

the colors, are engaging. That is to say, my term of office is for the duration of the war, or for three years if the war should last longer than that. . . .

While other countries engaged in this war have under their systems of compulsory service brought their full resources into the field, we, under our national system, have not been so compelled. Therefore, we still have a vast reserve to draw from the resources of both the mother country and the dominions. . . .

The empire with which we are at war has called to the colors almost its entire male population. The principle we on our part shall observe is this: That while the maximum force undergoes constant diminution the re-enforcements we prepare will steadily and increasingly flow out until we have an army in the field which in numbers will not be less than in quality and not be unworthy of the power and responsibility of the British Empire.

I cannot at this stage say what will be the limits of the force required or what measures may eventually become necessary to supply and maintain it.

The scale of the field army which we are now calling into being is large and may rise in the course of the next six or seven months to a total of thirty divisions to be maintained continually in the field.

But if the war should be protracted and if its fortunes should be varied or adverse, exertions and sacrifices beyond any which have been demanded will be required from the whole nation and empire. And where they are required we are sure they will not be denied to the extreme needs of the state by parliament of the people.



Premier Asquith announced in the House of Commons on the 31st that when Parliament re-assembled September 9th, the government would proceed with the Home Rule and Welsh Disestablishment bills.



#### Election of a New Pope.

The Conclave of Cardinals to elect a new Pope met in the Vatican on August 31. In accordance with custom the door of the conclave hall has been locked, not to be reopened until an election has taken place. All means of communication with the outside world will, until that event, be shut off. [See current volume, page 828.]



#### Mexico and the United States.

A report was published August 30 that General Frederick Funston, in command of the American forces at Vera Cruz, had made a request three days previously for reinforcements. The cause was attributed to friction between Generals Funston and Carranza. The friction was said to have been the result of an order issued by Carranza closing the port of Vera Cruz and suspending train service to the city from interior places. Acting Secretary of War Wotherspoon made a statement on August 31 denying that General Funston had asked for additional troops. The suspension of train service,

Carranza had explained, was due to transportation of troops south of Mexico city, and had already been re-established. [See current volume, page 829.]



General Obregon was reported on August 25 to have been sent to Sonora by General Carranza, ostensibly to smooth out local troubles, but in fact to confer with General Villa and bring about harmony. General Villa has outlined to the United States Government the following two proposals, either of which he is willing to accept: First, a conference of military chiefs to be called as agreed to at the meeting at Torreon when the first Villa-Carranza break was adjusted, one delegate representing every one thousand men in the army; this convention would designate a man to be provisional president who, under the constitution, could not succeed himself, but would call a general election. Second, Carranza can be designated as provisional president by the proposed convention, but he must agree to abide by the constitution and not succeed himself.



#### Washington News.

The Senate on August 29 confirmed the appointment of Attorney General McReynolds to the Supreme Bench by a vote of 44 to 6. By the same vote Thomas Watt Gregory was confirmed as Attorney General. The appointment of Charles F. Clyne as District Attorney of Chicago to succeed James F. Wilkerson was held up pending investigation of a charge that Wilkerson's action in pressing certain cases was the cause of his removal. Wilkerson has been summoned to testify before the Senate committee. The six Senators who voted against confirmation of McReynolds were Clapp of Minnesota, Cummins of Iowa, Norris of Nebraska, Jones of Washington, Poindexter of Washington and Vardaman of Mississippi. [See current volume, page 830].



The bill to create a federal bureau of marine insurance with a \$5,000,000 fund to meet possible losses, passed the House on August 29 by a vote of 230 to 58. The bill had already passed the Senate, but the House amended it before adoption, thus necessitating its return to the Senate. [See current volume, page 830.]



#### Protest Literature to Be Published.

Upton Sinclair, whose address is now Croton-on-Hudson, New York, has issued the following appeal:

I am making a collection of the literature of protest against social injustice, both prose and poetry, from all languages and times. I am looking not merely for socialist material but for anything which voices