

from \$500 to \$2,500, with limitation of interest payments to deposits of \$1,000. The passage of the bill to pay railroads by space instead of weight for mail carried, increase of second-class rates on publications other than weekly newspapers from one to two cents a pound, co-operation with state governments in road building, substitution of contract star route system for salaried rural carriers and pending this change to base rural carriers' salaries on bulk of mail carried. The parcel post business has vastly increased during the year. [See volume xvi, page 1228; current volume, pages 128, 560, 639, 898, 1045, 1132.]

Secretary of Labor Wilson, in his report on December 13, discussed the bringing together of the jobless men and the manless job. He declared the cause of labor disputes to be "excess in the supply of labor over demand." "The jobless man," he said, "puts all wage workers at a disadvantage in bargaining with employers." "If there were a profitable manless job for every jobless man the complete remedy for industrial disputes would be to bring the two together." So complete a correspondence may or may not exist, but it certainly exists in some degree. The Department had found manless jobs for the jobless victims of the Salem fire. He said further:

Of course, the labor problem cannot be solved by ameliorative plans such as are here proposed unless the causes of involuntary unemployment are unbelievably superficial and vulnerable; but with seasonal variations of employment nationally adjusted with accidental disturbances to employment nationally provided for, with individual delinquencies in respect of employment better understood by national public opinion, and with such ameliorations of industrial distress as this department is now preparing to offer, a right beginning will have been made. This work will at least clear the way for dealing effectively with the deep rooted and more stubborn and general causes of involuntary unemployment which thoughtful observers of modern industrial conditions seem to recognize in one form or another.

He believed that the coal and copper strikes would not have taken place had the owners been personally on the ground and dealt with the strike situation at its inception. While the workman may have some responsibility for what has happened "the local management can not be wholly acquitted" and "ultimate responsibility must rest upon the owners." The work done in the way of mediation and conciliation, the Secretary considered the most important accomplishment of his Department. [See vol. xvi, pages 1042, 1105, 1047; current volume, pages 35, 156, 210, 251, 403, 419, 708, 879, 947, 1140.]

#### Interstate Commerce Commission.

In its annual report to Congress on December

10 the Interstate Commerce Commission recommended legislation to control railway capitalization, compulsory use of steel cars in passenger trains and prohibition of use of wooden cars between or ahead of steel cars, legislation explicitly defining the authority of the Commission to examine all documents and records of railroads and to fix a definite period in which legal action may be started regarding transportation charges. [See current volume, page 1165.]

A brief was filed in the Supreme Court on December 11 by Solicitor Joseph W. Folk for the Interstate Commerce Commission in its suit against the Louisville and Nashville railroad for denying its agents access to its books and records. [See current volume, page 326.]

Representatives of Chicago packers appeared before the Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington on December 12 to protest against a proposed increase of freight rates, scheduled to go into effect on December 16, on fresh meat and packing house products, of from 20 to 70 per cent from Chicago to eastern points. They asked that the raise be suspended pending investigation. On December 14 the Commission ordered the rates suspended until April 14. [See current volume, page 1144.]

#### Doings in Congress.

Senator La Follette declared to the Senate on December 12 that he will oppose ratification of the international agreement respecting safety at sea, unless an amendment be added leaving this country free to legislate in such a way as to provide greater safety at sea than the agreement insures. [See current volume, pages 609, 843.]

The Rules Committee of the House on December 12 decided to allow consideration by the House before the Christmas adjournment of the Mondell equal suffrage resolution and of the Hobson prohibition resolution. [See current volume, pages 658, 1113.]

#### Congressman Lewis Will Fight for Postal Telephones.

Congressman David J. Lewis of Maryland, father of the parcel post, announced in a public interview on December 3 his intention to make a fight for postalization of the telephone during this session. Speaking on this matter Lewis said:

President Vail, of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, has said: "There is a road to every man's house; there ought to be a telephone inside." But society, not private monopoly, built