foreigners on account of damages sustained during the period of civil war as a consequence of military acts or the acts of national authorities.

Article 3. The three mediating governments agree on their part to recognize the provisional govern-

ment organized as provided by Section 1 of this protocol.

"Protocol No. 3" referred to above was signed two weeks earlier, and set forth that a provisional government, to be constituted, as later provided, shall be recognized on a certain date, to be agreed upon subsequently, and from that time forward shall exercise governmental powers until the inauguration of a constitutional president. [See current volume, page 612.]



The signing of the protocol brings the peace issue squarely before the warring factions. The mediators consider their original task as finished, but they and the American delegates to the conference will exercise their good offices in enabling the Huerta and the Carranza delegates to come to an agreement. The new conference is expected to take place at Niagara Falls as soon as General Carranza signifies his readiness.



General Villa captured Zacatecas on the 23d. after severe fighting. The Federal dead are given as 4,500 and the wounded 2,000. The Constitutionals lost 700 killed, and 1,100 wounded. Five thousand prisoners were taken and considerable arms and ammunition. But the city was short of food, and General Villa is providing for the famished poor. Aguas Calientes, capital of the state of that name, and the next strong point south of Zacatecas, is reported to have been evacuated by the Federals.



### Congressional News.

The House judiciary committee on June 23 received the report of the investigators who took testimony on charges against Federal Judge Emory Speer of Georgia. The report condemns many of Judge Speer's acts, denouncing them as "tending to approach a condition of tyranny and oppression." Some of the charges were that a jury was rarely allowed to return a verdict contrary to the court's wishes, that the conduct of the court was such that confidence in its usefulness as an aid to justice was impaired, that officials of the court were used as private servants by the judge, that assets of bankrupt estates were allowed to be wastefully dissipated and that receivers were frequently appointed without notice and without just cause. But these acts the investigators found do not constitute ground for impeachment, and consequently no further proceedings are warranted. [See current volume, page 560.]



The House on June 23 accepted a Senate amendment to the naval appropriation bill au-