

Mexico and the United States.

A preliminary agreement was arrived at by the American and the Mexican delegates to the conference at Niagara Falls, Ontario, on the 27th, and reports were made to their respective governments for approval. It was given out by the press that the tentative agreement embraced a provisional commission government of five members who, to conform to the Mexican constitution, are to hold the post of cabinet officers, the secretary of state succeeding to the presidency on the resignation of General Huerta. A majority of the five men is to determine the course of action. The United States is to withdraw from Vera Cruz, recognize the new government, and give its moral support toward establishing peace and order. Provision also is made for a Presidential election. [See current volume, page 513.]

A new complication arose from the protest of General Carranza against the action of the Mediators in attempting to arrive at a settlement of the Mexican problem without consulting him. The Mediators replied that they had extended to him the same terms as to the others and that the Constitutionals had declined to enter the conference. General Carranza contended that the conference could deal only with international relations between Mexico and the United States, and declared himself willing, and indeed, demanded the right to participate; but as the internal affairs could not be settled by outside interests he would not abide by a decision of the Niagara conference regarding the issue between himself and General Huerta. The Administration at Washington urges the Mediators to admit the Carranza representative upon whatever terms is necessary. The Mediators however, decline to yield, and negotiations are progressing slowly.

A semi-official statement from General Carranza's headquarters at Durango on the 1st to the American press enters more into detail regarding the General's position. It is contended that the military achievements of the Constitutionals entitle them to dictate terms in the settlement of Mexico's affairs. They propose to adhere to their original plan, according to which the Commander-in-Chief of the Constitutionalist army will be the provisional president of the Mexican Republic while constitutional order is being restored, and regular elections are held. They will, if let alone, settle the Mexican problem in a few months. They declare the Mediators have been unable to settle the agrarian question in their own countries, and should not attempt to do so in a foreign country.

Ammunition consigned to General Huerta that has been kept in hold of the German steamship

Ypiranga since the United States took possession of Vera Cruz, was landed at Puerto, Mexico, on the 27th. No effort was made by United States officials to prevent the act. But both the Ypiranga and the Bavaria, also charged with delivering arms, were seized by the American authorities, and fined \$200,000 for landing goods at Puerto, Mexico, that had been consigned to Vera Cruz, the penalty for which is 20 pesos on each package. Both ships were released on the bond of the agent of the company.

No military events of moment have taken place during the week. The Constitutionals are engaged in rebuilding the roads leading to Mexico City, and putting themselves in readiness for an advance southward.

Municipal Ownership News.

Seattle started on May 23 to operate a municipally owned street railway. The street railway has cost \$400,000. Councilman Oliver T. Erickson, the leader of the municipal ownership movement, was the first passenger.

The initiative petition in Grand Junction, Colorado, for a municipal lighting plant has been presented to the City Council. The petition presents an ordinance providing for purchase, either by agreement or condemnation proceedings, of the existing privately owned electric and gas plants. It also provides for an estimate of the cost of erecting a new plant. Should the council refuse to pass the proposed ordinance it must be submitted to a popular vote at a special election. If the council should pass it, opponents may secure a popular referendum on it by securing the signatures of ten percent of the voters. [See current volume, page 516.]

Free Speech Fight in Tarrytown.

A number of street speakers were arrested in Tarrytown, New York, on May 31. They were all charged with blocking traffic, although one of them declared: "We didn't block traffic. We couldn't because there wasn't any." Tarrytown is the home of John D. Rockefeller, and the speakers were said to have been discussing the Colorado strike. The prisoners were held to the grand jury.

Sinclair Addresses Rockefeller.

Upton Sinclair has addressed an open letter to John D. Rockefeller, Jr., which was published on June 1. Mr. Sinclair refers to a previous letter concerning the Colorado situation, which he said was based on hearsay evidence. But now, he says, having first hand information he ventures to ad-