

tration treaties. These were with Great Britain, Japan, Italy, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Portugal and Switzerland. [See current volume, page 559.]



Alaskan Railroad Bill Passes House.

The House of Representatives on February 18 passed a bill authorizing the President to construct a \$35,000,000 railroad in Alaska from the coast to the coal fields. The vote was 230 to 87. This is not the same bill that has passed the Senate. It differs from the Senate measure in amount authorized to be spent, the Senate bill providing for a \$40,000,000 bond issue. The House bill furthermore while authorizing expenditure only appropriates one million and does not, as did the Senate bill, provide for financing the building of the road by land sales. A conference committee of the two houses is expected to smooth out differences. [See current volume, pages 97, 105, 146.]



The Labor War.

Against the objections of Congressman Switzer the sub-committee investigating the Michigan strike situation admitted as testimony on February 17 the statement of a striker, Waino Wyreno, that he had been searched and beaten by one of a crowd of members of the Citizens' Alliance, who, acting as a sheriff's posse, were on December 11, raiding the headquarters of the Western Federation of Miners at South Range. On the same day, former Congressman Victor Berger testified, denying that Socialism was responsible for the strike. On February 18 more witnesses told of having been searched and ill treated during the raid at South Range. One witness, Charles Makkinen, declared that deputies invaded his home on the night of December 2, got him out of bed and took him handcuffed to jail at Houghton. He was released the next day, but on returning home, found some articles of value missing. Another witness, Peter Martenelli, who had been arrested on December 10, on suspicion of shooting, said that deputies had beaten him severely in the presence of Sheriff Cruse, until the latter ordered them to desist. Congressman Switzer protested against admitting this testimony also, but was overruled. On February 19 more testimony by strikers was given, telling of arbitrary raids, arrests and ill treatment by sheriff's deputies, and charging the latter with looting houses while the occupants were in jail. On February 20 a number of men imported to take the place of strikers testified that they had been told before coming that the strike was over. A guard was placed over them and they were not allowed to go more than twenty feet from the camp. George Mahtsim, an Armenian, in behalf of thirty-seven others of his countrymen, had demanded to be paid, and to be

given transportation to Chicago. He declared that James McNaughton, general manager of the Calumet and Hecla, thereupon ordered another man "to fix him up." He was put on a train by deputies, but not having been paid, he jumped off and was then beaten, arrested and sent to jail for thirty days on the charge of creating a disturbance. His conviction, he said, was on the testimony of strikers. On February 23 witnesses told of the actions of militiamen in interfering with strikers' parades and brutally treating participants. [See current volume, page 176.]



The Federal Department of Labor on February 23 arrested six Roumanian laborers of the Calumet and Hecla mining company at Houghton, Michigan, on the charge of being foreign contract laborers.



The Supreme Court of Colorado on February 18 denied the petition for the writ of habeas corpus in behalf of "Mother" Jones, held without warrant, as a prisoner by Adjutant General Chase at Trinidad. The decision was rendered by a vote of five to two. [See current volume, page 177.]



The only testimony of importance reported given this week before the congressional committee investigating the Colorado strike was on February 23. B. W. Snodgrass, mine superintendent of the Delagua camp of the Victor American Coal Co., denied charges of peonage, and declared no strikers had been shot in that camp. [See current volume, page 177.]



An increase in wages was granted by the federal arbitration board on February 19 to trainmen of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy. But the increase awarded is not equal to what the men had asked or expected, and much dissatisfaction is reported. The award establishes the following minimum monthly wage: passenger conductors, \$134.20; baggagemen, \$80.85; brakemen and flagmen, \$74.80. On suburban trains the minimum is to be, conductors, \$112.80; collectors, \$85; brakemen, \$72. On freight trains conductors are to receive 4.75 cents per mile, and brakemen 3.25 per mile. One hundred miles or less, ten hours or less to constitute a day.



Chicago Schools.

The Chicago Board of Education failed by a tie vote on February 18 to approve the course of study for the schools as outlined and recommended, after consultation with principals and teachers, by the Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Ella Flagg Young. The reason urged against the plan was, that not enough attention was given to "fun-