

90 per cent of the total number employed in the mines—who have been faithful and true to its interests, would be thrown out of employment unless willing to submit as individuals to union dictation." But the main point, he declares, is not who is to blame for the trouble, but "whether the State, or failing the State, the Nation, shall make good the constitutional guarantee of law and order." In another statement made on April 30 Mr. Rockefeller explained that the loss of life at Ludlow occurred "in conflict between the strikers and the troops of the State of Colorado." He further said, "To describe this condition as Rockefeller's war, as has been done by certain of the sensational newspapers and speakers, is infamous."

On April 30, Congressman Foster of the House Committee on Mines notified Mr. Rockefeller that the Mine Workers' Union had agreed to waive the demand for recognition of the union, and asked him if he was willing to negotiate a settlement of the strike on that basis. Mr. Rockefeller referred the matter to the directors of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, who notified Mr. Foster that since violence had been committed they would have nothing to do with the United Mine Workers of America.

On April 29 as a protest against the treatment of the Colorado strikers a "free silence" demonstration was begun against John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Upton Sinclair, the Socialist novelist, with a number of sympathizers, wearing crepe in mourning for those killed, walked back and forth before the Standard Oil Building at 26 Broadway, New York City. They were arrested but released on parole by the magistrate. On appearing for trial on the following day Sinclair was sentenced to pay a fine, which he did under protest, pending appeal. The "free silence picketing" continued, however, each day. Another band appeared on April 30 and succeeding days before Mr. Rockefeller's city residence on West Fifty-fourth street. On May 3 a similar demonstration was made before the gates of his country residence at Tarrytown.

The Colorado legislature met in special session on May 4. The Democratic House caucus, by a vote of 23 to 17, endorsed J. H. Slattery for Speaker. This is claimed to be a victory for Governor Ammons and to indicate that no effort at impeachment will succeed. The session was called to provide means to meet the State's military indebtedness amounting to \$1,000,000.

#### Mexico and the United States.

Interest in the Mexican trouble has centered mainly in the plans for mediation presented by

the Ambassador of Brazil and the Ministers of Argentina and Chile. The proposition to cease hostilities was put forth on the 28th, and was accepted by the United States and General Huerta. General Carranza accepted it on the general principle of mediation, but declined to forego his advantage of prospective military successes. [See current volume, page 415.]

The mediators on the 2d invited the United States, General Huerta, and General Carranza to name representatives to consider the differences between them. General Carranza positively refuses to appoint representatives. General Huerta has named Augustin Rodriguez and Luis Elguero, both connected with the Mexican National railroads, and Senator Emilio Rabasa. They will meet representatives to be appointed by the United States at some point outside of both countries.

General Funston's troops landed at Vera Cruz on the 29th, and on the 30th the soldiers succeeded to the duties that have been discharged by the marines since the capture of the city. Mr. Robert J. Kerr, a Chicago lawyer, was appointed on the 29th civil governor of Vera Cruz; but the civil government was displaced by the military on the 2d. Both the naval and the army medical staffs have been active in promoting hygienic conditions; and up to the present the health of the men has been good. The food problem has been troublesome on account of the fact that the Federal troops in the territory surrounding Vera Cruz have stopped the ranchers and gardeners from taking in supplies. Arrangements have been made to ship food supplies from the United States. General Funston reports that the Federals have 13,000 men in the immediate vicinity of Vera Cruz, as opposed to his 7,000, and has asked the Secretary of War for reinforcements. The instructions given him are that he is to be supported by the fleet in case of attack.

Refugees continue to come through from Mexico City and other interior points. Reports of murder, robbery and insult are frequent, but are subsequently found to be unfounded, or grossly exaggerated. There have been no authentic accounts of Americans killed since the taking of Vera Cruz.

The Constitutionals are pressing their attack upon Tampico with renewed vigor. It is reported that they now have 12,000 men before the city, eager to take it before the possible clash between Huerta and the United States. The Federal forces evacuated Saltillo, first firing the town, and retreated southward. General Velasco, who com-

manded the Federal forces at Torreon, is in Mexico City with his staff. He complains of lack of support from headquarters. General Huerta promises protection to all foreigners, but seems to be doing nothing to oppose the Constitutionalists. Disagreement between General Huerta and his foreign minister, Portillo y Rojas, led to the latter's retirement, and the appointment of Licentiate Esteva Ruiz, formerly under secretary, to the post on the 2d.

A more liberal interpretation of the military embargo laid upon goods crossing the border excepts everything but guns, ammunition, explosives, and aeroplanes. This permits the sending into Mexico of food and clothing for both the Constitutionalists and those engaged in mining and smelting. The lifting of the embargo on mining supplies will enable these industries to resume operations.

#### Washington Happenings.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations favorably reported on April 29 treaties with Brazil and nearly every European nation to prevent mailing of obscene cards and writings. The Committee on Inter-Oceanic Canals on April 30 reported without recommendation the House bill to repeal the toll exemption provision of the Panama Canal act. It also reported separately a proposed amendment by Senator Simmons as follows:

Provided, that neither the passage of this act, nor anything therein contained shall be construed or held as waiving, impairing, or affecting any treaty or other rights possessed by the United States.

[See current volume, page 393.]

Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane announced on May 1 the appointments of William C. Edes of California and of Lieutenant Frederick Mears of the Army Engineering Corps as members of the Alaska Engineering Commission which will have charge of laying out the route of Government railways in Alaska. On May 4 Thomas Riggs, Jr., was appointed as the third member. [See current volume, page 204.]

The members of the Federal Reserve Board under the Glass-Owen Currency law were reported to have been appointed on May 4. They are said to be Richard Olney of Massachusetts, Secretary of State under Grover Cleveland; Paul Warburg of New York, formerly of the firm of Kuhn, Loeb & Co.; Harry A. Wheeler of Chicago, vice-president of the Union Trust Company; W. P. G. Harding of Birmingham, Alabama, president of the First National Bank of that city. Adolph Caspar Miller of San Francisco,

assistant to the Secretary of the Interior; Secretary of the Treasury William G. McAdoo, and Comptroller of the Currency John Skelton Williams are ex-officio members. [See current volume, pages 231, 344.]

In the investigation of affairs of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad it developed on April 29, from the testimony of Oakleigh Thorne, that the road had spent \$11,400,000 furnished by J. P. Morgan & Co. for the New York, Boston and Westchester and the Portchester lines. Mr. Thorne, who helped to engineer the transaction in conjunction with Marsden J. Perry, said they received \$725,000 for their services. Another witness, Frank S. Fowler, examiner for the Inter-State Commerce Commission, testified that more than one million dollars of the \$11,400,000 paid was not accounted for. Mr. Fowler testified further that his investigation showed that the New Haven had run behind \$60,400,000 during the ten years previous to 1912 and had paid dividends which were not earned amounting to \$89,000,000. On May 1 the testimony of Julian M. Tomlinson, former auditor of the New Haven, brought out the fact that in 1904 President Mellen of the company contributed \$50,000 to the Republican national committee and \$6,500 to the Rhode Island Republican State Committee. There were also other political contributions amounting altogether to \$102,000. Officials of the Billard Company, who had previously refused to testify, appeared as witnesses but gave no information of importance. [See current volume, page 374.]

The Senate on April 28 adopted Senator LaFollette's resolution directing the Inter-State Commerce Commission to send to the Senate all communications received "manifestly designed to influence its decision in the freight-rate case." [See current volume, page 417.]

#### Tax Reform News.

An initiative petition was filed with the Oregon Secretary of State on April 27 for a constitutional amendment to "exempt from tax \$1,500 of every person's total assessment of his or her dwelling house, livestock, machinery, etc., used by him or her in making a home or earning a living." Should it be approved at the coming election the Secretary of State is directed to resubmit it in 1916 and again in 1918. The measure has the endorsement of the State Federation of Labor and of Portland labor organizations.

The taxation plank in the Maine Democratic State platform adopted on March 26 is as follows: In view of the fact that our Constitution and the