

the American Government is massing men and ships near Vera Cruz and other ports leading to the interior with a view to preserving order when the government falls.



Germany and Its Army.

The courtmartial that considered the charges against the commanding officers in the Zabern garrison has returned a verdict of acquittal. Charges of arbitrary subversion of civil authority and of individual brutality were substantiated by good witnesses, and were tactily admitted by the judge-advocate, when he sought to mitigate the court's rigor by asking a sentence of seven days' imprisonment for Colonel von Reuter, and three days' imprisonment for Lieutenant Schad. But the court, recurring to the almost forgotten decree of 1820, which authorized the military commander to assume control whenever in his judgment it was necessary, approved the very acts that the Imperial Chancellor, Von Bethmann-Hollweg, in December declared to be unquestionably illegal. [See vol. xvi, p. 1212; current volume, page 1.]



This is a triumph for the army, but it is likely to end in arousing the people. The parties that put through the vote of nonconfidence in the Reichstag at the time of the trouble in Alsace between the garrison and the citizens are lining up in defense of constitutional principles. Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg is again defiant of his liberal critics, which means a further tightening of the lines between the people and the military.



Chinese Affairs.

Parliament was formally dissolved on the 11th by proclamation of President Yuan Shi Kai. This is the end of a Parliament that from lack of capable leaders and a coherent policy has been impotent from the beginning. The supreme control now rests in the hands of the President and the administrative council. The council was established by Yuan, November 12, and consists of 71 members made up from governors of provinces, military men, and members of the cabinet. President Yuan's latest proclamation says that Parliament will be reconvened in due course of time. [See vol. xvi, p. 1114, current volume, page 37.]



Z. F. How, founder and managing director of the Commercial Press, Shanghai, is reported assassinated on the 11th. He was an active, aggressive man who from a small printing office is said to have built up the finest printing house in Asia. Many educational works have been issued from this house, which have contributed toward the enlightenment of the people.

South African Labor Trouble.

Scarcely was the conflict between the whites and Hindus of Natal brought within bounds, with a prospect of peaceful solution, than the embers of discord in the Johannesburg mining region were fanned into flame, and the strike extended into the other mining camps, with a general strike imminent. The trouble already includes the railway employes; and the other unions are balloting on the question of a general sympathetic strike. Not only the miners of the Johannesburg district, but the various trades in the city have voted to go out. The strike of the Johannesburg branch of the typographical union is taken to mean the people of Johannesburg will have no newspapers. The grievance of the railway men is due to the policy of retrenchment of the South African railway company, which has led to the discharge of men. The men claim this is a move to reduce wages. [See vol. xvi, pp. 661, 1164.]



The government has ordered a general mobilization of troops, and it is estimated there are now 20,000 armed men on the Rand, many of whom saw service in the Boer War. Attempts to dynamite railroad bridges and other railroad property have been followed by orders to the guards to shoot to kill.



Coincident with the general unrest is the outbreak of 900 natives who escaped from the compound of the diamond mines at Jagersfontein on the 9th, when fifty negroes and two whites were killed. A second outbreak occurred on the 10th, resulting in the killing of seven and the wounding of thirty-six natives. This uprising is independent of the trouble at Johannesburg, and is said to be due to the killing of a Basuto by a white overseer.



The Labor War.

Governor Ferris of Michigan began on January 6 his investigation of conditions in the copper mine strike district. He first called on Sheriff Cruse of Houghton County for information. Sheriff Cruse reported that he had at the time 220 paid deputies throughout the county and between 1,500 and 1,600 others, who were employed and paid by the mining companies, but had been appointed by him. Only four of whole number, he said, were gunmen, furnished by the Waddell-Mahon strike-breaking agency. Some of the deputies were members of the State militia. Sheriff Hepting of Keeweenaw County reported that he had about seventy deputies, some of whom were employed by the mining companies and included in these were nineteen gunmen. Prosecutor Lucas of Houghton County told the Governor that the Waddell-Mahon strike breakers had mis-

treated prisoners until he had threatened them with prosecution. [See current volume, page 35.]



On January 7 Governor Ferris called on miners' union officials for information. The union officials said that the Western Federation of Miners was not responsible for the strike. It had been called by a vote of the miners contrary to the advice and wishes of the federation's officials. The vote was 7,680 for the strike to 125 against. The whole number entitled to vote at the time was about 9,000. The books of the union secretaries showed that 7,715 men were out on strike. The union representatives also told the Governor that they would stand on the proposals made by federal mediator John B. Densmore. These were an eight-hour day, as had already been instituted on December 1, wages as fixed on December 1, amounting to \$3.00 a day minimum for miners, and return to work of strikers without discrimination. They all expressed themselves willing and anxious to adjust difficulties.



On January 8 the Governor met the mine managers. Mr. Allan F. Rees, attorney for the Calumet and Hecla, said that when the Western Federation of Miners claimed to represent the men, an investigation was made which showed that less than twenty-five per cent of the miners in Houghton and Keeweenaw counties were members. In one mine, he said, 171 men admitted membership and 2,300 denied it. For this reason the companies had refused to recognize or treat with it, and all proposals for arbitration had been rejected because they carried with them recognition of the Western Federation. He said, further, that 9,368 men were at work in the mines as against 13,514 before the strike. The Governor questioned Mr. Rees concerning the attitude of the managers toward organized labor generally. Answering for himself only Mr. Rees said he favored unions, but "objected to the socialistic, anarchistic unions." F. W. Denton, manager of the Copper Range Consolidated, evaded a direct reply. The Governor declared that Labor has a right to organize and that there should be co-operation between Labor and Capital. He then asked whether the managers had any solution or plan of arbitration to offer. Mr. Rees, apparently speaking for all, answered that the companies were willing to conciliate grievances of employees and would correct abuses, but could make no specific offer.



Later in the day a committee of the Socialist party conferred with the Governor. The committee consisted of ex-Congressman Victor L. Berger, Charles Edward Russell and Seymour Stedman. They urged the Governor to use his power and

influence with the mining companies to force recognition of the Western Federation. This he refused to do. All efforts to bring about conciliation having failed the Governor left the copper district on the same day, summing up the result of his investigation as follows:

I think this is an inopportune time for executive action. The judicial machinery of the state is in full swing, and as governor I don't want to do or say things that might be constructed by any interest as an attempt to influence the course of justice. I got what I came here for. The strike cannot be settled in a week or a fortnight. I think if it were left to the miners and their employers it could be settled very quickly. It is the advice of the outsider—and this is a venturesome statement to make—that is likely to do more than anything else to prolong the strike.



Charles H. Moyer, president of the Western Federation of Miners, returned on January 7 to Hancock, Michigan, from which place he had been previously deported by a mob. He was accompanied by Charles Tanner, who had been deported with him, and by two detectives sent by the Governor to protect him. He gave out for publication a number of affidavits made by men who had been sent into the strike region by strike-breaking agencies. These affidavits told of the orderly behavior of strikers, of instructions given to assault peaceable men, of men forcibly detained at work in the mines against their will, and of other unlawful methods pursued. Both Mr. Moyer and Mr. Tanner went before the grand jury to testify. Moyer left Hancock on January 10 for Washington to attend a meeting of the executive committee of the American Federation of Labor. The militia left the strike region on January 12.



An attempt by the Quincy Mining Company in the copper mine district to evict striking employees from the company's houses was prevented by an order of Circuit Judge P. H. O'Brien, setting aside or a ruling of the Circuit Court Commissioners of Houghton County ordering the eviction. The company appealed to the Michigan Supreme Court for a writ of mandamus to compel Judge O'Brien to vacate his order. On January 8 the Supreme Court passed on the question, refusing to issue the writ.



Secretary of Labor, William B. Wilson, made public on January 10 a report on the Michigan strike situation made by Walter B. Palmer, an investigator of the department. The report having been made prior to December 7 contained no reference to the Parnesdale shooting, the Christmas eve disaster or the deportation of Moyer. The report says that the strike was called on July

22 and began on the following day. The demands were recognition of the union, an eight-hour day and a \$3.00 minimum wage for all underground workers. Men to displace the strikers were brought into the district from Chicago and New York, having been secured by agencies which withheld the information from them that a strike was in progress. Affidavits made by some of these men showed that they had been forced into peonage. The report showed that before the strike underground hours of labor were from ten to eleven per day. In some mines the miners were paid as low as \$2.85 per shift and trammers as low as \$2.00. Miners employed by the Calumet-Hecla company earned during the six months ending June 30, 1913, an average of \$3.28 per shift. Other companies paid an average of \$2.74 per shift. The average of all was \$2.98. The average of trammers' earnings was \$2.75 per shift with the Calumet-Hecla and \$2.40 with other companies. Some of the smaller companies have operated at a loss, but the Calumet-Hecla, employing more than half of the total workers of the region, has made enormous profits. It was organized in 1871. The actual cash capital paid in was \$1,200,000. Dividends paid since amount to \$121,050,000, besides investments of \$75,000,000 made out of earnings.

The Chicago Tribune on January 12 published some features of Investigator Palmer's report which were not contained in Secretary Wilson's original statement. This told of drunkenness among militiamen who were allowed to wander around armed in this condition, of violence resulting in fatalities provoked by imported deputies, of lack of provisions for safety and sanitation in the mines, of work imposed on trammers in the mines which soon permanently disables them, and of the fact that houses have been sold to employes by the Calumet and Hecla built on leased ground, one condition of the lease being that if the lessor "should cease to be an employe of the company by discharge or otherwise" he may be dispossessed and the company take possession of house and land. A resolution to investigate the situation was introduced immediately on the reassembling of Congress on January 12 by Senator Ashurst of Arizona, and referred to the contingent expense committee. It provoked criticism from Senators Townsend of Michigan and Lodge of Massachusetts.

A committee of five appointed on November 17 by labor leaders on the suggestion of Governor Ammons of Colorado to investigate conditions in the Trinidad district reported on January 6. Their report was in the form of a telegram to all Colorado Congressmen declaring that the militia "has grossly violated the constitutional

rights of the strikers," that the deportation of "Mother" Jones was "a high-handed affair," and asked that a congressional investigation be ordered immediately. Congressman Edward Keating answered promptly that he would do all in his power to obtain an investigation. On January 12, "Mother" Jones returned to Trinidad, was arrested by militiamen immediately upon arrival and ordered by General Chase to be held in prison "incommunicado." A protest was telegraphed by President John P. White against her arrest to President Wilson, Secretary of Labor Wilson, and Governor Ammons.

The appeal for a new trial of the officers and members of the Structural Iron Workers' Union, convicted of conspiracy to dynamite at Indianapolis in December, 1912, was passed upon by the United States Circuit Court at Chicago on January 6. In the cases of twenty-four of the men the conviction was upheld. In the case of six new trials were granted. The twenty-four convictions sustained were of Frank M. Ryan, Eugene Clancy, Michael J. Young, Frank C. Webb, Charles W. Beum, Henry W. Legleitner, Ernest G. W. Bases, Philip A. Cooley, John T. Butler, John H. Berry, J. E. Munsey, Peter J. Smith, Paul T. Morrin, William E. Reddin, Michael J. Hannon, Murray L. Pennell, W. Bert Brown, George Anderson, Frank J. Higgins, Frank H. Painter, Edward Smythe, Fred J. Mooney, William Shupe and Michael J. Cunnane. An application in their behalf for a rehearing has been made and a stay of thirty days allowed. Should the rehearing be refused an appeal to the Supreme Court will be taken. Those granted a new trial are Olaf A. Tveitmoe, William McCain, James E. Ray, Richard H. Houlihan, Fred Sherman and William Bernhardt. [See vol xvi, p. 1165.]

Final arguments in the appeal of Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison, from conviction of contempt by Judge Wright of the District of Columbia, were made before the Supreme Court on January 8.

The Supreme Court of Massachusetts on January 10 upheld the constitutionality of the statute which compels employers advertising for help during labor troubles to state that a strike exists.

The Ford Motor Company, of Detroit, instituted on January 5 a profit-sharing plan with its employes by which a minimum wage of \$5 a day is established in its factories. As explained by Mr. Henry Ford, the plan is as follows:

Every man in our employ over the age of 22 years,

who is not working on a salary, will share in the distribution of profits. The man of a minimum wage of \$2.34 will receive an additional \$2.66 per day, semi-monthly, and all the men who do the actual work will receive the same increase. Foremen and superintendents and all other salaried men will continue to share as usual in the distribution by bonus at the close of the year, based solely on merit. They are passed on by the management. Last year we distributed in bonuses from \$200,000 to \$300,000 in this way with about 200 men receiving an average of \$1,000 each.

NEWS NOTES

—The record of German municipal activities was set by the town of Briessen, Saxony, which made a municipal grant of \$12.50 to its chief mail wagon conductor in recognition of the birth of his thirtieth child.

—Nine million Japanese are reported as starving because of the crop failures in Hokkaido and other northeastern districts. The scale of living is so meager that a crop failure leaves the natives nothing to fall back upon but charity.

—The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the engineering departments of Harvard University are hereafter to be united, the combined classes being conducted in the new buildings of the Institute in Cambridge under the instruction of the faculties of both institutions.

—Increased representation for Ulster in the Irish Parliament is one of the suggestions of the Unionist Protestants to solve the trouble between Catholic and Protestant Ireland under home rule. Little progress, however, is visible in the negotiations for a settlement. [See current volume, page 10.]

—Negotiations between the United States and Colombia for the settlement of the matters of dispute arising from the Panama rebellion are said to be progressing satisfactorily at Bogota. It is expected that the issues will be adjusted within a few weeks. [See vol. xvi, pp. 970, 989.]

—John Skelton Williams of Virginia, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, was nominated on the 13th as Comptroller of the Currency by President Wilson. Great importance is added to this office by the provision of the Currency Bill which makes the Comptroller of the Currency a member of the Federal Reserve Board.

—Since the launching of the first Dreadnought 101 of these war monsters have been added to the world's fighting fleets. Of these, England has built 34, Germany 22, United States 10, France 7, Italy 6, Russia 5, Japan 5, Austria and Brazil 3 each, Spain and Argentina 2 each, and Turkey and Chile 1 each. In 1911 Great Britain possessed 24 of the world's 63 dreadnoughts; now she has 34 of the 101.

—In answer to an open letter from Upton Sinclair urging him to become a Socialist, Vincent Astor replied on January 11 declining to do so. Mr. Astor's reasons were that leading officials of the American Federation of Labor with whom he is associated in various organizations, do not accept the socialist

philosophy. He further stated that he believes "that the condition of the laboring people has greatly improved during the last few generations."

—By a vote of four to one, the city commission of Springfield, Illinois, ordered a special election on January 27 at which a popular vote will be taken on an ordinance prepared by Commissioner Spaulding, to combine the municipally owned water and light plants. An initiative petition for the submission of this question had been filed December 31 signed by 5,641 voters, but the mayor had questioned its legality and called on the Attorney General of the state for a ruling. Although the ruling upheld the validity of the action, the mayor still opposed the action of the commission in calling an election, but his was the only vote cast against Commissioner Spaulding's motion ordering the action taken. [See vol. xvi, p. 1189.]

—With the aid of six Progressive party members the candidate of the Republican reactionaries for Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives was elected on January 8. The new speaker is Grafton D. Cushing. He received 123 votes. His principal opponent, George P. Webster, Progressive, received 109 votes. Peter F. Tague, Democrat, received five votes and Charles H. Morrill, Socialist, one. Through the efforts of Reverend Roland D. Sawyer, former Socialist candidate for Governor, now a Democratic legislator, a union of Democrats and Progressives had been arranged to elect Webster. This arrangement was defeated through the treachery of the following six Progressives: James M. Lyle of Gloucester, Cleveland A. Chandler of East Bridgewater, Alfred N. Fessenden of Townsend, Charles H. Webster of Northfield, Fred W. Cross of Royston and George E. Briggs of Lexington. [See vol. xvi, p. 1090.]

—Judge Smith McPherson of the United States District Court at Kansas City, Missouri, declined on January 10 to dismiss an injunction he had issued nearly seven years ago, although this refusal seems a failure to comply with a mandate of the Supreme Court. The injunction forbid the State of Missouri from enforcing against the railroads of the State two-cent passenger fare and maximum freight rate laws. A bond of \$10,000 was put up by each one of the railroads at the time, and they have since charged and collected the old rates. Six months ago the Missouri law was upheld by the Supreme Court, and the attorney general of the State, John T. Barker, entered suit against the roads for \$24,000,000 excess in passenger and freight rates paid them since enactment. Finding Judge McPherson's old injunction still in the way, he asked that it be dismissed. On December 20, 1913, Judge McPherson was about to dismiss the injunction when the attorney for the railroads asked him to retain jurisdiction so that he might limit their liability to the \$10,000 bond put up. This the Judge did and the attorney general's suits have since been held up. Refusal to dismiss the injunction on January 10 led to a scene in court when Attorney General Barker used this plain language to the Judge: "Your honor can't police this state to protect railroads." He announced his intention to take the matter to the Supreme Court in the following words: "If you don't issue a decree as the higher court ordered, I'll see if that court will not make