

ted against this government by General Huerta and his representatives." The Senate passed the resolution on April 22 by a vote of 72 to 13.

Vera Cruz was taken by the fleet under Admiral Fletcher on April 21. Four Americans and 200 Mexicans are reported killed and twenty Americans wounded.

General Carranza and General Villa met in Chihuahua on the 20th to discuss future policies. This is the first meeting of the two men in four years, but there was every appearance of friendliness and accord. It was given out after the conference that the revolution would be prosecuted regardless of the action of the United States, so long as Constitutional territory was not invaded or threatened.

Six days' fighting between the Federals who evacuated Torreon, and the troops under General Villa, reported to number 12,000 of the former, and 10,000 of the latter, ended in the routing of the Federals at San Pedras de las Colinas, forty miles east of Torreon. The final battle was very severe, and is reported to have resulted in 5,000 killed and wounded.

#### Militaristic Measure Held Up.

The Hay bill which passed the House December 3, 1913, was suddenly reported out of the committee on Military Affairs to the Senate with some amendments on April 20 by Senator Chamberlain of Oregon, chairman. The bill makes the militia of each State subject to call for service as part of the regular army. It gives the President, instead of the Governors, authority to appoint volunteer officers. Militia organizations would be taken over bodily with their officers. The Senate promptly passed the bill without opposition. But before it could be sent to conference, Senator Reed of Missouri moved a reconsideration and this probably will delay final action for several days. [See vol. xvi, p. 1188.]

#### Miscellaneous Congressional Doings.

Chairman Clayton of the House Judiciary Committee introduced on April 14 a revised administration anti-trust bill. It contains a prohibition of interlocking directorates described as being less drastic than any formerly proposed. Banks of less than \$2,500,000 capital are excepted from its provisions. It allows a corporation to acquire the stock of a competitor for investment purposes, but not to such an extent as to create a monopoly. It provides that labor unions and other mutual organizations "not having capital stock or conducted for profit" shall not be re-

strained from carrying out their "legitimate objects." But they may be prosecuted if they commit acts held by the bill to be illegal. The bill establishing an Interstate Trade Commission with very limited powers of control over corporations doing an interstate business was favorably reported to the House on the same day by the Committee on Inter-State Commerce. [See current volume, page 275.]

The House on April 17 put an end to the allowance of twenty cents a mile for traveling expenses to members of Congress. This allowance has been the custom ever since the formation of the Government. The appropriation just made, however, only allows members actual traveling expenses.

Oscar S. Straus, Secretary of Commerce and Labor during Roosevelt's administration, appeared before the Senate Committee on Inter-Oceanic Canals on April 15, to urge repeal of the tolls exemption clause of the Panama Canal act. He held the exemption to be an indefensible subsidy to the coastwise shipping trust and a violation of the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty. He declared that the exemption would not lower rates but would give to the shipping trust \$1,500,000 or \$2,000,000 annually. [See current volume, page 323.]

#### English Politics.

Little or no progress in the Home Rule movement is apparent. The Unionists in general are still humble from their blunder, but Sir Edward Carson is fast recovering his fighting spirit and is busily engaged in drilling his Ulster volunteers. Premier Asquith, upon his re-entry into Parliament after his election for East Fife, was greeted with an inspiring ovation. [See current volume, page 369.]

The Independent Labor party, at the closing session of its annual conference at Bradford on the 14th, adopted a resolution by a vote of 233 to 78, instructing the Labor members in Parliament to act independently of the Liberal party. Cabinet rule was denounced by the resolution, as suppressing the right of individual members of Parliament to voice the policy of his party. Members of the Labor party in the House of Commons were requested to vote on all issues in accordance with the principles of the party. A resolution to readmit the Socialist party to the ranks of the Labor party was voted down.

#### The Labor War.

"Mother" Jones was released on April 16 from military imprisonment at Walsenburg, Colorado. The Supreme Court had cited General Chase to

produce her on April 17 for a habeas corpus hearing. But Governor Ammons recalled the militia from Walsenburg, which ended martial law there and automatically released all military prisoners. It is doubtful now whether the Supreme Court will proceed with the case. On being released "Mother" Jones left for Denver at once. A request was made of the court by her attorneys on April 20 that it proceed with the hearing in spite of her release. [See current volume, page 372.]



What is described as a battle between militia and strikers in the Ludlow strike district of southern Colorado took place on April 20. Associated Press reports concerning the affair are so vague as to indicate that a number of important details are unknown, or have been withheld. All that is definitely stated is to the effect that the battle lasted fourteen hours, that the militia swept the strikers' tent colony with a machine gun, that the tents were all destroyed and that thirteen persons were killed, including eleven strikers, one non-combatant and one soldier.



In behalf of the twenty-seven labor leaders sentenced for complicity in a dynamite conspiracy a delegation of Senators and Representatives called on President Wilson on April 16. They urged him to request Attorney General McReynolds to secure a reprieve from the Circuit Court of Appeals at Chicago. [See current volume, page 301.]



#### Tax Reform News.

The proposed Home Rule in Taxation Amendment to the California Constitution was endorsed on April 8 by the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco. This action was taken after discussion of two committee reports, one favorable and the other hostile. [See vol. xvi, p. 1213.]



Horace Hervey and Louis Josephson, imprisoned in Trenton, New Jersey, since February 13 for non-payment of poll tax, were released on April 16 on account of payment of the tax for them by some unknown individual. [See current volume, page 253.]



A taxation amendment to the Ohio Constitution to be submitted through initiative petition has been prepared by the State Board of Commerce. It limits tax levies to ten mills unless voters authorize an increase. Property is classified for taxation into real estate, tangible personalty and intangible personalty. In its announcement the

State Board says: "This Amendment makes the Singletax impossible because writing classification into the Constitution precludes the adoption of Singletax, and with a one per cent tax limit Singletax will not produce revenue enough to support government. The amendment does not seek to exempt bonds from taxation."

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## NEWS NOTES

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—A bust of the late William T. Stead, the English writer who was lost on the Titanic two years ago, has been unveiled in the Palace of Peace at The Hague.

—Frank McLees of Rutherford, New Jersey, well-known as an advocate of Singletax, was on April 7 appointed by Governor Fielder a member of the Bergen County Tax Board.

—A proposed increase of two per cent in freight rates between the Middle West and the Atlantic Coast was suspended on April 17 by the Interstate Commerce Commission pending investigation, until August 13.

—Mayor Mitchel of New York City was shot at on April 17 by a demented man named Michael P. Mahoney. The bullet missed the Mayor, but slightly wounded Corporation Counsel Frank Polk, who was with him at the time.

—Germany's toy production amounts to \$29,750,000 annually, of which \$21,420,000 worth are exported, and \$8,330,000 are used at home. France manufactures about \$9,520,000, and the United States about the same amount.

—Under orders of the Interstate Commerce Commission passenger rates on all railroads will be re-adjusted to conform with the long and short haul provisions of the law. The new rates will become effective on May 1, and according to reports will result in a general reduction of tariffs.

—The Federal grand jury at Washington returned indictments on April 16 against four of the witnesses who refused to testify to the Interstate Commerce Commission concerning relations of the Billard Company with the New York, New Haven and Hartford railway. [See current volume, page 374.]

—The Supreme Court of the United States upheld on April 20 the right of a State to regulate insurance rates. The decision related to the fire insurance law of Kansas. In dissenting Justice Lamar declared that the decision upheld in fact the right of a State to fix the price of every article on the market.

—Lee Merriwether, former State Labor Commissioner of Missouri, announces his candidacy for the Democratic Congressional nomination from the Twelfth district, in the city of St. Louis, at the primary on August 4. In his declaration of principles, Mr. Merriwether opposes toll exemptions and other subsidies, endorses President Wilson's policy, denounces protective tariffs and declares for the initiative, referendum, direct primaries, old age pen-