

values in every speech is taken as an earnest that this reform will occupy an important place in the Government's land policy. But the best evidence of the popularity of the subject lies in the concessions made by the Conservatives. They are doing the Chancellor of the Exchequer the honor of imitating his program. Whereas, three months ago they were denouncing Lloyd George for his proposed relief of town tenants as interfering with freedom of contract, they now admit the need of legislation to give tenants security of tenure, compensation for improvements, and relief from unreasonable covenants.



Militarism in Sweden.

The Russification of Finland, and the discovery of Russian espionage in Sweden has made acute the question of national defense in the latter country. On the 6th a great demonstration was made at Stockholm in behalf of the increase of Swedish armaments. King Gustave said that the problem of defense was one to be solved at once. This speech led to serious friction in the cabinet. On the 8th thirty thousand Socialists held a demonstration in front of the government offices in opposition to increased armaments. They demanded that the ministers should work instead for peace and fraternity. The premier, M. Staaf, replied that in spite of his deep sympathy in the cause of international peace, he felt it was absolutely necessary for the Swedish people to make new and great sacrifices for the defense of the country.



China's Waning Liberties.

President Yuan Shi Kai on the 3d dissolved all the district councils in the provinces of China. Each district council consisted of the chief official of the province, known as the controller, who took the place of the governor under the old rule, four administrative officials appointed by him, and ten members of the provincial assembly elected by ballot. Its duties were to investigate bills passed by the assemblies, and to veto them if it saw fit. The provincial assemblies consist of a minimum of fifty members and a maximum of 100, according to the population of the province. Their powers are confined to local legislation, control of the local budget, and the collection of provincial taxes. A mandate is reported to be in preparation by the President to disperse these provincial assemblies. Should this be done, there will be little left of the Republic but the name. [See current volume, page 134.]



The Labor War.

Testimony regarding the killing of two striking miners, Aloise Tijan and Steve Putrich, at Houghton, Michigan, was taken on February 5

and 6 in the trial of the deputies and Waddell-Mahon men charged with their murder. At the time of the shooting on August 11, the men were at the home of Mrs. Antonio Putrich in Seeberville. Seven witnesses testified that the firing was all from outside of the house, and none of it done by any one within. One of the witnesses, Sanko Stepeck, who had been shot in the arm, testified that the officers, who had come to make arrests, started to beat one of their prisoners, John Kollun; that one of them also struck him and pointed a gun at him. He ran into the house when he heard firing, and was himself shot. Mrs. Putrich also testified regarding the shooting, and said the powder from the officers' pistols had burned the face of a baby she was holding in her arms. [See current volume, page 132.]



Albert Jay Nock, after investigating conditions in the copper region, gives the result of his investigation in the Detroit Saturday Night of January 31. Mr. Nock declares that there is much misrepresentation concerning the strike. He says the operators have conceded everything except recognition of the Western Federation of Miners, and that their reason for refusing this is belief that "the Federation is bent on carrying out the doctrine of confiscation of private property, especially of private property in natural resources." The Calumet and Hecla company, he says, has produced enormous dividends, but none of the other mines have paid as well. The whole question, he says, is "whether the United States will or will not continue to acquiesce in an industrial despotism," which potentially exists in unlimited private ownership of natural resources, although he has no reason to believe that unusual benevolence has not been employed in exercising the despotism. That the constitution is not in force in the copper country, he considers a fair statement. He declares the deportation of Moyer to have been without justification, and that it should create sympathy for the Western Federation.



Congressional investigation of strike conditions in Michigan began at Hancock on February 9. Attorney O. N. Hilton, for the Western Federation, in his opening address declared that many of the miners had worked for years at starvation wages, and that miners had to trade at certain stores to obtain work. A. L. Rees, counsel for the operators, denied the truth of Mr. Hilton's statements, placed responsibility for the strike on the Western Federation, which only represented 25 per cent of the miners. The first witness told of having gone to work in the mines when eleven years old for twenty dollars a month, which was later reduced to eighteen. The pay envelope of another miner, introduced as evidence, showed \$1.61 for

twenty-six days' work in June, 1910. From this \$1.50 was deducted for the hospital and the air fund. Chairman Taylor of the investigating subcommittee read a letter from Governor Ferris of Michigan, declining to attend the hearings, and saying that his own investigation had showed that elimination of the Western Federation would have ended the dispute long ago.



Congressional investigation of the Colorado strike situation also began on February 9, at Denver. The first witness, Eli Gross, superintendent of the State Free Employment Bureau, charged that peonage is practiced in the coal fields. He also declared that prisoners are mistreated by the military authorities. One man arrested as a suspect, he said, was kept awake five days and nights. Edward V. Brake, deputy labor commissioner, testified as to illegal practices of employers. On being asked why he did not prosecute he is said to have answered: "Most of these cases are in Las Animas and Huerfano counties. You can't prosecute anybody in those counties. Jeff Farr, the sheriff of Huerfano county, selects the jury, and they're picked to convict or acquit, as the case may be." [See current volume, page 108.]



The right of military authorities to arbitrarily arrest and detain individuals in connection with strike troubles was upheld at Trinidad, Colorado, on February 4, by Judge A. W. McHendrie, in denying a writ of habeas corpus. "Mother Jones," still held as a military prisoner at Trinidad, became ill on February 9. Her physician, Dr. Harvey, declares that the troops denied him permission to attend her.



In the first annual report of the Department of Labor on February 3, Secretary Wilson recommends that Congress regulate interstate transportation of arms and armed men during labor difficulties. He declared the use of firearms to be a species of private warfare. Conditions in Michigan and Colorado were used as examples. He further asked that Congress define more clearly the function of the Department in mediation of labor disputes.



In an address at Springfield, Massachusetts, on February 8, Secretary Wilson opposed compulsory arbitration, holding it "contrary to the spirit of human freedom." "Peace will come," he said, "whenever the problem of distribution is solved. Within the last 150 years the problem of production has been practically mastered, but methods of equitable distribution still are to be devised. When that is done and the spirit of fair play has been

absorbed by both capital and labor the world will have industrial peace."

NEWS NOTES

—The funeral of Congressman Robert G. Bremner of New Jersey took place at Passaic on February 9. [See this Public at page 149.]

—The Kenyon bill aimed at the red light district of Washington was signed by President Wilson on February 7. [See current volume, page 134.]

—Bernardino Machado, former Portuguese Ambassador to Brazil, has formed a new cabinet at the request of President Manoel de Arriaga, to replace the ministry that resigned January 27. [See current volume, page 37.]

—A Lincoln's birthday dinner at New York will be given on February 12 by the Women's Henry George League. Arrangements are in charge of Miss Amy Mali Hicks, 400 West 23d street. The dinner will be at 987 Eighth avenue. Among the speakers will be John S. Crosby, Mrs. Alice Thacher Post, Dr. John Lovejoy Elliot and Frank Stephens.

—To obtain commission government for Kansas City, Mo., the Non-Partisan Commission Government League of that city decided on February 2 to circulate an initiative petition for an amendment to the State Constitution, removing all restrictions against such reform. Initiative, Referendum, Recall, Preferential Vote, non-partisan ballot and civil service reform are included in the League's plans.

—Four anti-Sullivan candidates for United States Senator from Illinois attended the banquet of the Wilson-Bryan League on February 9 at Springfield. These were John Z. White, Carl Vrooman, Frank D. Comerford and W. Duff Piercy. Senator Robert L. Owen of Oklahoma was present and delivered an address calling attention to the need of the preferential vote in a direct primary. Committees on campaign and organization were named. [See current volume, pages 34, 99.]

—Appointment to the Interstate Commerce Commission of Winthrop Moore Daniels of New Jersey and Henry Clay Hall of Colorado were sent to the Senate on February 3 by President Wilson for confirmation. An attempt to act promptly was prevented by Senator Cummins on February 4, who declared he spoke for Senator La Follette also. A number of protests against confirmation are said to have been received, according to which both Daniels and Hall are declared to be reactionary Democrats.

—Three initiative petitions under the Public Policy law have been filed in Chicago to be voted on at the city election on April 7. One, known as the comprehensive subway plan and backed by William R. Hearst and the city administration, calls for a \$130,000,000 bond issue to build a subway system throughout the city. The second, known as the initial subway plan and favored by other than Hearst papers, calls for the expenditure of \$14,000,000 already in the city's traction fund, to build subways in the downtown district for surface cars, the object being to relieve congestion of traffic within the "loop." The