

that it will not violate the Hay-Pauncefote treaty if we make the ship trust pay tolls. Why, then, dig into a mass of material to learn what Mr. Secretary So-and-So did, or thought? Why bother about the opinion of Lord High-Muck-a-Muck? Is it of any consequence that Ambassador Goldlace was of this or that view? Pass up the statement of Chargé d' Affaires Whatthisname. Save the labor of learning what statesmen, from the time of Henry Clay to John Jones thought of such matters as "neutralization." Free tolls will not violate the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. They will violate democratic principles. They will violate sound economic policy. Why worry, then? Get down to brass tacks. Are you a democrat or are you not? If you do not believe in subsidies, if you do not believe in mixing up government with business, then you cannot believe in free tolls. Free tolls is a subsidy. Everybody admits that. Free tolls would make a powerful interest dependent on government, Free tolls would make the powerful interest "take a hand" in elections. Quit all this talk. Count noses. See how many democrats of all parties there are. If you haven't got enough, then lie down. But anyhow, shut up.

ALFRED H. HENDERSON.

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 Tuesday, May 5, 1914.

The Colorado War.

President Wilson's proclamation ordering disarmament in the Colorado strike region and dispersing of the belligerents, did not receive prompt obedience. An attack was made on April 29 on the property of the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company at Forbes, and a fierce battle ensued. Most of the mine buildings were destroyed, seven employes of the company were killed, as also was one of the attacking party. Three hundred Federal soldiers, under command of Major W. W. Holbrook, reached Trinidad on April 30, and peace appears to have been at once established. Major Holbrook conferred with both sides and reported that he had received assurances of co-operation in restoring order. While there has since been no fighting, neither side has yet disarmed. On May 2, Secretary of War Garrison issued a proclamation calling upon individuals, firms, associations and corporations in the strike zone to give up their arms. These will be returned when order has been completely restored. Additional troops were also ordered into the district. [See current volume, page 416.]



The coroner's jury at Trinidad, investigating

the killing of women and children at Ludlow, returned a verdict on May 2 as follows:

We, the jury, find that the deceased came to their deaths by asphyxiation, or fire, or both, caused by the burning of the tents of the Ludlow tent colony, and that the fire in the tents was started by militiamen under Major Hamrock and Lieutenant Linderfelt, or mine guards, or both, on the twentieth day of April, 1914.

In the case of the men and a twelve-year-old boy who were killed, the jury found that they—

came to their death by bullet wounds in the battle between militiamen under Major Hamrock and Lieut. Linderfelt and mine guards on one side and strikers on the other, said battle held in or about Ludlow on the twentieth day of April, 1914.



A military commission appointed by Adjutant General John B. Chase also submitted a report on the Ludlow affair on May 2. The commission's finding differs from that of the coroner's jury in that it declares that Louis Tikas, the Greek strike leader, had been taken prisoner by the militia together with two other men and that all three had been deliberately shot while in custody. The report blames the coal operators, saying that they had "established in American industrial communities a class of ignorant, lawless and savage South European peasants." It further declares that the tents were set on fire through accident, but goes on to say:

We find, however, that not all the tents were destroyed by accidental fire. Men and soldiers swarmed into the colony and deliberately assisted the conflagration by spreading the fire from tent to tent. Beyond doubt it was seen to intentionally that the fire should destroy the whole of the colony. This, too, was accompanied by the usual loot. Men and soldiers seized and took from the tents whatever appealed to their fancy. So deliberate was this burning and loot that we find cans of oil, found in the tents, were poured upon them and tents lit with matches.



On April 28 a statement was given to the press by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Therein he declared that the interests he represented were merely those of minority stockholders and that all of the demands of the strikers had been granted prior to the beginning of the strike, with the exception of unionizing of the mines. This demand could not be granted because it would be done at the behest, "not of employes, less than 10 per cent of whom are union men, but at the demand of an outside body." He denied opposition to the right of labor to organize but said, "We do assert the right of an individual to work independently of a union if he so elects." If his company were to agree to the demand to unionize "all of its loyal non-union employes numbering several thousand—more than

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-