

United States Express Co. to Liquidate.

Announcement was made on March 13 that on recommendation of a committee of large stockholders the directors of the United States Express Company had unanimously voted to wind up the business of that concern. Since the company has contracts with the railroads which do not expire until 1917, the process of liquidation will require several years. The cause is attributed to competition with the parcel post and enforced reduction of rates by order of the Inter-State Commerce Commission. [See vol. xvi, p. 1093, 1187.]

**Fels Memorial Meetings.**

Many memorial meetings in honor of Joseph Fels have been held and many more are in prospect. In Cincinnati the meeting was on March 8. The speakers were Herbert S. Bigelow and Dr. Gotthard Deutsch. In Cleveland on the 10th A. B. du Pont presided and the principle speaker was Josiah C. Wedgwood. The meeting in Chicago was held on March 11. Judge Edward Osgood Brown presided. The speakers were Josiah C. Wedgwood, John Z. White, Judge Julian Mack and A. B. Canning. Dr. Emil G. Hirsch was prevented by illness from attending. Mr. Wedgwood went from Chicago to Toronto to speak before the Canadian Club on March 12. He then went to New York City to address the memorial meeting on March 13 in the People's Institute, which was also addressed by Lincoln Steffens and Frederic C. Howe. His leave of absence from parliamentary duties having expired, Mr. Wedgwood left for home on the 17th. A meeting in honor of Joseph Fels and John S. Crosby will be held on March 18 in Seattle at which Mayor George F. Cotterill will preside and addresses be made by Miss Mary G. O'Meara, Oliver T. Erickson, Will Atkinson, Mrs. E. P. Fick and Joseph Smith. [See current volume, pages 201, 226, 248.]

**Pastoriza Rebuffs a Tax-Ferret.**

The Boston Herald of March 2 publishes an exchange of letters between E. W. Prescott of Boston and Tax Commissioner Pastoriza of Houston, Texas, which is self-explanatory. Mr. Prescott's letter is as follows:

I have furnished the assessors of the cities and towns in Massachusetts with authentic information of the stock holdings of their residents in foreign corporations, which stock is taxable under the Massachusetts law. This has resulted in the taxation of several million dollars' worth of personal property which had not been declared by the owner and thus escaped taxation.

This information I secure direct from the transfer books of the corporation, and includes the more important corporations in the country.

Would the board of assessors in your city be in a

position to avail themselves of this information, and pay for the same on a basis, which in Massachusetts has been considered most fair and reasonable, considering the results obtained by the assessors, namely, \$1 per name for each name used?

I would furnish you with all of the information which I secure relating to the holders who are residents of your city, and would leave you to determine the names upon which you could levy a personal property tax, and it would be these names that I should ask you to pay for.

I enclose a memorandum of some of the stockholders' lists which I have. I am getting new lists continuously.

Hoping that you will give the subject matter the attention which I feel it warrants, I am

Very truly yours,

E. WENTWORTH PRESCOTT.

To which the following reply was sent:

Mr. E. Wentworth Prescott,
State House, Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter offering to secure assessments of personal property and charge \$1 per name for same. In reply will state that this city has ceased to act in the capacity of a thief. We do not tax personal property; we consider it common, every-day stealing, to take in the form of taxes any part of that which a man earns himself. The land values of Houston produce more revenue than we need and we don't have to subject our citizens to the ordeal of the seventh degree, or put them in a position where they will have to lie, perjure themselves, and send their souls to Hell. If you will read "Progress and Poverty" by Henry George, you will get a line on what I am talking about.

Yours very truly,

Board of Assessors,
J. J. PASTORIZA.

[See current volume, page 29.]

**Tax Reform in Massachusetts.**

Representatives of the Massachusetts Singletax League appeared on March 11 before a legislative committee to urge passage of three different measures. The first allows the legislature to classify property for taxation. The second allows cities and towns to tax buildings at a lower rate than land, and the third provides that state taxes in any city or town shall be divided between land and buildings on the same basis as local taxes. The league was represented by Professor Lewis J. Johnson, Henry D. Nunn, Edmund J. Burke, Professor C. W. Doten, John S. Coleman and Reginald M. Hull. All of these addressed the committee. [See current volume, page 253.]

**The Labor War.**

Charles H. Moyer gave to the Congressional investigating committee on March 11, an account of his shooting and deportation from Hancock, Michigan. His account was the same as that

given on February 25 by Charles Tanner. In answer to a question as to what effort he had made to settle the strike Moyer said: "I have offered to submit the questions to arbitration. I have offered to withdraw the Western Federation from the strike and allow the men to return to work and settle the dispute in their own way. I am now ready to settle the strike in any honorable way. The men can return to work any time they want to and if they ask the organization to withdraw I will call in all organizers and let them go to work under any agreement, or under no agreement at all." He denied having charged the Citizens' Alliance with responsibility for the Christmas Eve disaster. On the same day one of the mine guards, Henry Batters, testified that on arriving in the strike district he had been told to "keep up a fight" to make the "strikers look bad." The committee then adjourned to meet in Washington. On March 12 Congressman Taylor, the chairman, made a statement to the effect that the Michigan copper country is a kingdom of which James McNaughton, manager of the Calumet and Hecla Company, is king, and that the miners are practically serfs although not oppressively treated. Mr. Taylor further said that the committee can do nothing to end the strike since the operators will employ no union men, and that from 3,000 to 6,000 men still out on strike can only go back to work by surrendering their union cards. Press reports say that the majority of the committee will report as follows:

The conduct of the gunmen hired by the companies during the strike was outrageous and frequently criminal. Congress should enact legislation prohibiting the transportation of such bodies of armed men from one state to another.

Miners were imported to take the places of strikers and held under conditions virtually constituting peonage, but it is doubtful that the federal law was violated.

Access to postoffices by strikers was prevented in some cases and several miners were assaulted while seeking to get their mail, but there was no general interference with the mails. A law should be enacted prohibiting the location of postoffices on corporation premises.

The companies have employed a large number of immigrants, but these men were hired in this country, and the testimony showed no violation of the contract labor law.

About 100 members of the Citizens' Alliance were involved in the plot resulting in the assault on and deportation of President Moyer of the Western Federation of Miners, but inasmuch as the mob did not actually take Moyer over the state line, the state instead of the federal court has jurisdiction over the crimes.

The testimony did not support the charge that the fatal panic in Italian hall was started by a sympathizer with the copper companies.

[See current volume, page 252.]

"Mother" Jones, who has been held as a military prisoner at Trinidad, Colorado, since January 12, was taken on March 16 by Colonel W. A. Davis, of the Colorado militia, to Denver and there released. The reason for this action is said to be that the Supreme Court may not pass upon her appeal for a writ of habeas corpus. General Chase is reported to have declared that should she return to the strike district she will be again arrested. [See current volume, page 230.]

The jobless army under "General" Kelley, which was driven out of Sacramento into Yolo County, seems to have been a cause of much perplexity to the officials of both counties. Not wanted in either place and no provision existing to take care of them they have been allowed to remain encamped on the Yolo side of the river pending some decision as to what they might be allowed to do. The men have refused an offer of free transportation to San Francisco. It seems that to get rid of the army the men must be sent somewhere where their presence is equally undesirable. Governor Oddie of Nevada has warned the Southern Pacific and Western Pacific railroads against bringing the army into Nevada.

Frank Tannenbaum, who endeavored to lead a number of unemployed men into St. Alphonsus church in New York City, was indicted on March 10 for "participating in an unlawful assembly." Others arrested were released on suspended sentences. The task declined by the churches of caring for the men was to some extent undertaken by the University Settlement, where on March 11 the men were welcomed by the head worker, Dr. Robbins Gilman, fed and given lodging for the night. Governor Glynn began an effort on March 12 to find jobs for the men on farms. Positions for sixty-eight of them were found by March 16.

English Politics.

Discussion of the Irish Home Rule bill continues, in and out of Parliament, but there has been practically no approach to agreement. Premier Asquith, replying on the 16th to requests for details of local option under the provisions of which the nine counties of Ulster will be permitted to vote separately on the question whether they shall be left out of the control of the new Irish government at Dublin, said he did not feel much encouraged over the reception of his Ulster proposals. He said he was anxious in the interests of peace that the main principle of his proposals should be considered on their merits, unincumbered by minute details. But Andrew Bonar Law, leader of the opposition, declared it