

witnesses were ably cross-examined by Mr. Clarence Darrow, for the strike leaders. The criminal proceedings actually went to trial and a jury had been selected for the purpose. One of the jurors fell ill, however, and the case was never brought to a second hearing. I was, by reason of my newspaper connection, the principal witness for the government, and I wish to add, as a former member of the Chicago bar, my belief that my testimony, though the most important and essential upon which the prosecution had to rely, was wholly insufficient to warrant either the verdict as given in the contempt proceedings, or any verdict except that of acquittal in the criminal case.

WALLACE RICE.

NEWS NARRATIVE

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, May 25, 1914.

English Politics.

The Home Rule bill passed the House of Commons on May 25 by a vote of 351 to 274. The Unionists refused to debate. Having passed the House twice before in separate sessions, it now becomes law without consent of the Lords.

The Welsh church disestablishment bill passed the House of Commons on the 20th by a vote of 328 to 251. This bill, which has been a source of bitter contention, enjoys the distinction of being the first bill, aside from the budgets, to go upon the statute books under the new parliament act, which permits a bill, when passed three times by the Commons, to become a law in spite of the opposition of the Lords. The non-conformist denominations in Wales have long outnumbered the church people, but the national government has up to this time maintained the state church. [See current volume, page 487.]

The Unionists gained a seat in the Commons for Northeast Derby on the 20th. The Unionist received 6,469 votes, as against 6,155 for the Liberal, and 3,669 for the Laborite. This was a victory for Home Rule, but a defeat for the party. The bye election at Ipswich on the 23d resulted in a clear majority for the Unionist candidate. The Unionist received 6,406, the Liberal 5,784, and the Socialist 395.

Mexico and the United States.

Representatives of Mexico and the United States gathered at Niagara Falls, Canada, on the 20th, under the auspices of the A. B. C. Mediators, the

Ministers of Argentina and Chile, and the Ambassador of Brazil. The Mediators presented to the American delegates for consideration a plan involving: 1. The elimination of Huerta, Carranza and Zapata from the government of Mexico. 2. Creation of a provisional government of a commission character in which shall be represented all the factions to the present conflict. 3. Agreement for a cessation of hostilities. 4. An election to be called and held under the auspices of the provisional government, at which none of the leaders of the factions now contending shall be candidates. [See current volume, page 488.]

The American delegates were disappointed that the land question had not been included. But the Mediators held this to be an internal question with which they had no concern. They were willing to make it a part of the subject if the American and Mexican delegates could agree upon a solution. President Wilson's general directions to the delegates are interpreted in the light of a published interview in which it was said the settled policy of the President in regard to Mexico includes: First. The United States, so long as Mr. Wilson is President, will not seek to gain a foot of Mexican territory in any way or under any pretext. Second. No personal aggrandizement by American investors or adventurers or capitalists, or exploitation of that country will be permitted. Third. A settlement of the agrarian land question by constitutional means—such as that followed in New Zealand, for example—will be insisted on.

The first full conference of the delegates was called on the 23d by the Mediators, at the request of the Mexican delegates. No definite conclusions have been arrived at, but there is a growing feeling of confidence that tangible results will follow. The Mexican delegates seem eager for an early agreement, before the Constitutionalist menace the Capital. All negotiations are conducted in a friendly spirit. The elimination of Huerta, and the inclusion of the land question, seem to be taken for granted.

General Villa, commanding 4,000 men, defeated 4,500 Federals at Pasadon on his way to Saltillo. Nine hundred prisoners were taken, together with 9 pieces of artillery and 1,000,000 rounds of ammunition. The casualties were 49 killed and 109 wounded. Saltillo was evacuated by the Federals on the 20th, after looting the city. Reports are to the effect that the Federals will gather at Queretaro for a final stand. Queretaro, a city of about 40,000, and 110 miles northwest of the City of Mexico, was the scene of Emperor Maximilian's overthrow and execution. It was there also that

the treaty of peace between the United States and Mexico was signed in 1848.

General Villa, with Saltillo in his hands, is prepared to move southward with 25,000 men, striking first Zacatecas and then San Luis Potosi. General Gonzales is preparing to meet Villa with 7,000 veterans from Tampico, and General Obregon on the west coast has cleared the way to an advance into the interior. General Villa is moving his men with discretion, and maintaining easy communications with his base.



General Huerta's position, according to reports, grows daily more strained. Plots and rumors of revolt receive more and more credence. A conspiracy to assassinate the General is said to have been discovered; and numerous arrests followed. Negotiations are under way between Mexican officials and General Funston, in command at Vera Cruz, looking to the rebuilding of the four miles of railroad torn up by the Mexicans at the approach of the Americans.



Roosevelt Returns.

Ex-President Theodore Roosevelt landed in New York on May 19, after a long trip of exploration in South America along the Amazon. He has just recovered from a severe attack of jungle fever which he suffered in the wilderness. He denied the interviews claimed to have been made with him by the Hearst papers, in which he was represented as having declared unwillingness to accept the Presidential nomination from any other than the Republican party. In an interview on May 21 he expressed his intention to aid Gifford Pinchot in his Pennsylvania Senatorial campaign. [See current volume, page 442.]



Investigation of Railroad Mismanagement.

In resuming his testimony before the interstate Commerce Commission on May 19 Charles S. Mellen was cross-examined by Joseph W. Folk. In answering Mr. Folk's questions Mr. Mellen declared that in buying the Westchester road the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad, of which he was then president, threw away \$30,000,000. It paid \$35,000,000 for a road worth no more than \$5,000,000. He placed responsibility for this on the late J. Pierpont Morgan of whom he confessed being in great awe and whose wishes he did not dare oppose. He was proud, he said, to be called "Morgan's man." He said also that Mr. Morgan had made him president of the Northern Pacific railroad. He told on May 21 of buying for \$19,000,000 the property of the Rhode Island Trolley Company in which former Senator Aldrich was interested. This property he said was worth no more than \$8,000,000. His salary as president

was first \$50,000 a year, later was increased to \$60,000, and then reduced to \$54,000. On May 22 he told of relations with the Grand Trunk road which resulted in a criminal indictment for violation of the Sherman anti-Trust law. This indictment, he said, he deliberately brought on himself, to shield J. P. Morgan Sr., to whom, he said, it really belonged. Later when J. P. Morgan Jr. spoke of dismissing him from the presidency, he brought up this service he had done the elder Morgan, who in the meantime had died. He said further that efficiency and economy in railroad management are only possible under absolute regulation and control by the United States Government. [See current volume, page 491.]



Congressional Doings.

The House of Representatives on May 19 adopted a rule limiting to thirty-two hours the debate on the Covington interstate trade commission bill, the Clayton interlocking directorate bill, and the Reycburn railroad stock and bond issue bill. These are the administration's three anti-trust measures. [See current volume, pages 393, 491.]



The Senate on May 15, restored the appropriation to allow congressmen and senators twenty cents a mile for traveling expenses. This item had been stricken out by the House. On May 20 the Senate ratified the Treaty with fourteen foreign governments providing for suppression of offensive literature. [See current volume, pages 393, 439.]



Manufacturers' Association Meeting.

The National Association of Manufacturers in session at New York on May 19 discussed legislation, pending and proposed, bearing on industrial matters. The Mulhall affair has apparently encouraged some members to endeavor to bring about in the association a less hostile attitude toward radical reforms. One speaker, Mr. Howell Cheney, declared that the association had placed itself in the position of defender of special interests through evasion of "the responsibility of finding a solution of the common and general problems." In reporting for the committee on workmen's compensation F. C. Schwedtmann said:

Social legislation is not going to stop at workmen's compensation and accident prevention, nor ought it to stop there. What are we going to do about the minimum wage laws which have been enacted in various States? Are we going to have universal sickness insurance, unemployment insurance, and old age pensions? How about occupational diseases and a legal shorter workday? Is strike insurance desirable? What is our platform upon woman and child labor? What are we doing to counteract the destructive tendencies of the I. W. W.?"