

pressed with vigor. A severe engagement was fought on the fifth and sixth, but details have not been given. The Constitutionals are reported to have taken Escuela Monte and Dona Cecilia, about two miles from Tampico; and to have mounted two heavy guns commanding the harbor.



The habeas corpus proceedings brought in behalf of the 3,600 Mexicans who surrendered to the United States soldiers at Presidio, Texas, after General Villa had driven them out of Ojinaga, and who have since been confined at Ft. Bliss, Texas, have been decided adversely by United States Judge Meek.



John Lind, President Wilson's personal representative in Mexico, left Vera Cruz on the 6th for Washington. His visit is announced as a vacation for rest and health, with no political significance. He will return to his post.



Congress convened in Mexico City on the 1st. In his message President Huerta commented with bitterness on the difficulties his government had had in obtaining money, owing to "the influence exercised by the strange attitude of a certain power toward Mexico." President Huerta denies that Torreon has fallen, and maintains the strictest censorship on all news. Apparently, no military preparations are under way in the capital to counteract the Constitutionalist success.



Protest Against War.

According to the Cleveland Press of March 30 the following address to President Wilson is being circulated and has received many signatures:

To His Excellency, the President of the United States:

The women of this country want to congratulate you upon the stand you have taken in this trying Mexican situation.

We want you to stand firm in your decision to bend every effort to prevent this threatened conflict. As mothers, wives and sweethearts of the boys who will have to offer up their lives if war is declared, we petition you to do this.

It is not honor that backs the demand for war—it is greed. Moneyed men and corporations would barter the lives of thousands of American soldiers to increase the value of Mexican investments. The women of the United States call on you to help us save our husbands from this danger, our sons from this peril, our sweethearts from this conspiracy. Prevent war with Mexico at any cost.



Direct Legislation in Mississippi.

The legislature of Mississippi at its regular session which closed March 28 passed an Initia-

tive and Referendum Amendment to the State Constitution, which will be voted upon by the people at the general election November 3, 1914. The amendment is entirely free from "jokers" and is declared to be one of the best yet produced. It is an improved form of the Oregon plan. The direct form of the Initiative is used, and Initiative petitions for either statute laws or Constitutional Amendments must be signed by 7,500 qualified voters; Referendum petitions by 6,000 voters. The emergency clause is carefully guarded, measures are to be adopted or rejected by a majority of the vote cast thereon, and legal proceedings against petitions and court action thereon well defined. The amendment was introduced and championed by Representative N. A. Mott of Yazoo City. In drafting the measure and in the legislative campaign for its submission he had the active assistance of Judson King, executive secretary of the National Popular Government League, of Washington, D. C., who spent three weeks in the work at the special request of the Farmer's Union members of the House and Senate.



The Mississippi method of amending the State Constitution is extremely difficult. A proposed amendment must be passed by a two-thirds vote on each of three separate legislative days in each house. To be adopted it must get a majority of all votes cast for candidates in a regular election. It then requires an act of the succeeding legislature to insert it in the Constitution.



Before leaving Jackson, Mr. King assisted in organizing the People's Rule League of Mississippi, with Mr. Mott as executive secretary, which will undertake the difficult task of securing the enormous majority required for the adoption of the Amendment. The State league has affiliated with the National Popular Government League, which will aid in the campaign. The State league declared also for the Presidential primary urged by President Wilson, and for the "Gateway Amendment" to the Federal Constitution.



The Labor War.

At a district meeting of the Western Federation of Miners at Calumet, Michigan, on April 1, it was decided to continue the copper strike indefinitely. [See current volume, page 301.]



Nearly every coal mine in Ohio closed down on March 31, throwing about 50,000 miners out of employment. The cause is a law passed at the recent session of the Ohio legislature providing for

the payment of miners on a run-of-the-mine basis instead of the screen payment plan.

Judges Baldwin, McGoorty and Windes of Chicago on April 6 enjoined the Waitresses' Union from picketing in front of the Henrici restaurant, against which a boycott has been declared, or from any way interfering with the business. The judges refused to enjoin the union from printing circulars announcing that a boycott had been declared. A cross-petition by the union was denied which asked an injunction against the Restaurant Keepers' Association and the police of Chicago from interfering with the union. [See current volume, page 301.]

A petition for a writ of habeas corpus in behalf of "Mother" Jones was offered to the Supreme Court of Colorado on April 3. The court was asked to take original jurisdiction in the matter since the lower court denied a similar petition offered at the time of "Mother" Jones' previous arrest, and an appeal therefrom was pending on her release. [See current volume, page 277.]

Testifying at Washington on April 6 before the House Committee on Mines, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., said that his father owned 40 per cent of the stock in the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company and that he and three other directors represented this interest. He knew nothing, he said, of conditions in the strike district except from reports of local agents. He considered the fight against the unions as a contest in behalf of free labor, and that he and his associates would rather lose their entire investment "than that American workingmen should be deprived of the right to work for whom they pleased." While ordinarily in favor of arbitration he was opposed to such submission of the question of unionizing the mines. After further discussion of this point he finally said that he would consider arbitration of the dispute provided fair and unbiased arbitrators could be secured. Federal judges seemed to him to be best qualified for that function. He could see no analogy between labor unions and combinations of capital. [See current volume, page 301.]

Politics in South Africa.

That South African public sentiment responds ultimately to an appeal for justice is evident from the fact that in the Transvaal Provincial Council where Labor had two members previous to the recent elections, it now has twenty-three, while the Unionists, formerly in the majority, now have two members. This leads the Labor men to think the general election will give them instead of six out of 121 in the Assembly, at least forty. And

should the Labor Party obtain an absolute majority in Parliament, it proposes to inaugurate a bold program, including the removal of property and sex disqualifications, the improvement of elementary education, free secondary education, establishment of proportional representation and the taxation of land values.

English Politics.

A more conciliatory spirit has followed the army trouble. Premier Asquith held one political meeting in his district of East Fife, in which he took his stand squarely on the Home Rule bill. He declared the bill not only just but generous, and expressed the keenest desire for an amicable settlement. The talk of a federal form of government to include Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England was given fresh impetus by the endorsement of Sir Edward Grey, Secretary of Foreign Affairs. Sir Edward Carson makes it the basis for the permanent exclusion of Ulster until a federal plan has been introduced. [See current volume, page 324.]

An amendment to reject the Home Rule bill was defeated in the Commons on the 6th, by a majority of 80, after which, without division the bill was for the third time given its second reading. If it shall pass the third reading the bill will become law without the assent of the Lords.

The changed attitude of the Unionists and Ulstermen can best be understood from the London Daily News and Leader's account of the meeting of Parliament on the 24th. The discussion was on the mutinous army officers, and the high tension reached a passionate climax when John Ward, a Labor member sitting as a Liberal, rose to reply to the men who had tampered with the army in their efforts to oppose Parliament with force:

"If you want force," said Mr. Ward, in a voice that rang out, though hoarse it was with passion, "if you want it—my class will fight you tomorrow. If it is to be the point of the bayonet, we are ready."

Mr. Ward held up a newspaper—a leaflet—and read: "Comrades"—so, in effect, ran the recital—"watch this Home Rule business. The army is being taught to choose whether it will or will not obey orders. Watch and wait, brothers."

"There," cried Mr. Ward, "is the voice of Syndicalism. You and the Syndicalists are one. You preach rebellion for your purposes. They preach it for theirs. And if flesh and blood is still to be sold cheap, we'll tell the soldier, 'Never fire a shot against your own class.'"

How the officers had taught the lesson of "class consolidation," how they had become "the tools of the possessing class," how Mr. Balfour and Mr. Bonar Law, if in office, could never again use soldiers against strikers, and how the Curragh out-