

social uses the values arising from land ownership."

"Do you believe that the unrest of the workers is undermining our civilization?" asked Commissioner Lennon.

"I believe that the most insidious force that ever operated in civilization is the force that makes a few persons the exploiters of all the others," Professor Nearing answered. [See current volume, page 610.]



Wm. Draper Lewis, dean of the University of Pennsylvania, and Progressive candidate for governor, testified in favor of the fairness of the courts in labor cases. While the courts had declared the secondary boycott illegal, he said they had applied the decision to employers as well as laborers. He held that the secondary boycott should be permitted when the employer is unfair and refuses to arbitrate.



John Wanamaker testified that he favored labor organizations and criticized John D. Rockefeller, Jr., for placing the national government in a position where it had to send troops into Colorado. He advocated public ownership of railroads, telegraphs and other public utilities and criticized the demand for increase of freight rates. He gave a qualified endorsement of a minimum wage law, saying it should be tried, but should be a graduated law. The minimum wage for salesgirls in his store is \$8 a week and for scrubwomen \$7 a week.



Mayor Blankenburg of Philadelphia testified on the 23d. He did not think the people of the United States sufficiently educated to experiment with public ownership. On being informed by Commissioner Weinstock that San Francisco is successfully operating two dividend earning municipal street car lines, paying the men \$3 for eight-hour day, Mayor Blankenburg merely repeated his original statement. Thomas E. Mitten, executive head of Philadelphia's street railway system, declared that though free transfers are only given in the city at a very few points and an extra charge of three cents for transfer made at other points, yet the company cannot afford to pay higher wages than in other cities, and not as much as is paid in Chicago and Detroit. After the superintendent of the street railway had denied that men were discharged for belonging to unions, Secretary Kirrane of the local union testified that he had been discharged for that cause.



On June 24 Alba B. Johnson of the Baldwin Locomotive Works testified. He denied that existing economic conditions compel the majority of wage earners always to remain so, declared that

there is always room at the top and that opportunities are more plentiful today than ever. The cause of existing unrest he declared to be "the premature desire of inefficient men to forge ahead," and the remedy he suggested is that workers be instructed along lines of legitimate opportunity. 8,200 men are now employed at Baldwins as compared with 17,000 a year ago. The average wage has fluctuated from \$12.32 a week in 1900 to \$14.86 in 1914. His concern had made some experiments in welfare work, which failed.



### The Labor War.

President Wilson on June 24 commuted to expire at once the sentences of four of the structural iron workers convicted in Judge Anderson's court at Indianapolis in December, 1912, of conspiracy to dynamite. Those are Michael J. Hannon of Scranton, Frank H. Painter of Omaha, Fred J. Mooney of Duluth and William Shupe of Chicago. Pardon was refused to the other twenty, and these must serve their sentences. [See current volume, pages 493, 555.]



The court martial at Denver which tried Lieutenant K. E. Linderfelt on the charge of manslaughter in connection with the massacre at Ludlow was reported on June 16 to have found him guilty of "unsoldierly conduct." No mention has been made of verdicts in the case of others involved in the affair. [See current volume, page 515.]



The union faction fight in Butte is said to have resulted in complete disruption of the local organization of the Western Federation of Miners and formation of an independent organization. Charles H. Moyer and other officers of the federation were forced on June 23 to leave the city. Moyer appealed on the following day to Governor Stewart for state control. Mayor Duncan of Butte declared state aid to be unnecessary since it is the sheriff's duty to preserve order and he has not acted. There have been no reports of rioting since June 24 and the miners are said to be working as usual. [See current volume, page 611.]



Charges of extortion practiced on building contractors by some dishonest business agents of trades unions resulted from the shooting of George Hammond, agent of the Excavating Teamsters' Union on June 23 by a contractor, Patrick Dignan. Many complaints have since been published, especially in the Chicago Herald, of strikes threatened or called and building operations held up until blackmail was paid to union agents. In most of these published complaints the name of

the blackmailing agent, is withheld. United States District Attorney James H. Wilkerson has announced that all charges will be investigated by a special grand jury.



#### Tax Reform News.

The report was made to the Nebraska Press Association at its meeting at Lincoln on June 24 by the committee appointed at the 1913 meeting to investigate taxation in the state. In reporting, the chairman of the committee, Laurie J. Quimby, of Omaha, declared that a referendum vote had been taken of all citizens in whose hands it was possible to place ballots to ascertain what the general opinion regarding taxation might be. Farmers are found to be quite united in the view that farm implements and products should not be taxed, but were not so sure that manufacturing machinery and merchants' stocks should be also exempted. Nearly everybody voted for income and inheritance taxes, and for taxing franchises at their market value. On the whole the committee found the replies vague when it came to suggesting specific programs of tax reform. The committee proposed: 1. The adoption of the pending amendment increasing the latitude of the legislature in farming tax laws. 2. A state tax commission to appoint a state assessor to have general charge of the subject. 3. Listing of all taxable property for taxation and applying afterward whatever exemptions the law allows. 4. In taxing personal property a distinction should be made between what is held for consumption and what is held for sale at a profit. 5. Annual, instead of quadrennial assessments of lands. 6. Owners should be required to make their own assessment of lands and any citizen or the state should be empowered to buy at the owner's valuation at any time. 7. All property should be assessed at its full value. 8. All personal property taxes should be repealed. 9. All franchises should be assessed for taxation at market value and taxes on improvements eliminated. The committee report was ordered printed and referred to all the editors of the state to the end that it may be discussed by newspaper readers. The recommendation to exempt personal property was referred for action to the legislative committee. [See volume xvi, page 1164.]



The Nova Scotia legislature passed finally on June 5 an act that empowers local assessment bodies to adopt whatever system of taxation for local purposes they may prefer.



#### Lorimer Bank Scandal.

Investigation of the affairs of the La Salle Street Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago, of

which former Senator Lorimer was president, developed the fact that a loan of \$40,000 had been made on November 1, 1911, to former Senator Paynter of Kentucky. Senator Paynter was a member of the Senate committee that conducted the first investigation of Lorimer's right to his seat, and made a report exonerating him from the charge of bribery. Throughout the whole scandal Paynter championed Lorimer's cause. The indebtedness had been reduced to \$2,600 at the time of the failure. Evidence of loans to local politicians has also been reported discovered and of entries crediting 3½ percent interest on certain city deposits which actually received but 2¼ percent. [See current volume, page 591.]



#### Destructive Fire in Salem.

A destructive fire which raged in Salem, Mass., on June 25 rendered 18,000 persons homeless, caused the loss of four lives and loss of \$12,000,000 in property. The factory and business districts were swept by the flames. Among the homes destroyed were many built during the colonial period.



#### English Affairs.

Peace talk continues among the English people and in parliament, while Ulstermen bluster and the Nationalists arm. The amending bill is expected to pass its second reading in the House of Lords on the 30th, after which it will be amended to meet the wishes of Ulster. John Redmond, the leader of the Nationalists, will grant nothing more than the amending bill now includes, that is, the temporary exclusion of Ulster. But those critics who have carefully followed the course of Mr. Asquith have little doubt that when the two irreconcilables meet this great political leader will find a way of harmonizing their differences. [See current volume, page 612.]



#### Assassin's Blow at Austria.

Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and his morganatic wife, the Duchess of Hohenberg, were assassinated on the 28th in the streets of Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia, by a Servian student. The act was committed while the Archduke was making an official visit to the Bosnian capital. The Archduke, who was born December 18, 1863, was a nephew of Emperor Franz Josef, and became heir to the throne on the death of the Emperor's son. Owing to the Archduke's morganatic marriage, his children are out of the line of succession, and the crown will go to the son of his younger brother, Archduke Charles Francis Joseph, who was born August 17, 1887. [See vol. xvi, p. 584.]