

appeared before the naval committee on December 16. He said that the navy is short of about 30,000 men, that it would take months in case of war to get the reserve vessels in fighting shape and that the United States ranks third among the naval powers of the world.

A vigorous fight by Senator La Follette compelled the Senate on December 16 to adopt an amendment to the treaty for safety at sea before ratification. As adopted by the international convention at London January 2, 1914, the treaty was open to such construction as to nullify the pending seamen's bill and regulations regarding immigrants. Senator La Follette's amendment expressly permits such legislation. Since ratification was necessary by December 31, Senator La Follette was able to force adoption of his amendment and in that form the treaty was finally ratified. [See current volume, page 609.]

Popular Government League Convention.

The Second National Conference on Popular Government will be held in Washington on January 4th and 5th next. Headquarters and conference hall at the Willard Hotel. One of the themes to be considered is: "How can the Progressive Elements of all the Parties Get Together for the Control of Government?" The address of the president, Senator Robert L. Owens, of Oklahoma, will show that reactionaries are conducting a nation-wide campaign against popular government measures. Other subjects will be: First, "What is the Matter with the Direct Primary?" Vicious "jokers" in several primary laws which enabled machine politicians to control nominations in the last election will be discussed by men from these states. The short ballot and the preferential ballot as necessary adjuncts to the direct primary will be urged by experts. Second "The Need for an Effective Federal Corrupt Practices Act." Reports showing corruption, coercion, and an excessive use of money in the last campaign will be made by men who know. Third, "The Problem of Publicity." How to get the truth regarding candidates and measures to the voters for intelligent action. Advocates of popular government throughout the country are urged to send representatives. Judson King is executive secretary of the league with headquarters at 1017 Munsey Bldg., Washington. [See vol. xvi., page 1187.]

Mexico.

Brigadier General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the United States army, arrived in Naco, Arizona, on the 20th to endeavor to restore order. He does not supercede General Bliss, but being personally known to both Governor Maytorena

and General Hill, it is thought he may talk them into reason, and avoid the use of force. General Maytorena has promised to fire no shots toward the United States, but insists upon retaining his position in trenches around the city. General Hill continues to fire upon the besiegers.

Small battles in the vicinity of Tampico are said to favor the Carranza troops. The Villa general in charge of San Luis Potosi is reported to have gone over to the Carranza forces and surrendered the city. General Zapata occupies the city of Puebla, the principal place between Mexico City and Vera Cruz, and is pressing on toward Carranza's coast capital. The new government under Provisional President Gutierrez appears to be growing in strength.

The European War.

Reports from the campaign in Poland, while confused and contradictory, appear to favor the Germans, who have advanced their center to within a few miles of Warsaw. The Russian advance on Mlawa is reported checked, and reverses in Galicia are claimed. Serbia, on the other hand, is reported to be free of Austrian troops. In the West the Allies advance at a snail's pace in Belgium and northern France. Three German cruisers crossed the North Sea and shelled three English coast cities, two of which were unfortified. England has proclaimed a British protectorate over Egypt, with Prince Hussein Kemal as Sultan. No decisive action has occurred at any point. [See current volume, page 1212.]

The Campaign in the East.

Confusion, contradiction and uncertainty mark the reports from the Polish campaign. What was announced by the German press as the greatest battle of the war, and the most brilliant victory was reported from Poland on the 17th. Berlin was decorated and the school children given a holiday. Later accounts are less definite in their claims, and agree that a great battle is now in progress thirty miles from Warsaw on the Vistula and the Bzura Rivers. The Russians continue to press their campaign in East Prussia, where they have made slight gains, and in the neighborhood of Cracow. This is taken to indicate that they are not afraid of losing the campaign before Warsaw. The Austrians are reported to have withdrawn all troops from Serbia, but to have made advances in Galicia. Real facts regarding the Eastern campaign are very meager. Nothing at all definite is reported of the Turkish-Russian operations, which are looked upon as of minor importance.