

I do not feel that the police were to blame in the matter at all, but I do feel that the system is at fault. The police are still laboring under the delusion that the most efficient officer is the one who makes the most arrests. They have practiced on me.

[See current volume, page 251.]



#### Labor Unions in South Africa.

The commission appointed to enquire into the condition of labor in the Union of South Africa gives little comfort to the men who used political power to suppress an industrial strike. If satisfactory agreements are to be made, the Commission says, and existing labor unrest is to be allayed, it is essential that employers shall recognize trade unions. The report urges the establishment of voluntary conciliation boards, with a view to preventing strikes and lock-outs, and to settling disputes. It regards hours of labor as excessive in not a few cases, and proceeds to make recommendations involving shorter hours, and a higher rate of pay for overtime. And it "cannot conceive why the Federation officials should be refused recognition as the men's professional representatives." Nor does the Commission sympathize with the fear of employers that if a "large number of white men are employed on the Rand the same troubles will arise as are now prevalent in the Australian Colonies, i. e., that the combination of the laboring classes will become so strong as to be able to more or less dictate." The Commission's report is, on the whole, a rebuke to the administration for its actions during the recent strike. [See current volume, page 132.]



#### England and Ulster.

Ulster politics reached a crisis when Sir Edward Carson made his dramatic departure from the House of Commons, and assumed personal charge of the situation in Belfast. Then followed such a flood of sensational reports of British affairs as has not been seen since the Boer war. Rumors of warrants for the arrest of Ulster leaders were accompanied by reports of the movement of troops into Ulster. [See current volume, page 277.]



Two definite points seem to have risen into view in the midst of rumors and reports. One is that many officers of troops ordered to Ulster, tendered their resignations rather than be put in a position where they might be called upon to oppose Ulstermen. Just how wide this defection of officers was is not known, some reports placing it as high as 200. The government, apparently fearing to proceed in the face of this opposition, altered its policy, and sent the officers back to the

troops. This shifted the interest from Belfast to London.



The full import of the government's action is not yet apparent. Sir Edward Carson taunts the Liberals with surrendering. And the Unionist papers ridicule the idea of coercing Ulster into accepting the Home Rule bill. The Liberal papers, on the contrary are indignant, and declare the question is no longer Home Rule for Ireland, but whether the country is to be ruled by Parliament or the Army. "If the Army is to be a Tory institution," says the Daily News and Leader, "to coerce the House of Commons when the Liberals are in power, then we will break the Army as we have broken the Lords, and make the Army as democratic as we have made Parliament." The Daily Chronicle declares that the whole future of British freedom depends upon the answer to the question, "Are the army officers to dictate to Parliament what bills shall pass?"



#### Political Storm in France.

At the moment when the French political situation seemed to be clearing, and the coming April elections promised greater stability to the Doumergue-Caillaux cabinet, all has been upset by the assassination of Gaston Calmette, editor of *Figaro*, by Mme. Caillaux, wife of the Minister of Finance. The *Figaro* has maintained a bitter warfare upon the Minister of Finance, which culminated on the 16th in the death of the editor. Joseph Caillaux immediately resigned from the cabinet, and on the 19th Ernest Monis, Minister of Marine, resigned. [See vol. xvi, p. 1188.]



The royalists, who never fail to take advantage of disorder, seized upon the incident of the shooting, and the political scandal that lay back of it, to make a "demonstration." The outbreak, however, was but temporary, and the excitement has for the most part, subsided; but speculation is rife as to the effect the incident will have in the April elections.



The 133 casinos authorized by the Ministry of the Interior last season show such large profits, \$10,000,000, from gambling, that the French government seeks to obtain a larger share. Instead of the old tax, which amounted to 15 per cent of the gross receipts, a new law has been proposed by a parliamentary commission, which will levy a graduated tax running from 3 per cent on incomes of less than \$2,000 up to 45 per cent on incomes exceeding \$1,000,000.



#### Mexico and the United States.

Want of revenue to maintain his government

has prompted General Huerta to make overtures to the United States. Jose Portillo y Rojas, Mexican minister of foreign affairs, conferred with John Lind, President Wilson's special representative in Mexico, at Vera Cruz on the 19th. Details of the conference have not been made public, but it is understood that Mr. Rojas is to assume the presidency. Mr. Lind transmitted the Huerta overtures to Washington. [See current volume, page 278.]



The commission appointed by General Carranza to enquire into the death of William S. Benton and Gustav Bauch, has finished taking testimony. The evidence is said to indicate that Benton was killed by Major Fierro, an intimate friend of General Villa. Benton was arrested upon his visit to Villa at Juarez, and later put on a south-bound train in charge of Major Fierro, ostensibly for Chihuahua. At Samalyuea Benton's body was taken from the train. No witness to the actual killing, aside from Major Fierro, has been found. The commission recommends that Fierro be placed on trial for the murder of Benton. In the case of Bauch, the commission will recommend that the officers attached to the Juarez garrison be placed on trial for ordering his execution.



General Villa is in command of the troops investing Torreon, and is closing in on the besieged city. The Federal troops within the city are said to number 9,000 men, while General Villa is accredited with 12,000. No decisive battles have yet been fought but the minor engagements have been in favor of the Constitutionalists.

## NEWS NOTES

—Eight Chicago women were sworn in as deputy tax assessors on March 21, their particular task to be the investigation of personal property holdings of women.

—On May 2 Suffrage demonstrations are to be held in all parts of the United States, these to culminate at Washington on May 9 in a big parade and a mass meeting on the steps of the Capitol.

—Impeachment of Justice Daniel Thew Wright of the District of Columbia was proposed in the House of Representatives on March 21 by Congressman Park of Georgia. [See current volume, page 231.]

—Engineers from Sweden will meet in convention at Chicago with Swedish engineers located in the United States in September, 1915. An organization committee has been formed, of which Erik Oberg, 183, 68th street, Brooklyn, is the secretary.

—The bill to indemnify the South African government for its acts under martial law last January, has passed the Senate and the Assembly. This bill is one of the outgrowths of the deportation of the ten

labor leaders from South Africa. [See current volume, pages 132, 231.]

—Singletaxers of Dayton, Ohio, organized a club of fifty members on March 17. The officers are president, Dr. Paul Tyner; vice-president, L. S. Davis; secretary, Mrs. Alice Kile Neibel; treasurer, W. W. Kile; members executive committee, W. C. Potsmuth, Emanuel Goldzwig and Bert Klopfer.

—Henry C. Hall of Colorado took his place on March 21 as member of the Interstate Commerce Commission. He was appointed to fill the unexpired term ending December 31, of Charles A. Prouty, appointed director of work on physical valuation of railroads. [See current volume, page 157.]

—General Cipriano Castro, deposed president of Venezuela, who undertook last August to seize the presidency, and who disappeared from public notice after the defeat of his army, has been discovered at Port of Spain, Trinidad. It is reported that the British government will not disturb him at present. [See vol. xvi, p. 901.]

—Owing to the inability of the Japanese house of peers and house of representatives to agree on the naval estimates, the diet was prorogued on the 23d. Retrenchment is imperative on account of financial stress and the famine and earthquake disasters, but the two houses could not agree upon the amount necessary to bring relief. [See current volume, page 179.]

—The Indiana State Democratic convention held on March 19 declared, after considerable opposition, in favor of a direct state-wide primary law. Senator Shively was renominated for re-election, and a state ticket was named consisting of judicial candidates and nominees for secretary of state, treasurer, attorney general, auditor and superintendent of public instruction.

—Vice President Robert R. Legula, of Peru, who was in London at the time President Billinghurst was banished, and who hastened home to assume the presidency, is meeting with opposition in Lima. A riot before Legula's house on the 17th resulted in the wounding of 20 people. The mob was dispersed by the mounted police, and the vice president's house placed under strong protection.

—The history and condition of Liberia are illustrated in a free exhibit on opened by the Chicago Historical Society (Dearborn Ave. and W. Ontario St.) on March 23, to remain until the evening of April 4. Professor Frederick Starr of the University of Chicago, who is largely responsible for the collecting of the exhibits, will be present on Tuesday and Friday afternoons to explain them and on the closing evening, April 4, will deliver an illustrated lecture entitled, "Liberia, the Hope of the Dark Continent." For this, cards of admission will be furnished without charge, upon application to the Historical Society.

—Brigadier General William C. Gorgas, surgeon general of the United States army, who drove disease out of the Canal Zone, and who was invited by the South African government to investigate the sanitary conditions of the Rand and other mining regions, has returned to London, after a three months' visit to Africa. He says, "the health problems of South Africa are by no means so complex