

those who go to the towns. They are apt to go back, or to go further on. We have not gone in for woman suffrage in Alberta, but we have the Single-tax, and it is working out well. The bulk of our towns have had it a number of years. Calgary and one or two others had special charters, and have only lately begun to adopt it in principle. In Edmonton the total tax is 2 per cent of the value of land. There is no local government direct tax in Alberta. We get a grant from the Federal Government. That is to say, we receive out of the Federal revenues a sum in proportion to our population. This pays about half of the expenses of our local government. The rest comes from licenses and similar sources.



Washington Doings.

The House Committee on Inter-State Commerce reported on May 16 the Rayburn bill for federal control of railroad stock and bond issues. This completes the number of anti-trust bills to be pushed for passage at this session. [See current volume, page 393.]



Although the Democratic House caucus eliminated rural credits from this session's program the rural credit bill was introduced in both Senate and House on May 12, after prolonged hearings by a congressional sub-committee. It provides for rural credit banks to be governed by a federal board in a manner similar to national banks. Besides providing for loans on farm lands it requires annual purchase by the federal government of rural credit bonds to the amount of \$50,000,000. President Wilson is said to oppose the latter feature since it amounts to loan of government credit to private individuals.



The Department of Agriculture issued on May 12 new regulations for manufacturers and packers of foods. These require that henceforth labels on packages and bottles must give the net weight or volume of contents. Where a numerical count gives accurate information the contents may be stated that way.



The House passed on May 12 the Senate bill providing temporary machinery for the conduct of popular elections of United States Senators in those States where the legislature has not yet acted.



Representative Neeley of West Virginia introduced on May 11 a resolution directing the House Judiciary Committee to investigate the conduct of Federal Judge Alston G. Dayton of West Virginia. Charges relating to his actions in labor cases have been filed against him.

Senator Gore's poll of the delegates to the National Democratic convention of 1912 on the Panama tolls matter had resulted up to May 17 in receipt of 867 replies—702 are opposed to toll exemptions, 127 favor them, and 38 are non-committal. [See current volume, pp. 387, 439.]



The declination of Harry A. Wheeler of his appointment on the federal reserve board was announced on May 15. This leaves two vacancies on the board to be filled. [See current volume, page 465.]



Charles S. Mellen, former president of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad appeared before the Interstate Commerce Commission on May 14 to testify in the investigation of that road. He told of the acquisition of the New York, Boston and Westchester railroad through giving its stockholders 8000 shares of New Haven stock in exchange for 24,000 shares of Westchester stock, although he considered the latter worth only "ten cents a pound." Former Police Inspector Byrnes of New York arranged the deal, he said. The Westchester shares were held "by people who had influence," and he "wanted to reach the devil or anybody that it was necessary to reach." Mr. Mellen was excused from further testimony until May 19. [See current volume, page 465.]



The Labor War.

The court martial at Denver, assembled May 11, to investigate charges of murder, arson and robbery brought against thirty-nine members of the militia. The court consists of three militia officers. Captain Edward A. Smith is judge advocate. The taking of testimony began on May 13, when Lieutenant Benedict of the militia told of finding the charred bodies of women and children in a pit. He said that the strikers had fired the first shot and that he had heard no order from Major Hamrock to burn the tents, and expressed the opinion that an overturned lamp started the fire. On May 14 Captain Linderfelt and Lieutenant Bigelow testified that soldiers did not enter the tent colony until the fire had started, that they only did enter to engage in rescue work, and that there was no looting. But Lieutenant Bigelow admitted that the fire was due to firing upon the tents by the militiamen. Testimony was heard on May 15 concerning the death of Louis Tikas and two other strikers, while held prisoners by the militia. Sergeant Cullom and Private Mason declared that the prisoners had been shot while attempting to escape, but could throw no light on the identity of those who did the shooting. [See current volume, page 466.]

Thousands of firearms of all descriptions, have in response to the order of Colonel Lockett, in command of the Federal troops, been surrendered since May 13.



The Colorado legislature adjourned on May 16. The only results of the session were authorization of a million dollar bond issue to pay expenses of the militia, the closing of saloons during prevalence of disorder, regulation of carrying firearms, and submission of a constitutional amendment allowing compulsory arbitration in industrial disputes. On learning of this President Wilson sent the following message to Governor Ammons:

Am disturbed to hear of the probability of the adjournment of your Legislature, and feel bound to remind you that my constitutional obligations with regard to the maintenance of order in Colorado are not to be indefinitely continued by the inaction of the State Legislature. The Federal forces are there only until the State of Colorado has time and opportunity to resume complete sovereignty and control in the matter. I cannot conceive that the State is willing to forego her sovereignty or to throw herself entirely upon the Government of the United States, and I am quite clear that she has no constitutional rights to do so when it is within the power of her Legislature to take effective action.

To this Governor Ammons replied:

I regret exceedingly that you have been misinformed. The Legislature has just passed an act, which I have approved, providing for a bond issue of \$1,000,000 for the purpose of paying the indebtedness which has been incurred and which may be incurred in suppressing insurrection and defending the State. As soon as these bonds can be issued this money will be available and this State can and will control the situation. This is the only constitutional method of raising funds in the immediate future. In addition to this act the Legislature has enacted a law permitting the Governor to close saloons in times of disorder and also a law prohibiting the carrying and disposition of firearms in times of disorder. Moreover, a committee on mediation on the present strike has been provided for and appointed.

At a number of public meetings held in Denver on May 17, Governor Ammons' reply was denounced as a mis-statement, and a telegram to that effect was sent to President Wilson after a meeting at the home of J. B. Walker, participated in by Judge B. F. Lindsey and other prominent citizens. Governor Ammons was most criticized for his statement that a committee on mediation had been appointed. This was declared to be absolutely false. Governor Ammons, in a public statement on May 18, declared that the President had been misled by Upton Sinclair, the novelist, who, he said, had misquoted him. Mr. Sinclair thereupon sent the following message to the President:

In an interview tonight Governor Ammons brands me as a prevaricator for my statement to you that a commission of mediation was not provided. He now

admits that the word "mediation" does not appear, but insists that the phrase, "To assist in settling the strike" is equivalent. I have reread the resolution and amendment. No such phrase occurs. I urgently request you to get the full text of this resolution and realize what it means that the Governor of this State is willfully and deliberately endeavoring to deceive you and the public in this crisis.



Six months in the workhouse was the sentence imposed by Magistrate Campbell of New York City on May 13, on Reverend Bouck White for endeavoring to ask one or more questions of John D. Rockefeller's pastor, Dr. Cornelius Woelfkin, on May 10, during services at Calvary Baptist church. In passing sentence Magistrate Campbell said in part:

This is a peculiarly flagrant case. In my judgment indictments for unlawful assemblage and disturbing a religious meeting would lie against this defendant. A case in many respects similar was decided against an agitator not as dangerous to the community as this defendant, and he was sent to the penitentiary for one year and fined \$500. He was an alien and ignorant. This defendant is a native and highly educated. Instead of coming into this court in a spirit of humility, and acknowledging his wrong, he is defiant and attempts to justify his actions by talking foolishly and egotistically about the right of free speech. As a university graduate and an ordained minister of the gospel, his actions and conduct are incomprehensible. . . . The questions involved in this case are not whether the defendant is an "ungracious priest and reckons not his own rede," whether he and his followers have real or fancied grievances against the church or some of its members—or, to what extent a long suffering public should tolerate this disturbance of business and general comfort in exploitation of the right of free speech. It involves the far-reaching and vital principle of law and order in this community. If law and order cannot be maintained in houses of God—the source of all law and order—it cannot be maintained in or about the courts of justice.

White has appealed, but has been denied bail pending appeal and must remain in the workhouse until the question of a new trial has been passed upon. Dr. Woelfkin, who did not appear at the trial, stated in the pulpit on May 17, that Mr. White's letter had been delayed in transmission, and had not yet been read when he arose in the church to speak. Dr. Woelfkin claimed that the plain clothes men had come to the church of their own accord. He further said: "Mr. White had the right to assume that I had received his letter and was acquainted with its contents."



Amos Pinchot addressed on May 16 an open letter to Mayor Mitchel, vigorously protesting against the treatment accorded Bouck White. Mr. Pinchot said, in part:

The people of New York believe in law and order.

They believe they have the right to assemble in peace and quiet, in any building, church or otherwise, for religious services, discussions or other purposes. Our community is, on the whole, conservative. It does not like disorder or hysteria. It is opposed to violence, whether committed by individuals or officials or within or without the law.

For these reasons, and for consideration of common justice and humanity, I think I do not exaggerate when I say that the people of this city will deeply and durably regret the Bouck White incident, ending in six months' sentence at the workhouse.

On the 10th of May, after writing a letter to Dr. Woelfkin, explaining his intention, White went to Rockefeller's church to protest against what he believed to be a false conception of Christianity and to call the attention of the congregation to the inconsistency between real Christianity and the action of the Rockefellers in Colorado. Whether White's course was wise or unwise is aside from the point. His going to Mr. Rockefeller's church for purposes of discussion was certainly no crime. When Dr. Woelfkin had finished his prayer, Mr. White arose and started to ask a question. He was immediately pounced upon by ushers and by plain-clothes men stationed there for that purpose and violently thrown into the street.

A short time ago you yourself revoked the license of Jack's restaurant, largely on the ground that the waiters threw out disorderly diners and students with brutality—far less brutality than was used by the ushers and plain-clothes men at Calvary church. As I remember, you said at that time that the license would not be renewed until you had assurance that such disorderly and brutal methods were a thing of the past.

It seems to me that a minister of the gospel, entering a church with the purpose of bringing to the attention of the audience what he conceived to be a more spiritual and humane interpretation of Christ's teachings than those exemplified by the Rockefeller interests in Colorado and elsewhere should be shown as much consideration at the hands of the city authorities as a gang of drunken students in a tenderloin resort.

I do not belong to any church myself. I am not an adherent of either Dr. Woelfkin's brand of religion or of White's. I speak merely as a citizen of New York. However, believing as I do, that the Christian church is entitled to respect, I feel that to manhandle and club people in church, because they desire to speak their mind in regard to ethical questions, is not only an assault upon liberty of expression, but upon the church itself and the spirit of Christianity which it is supposed to represent.

Nothing that Mr. White or his friends might have said in regard to the Christianity of Calvary church and of the gentlemen who support it, or of the standards of Christianity in this city, could possibly have amounted to so scathing an indictment as the furious assault which the city's officials and the frock-coat phalanx of Calvary piously indulged in.

If this is the Christianity of Calvary church, and of the city of New York, I for one feel that any man seeking religion, decency or common humanity would stand a better chance at Jack's.

A church and the representatives of a church are entitled to respect when their acts are in accordance with Christian principles. But when they act like ferocious Cossacks or adopt the tactics of the famous fly-wedge of Jack's, the mantle of Christianity and the name of Jesus should not be invoked to protect them.

One of the early examples of a protest against church commercialism was made 2,000 years ago in the city of Jerusalem. It was made by a man whose standing in the community was exceedingly bad. In fact, his reputation in the eyes of the Pharisees of that time was far worse than the reputation of Mr. White among the Pharisees today. Entering the temple, Jesus said, "My house is a house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves." And if I remember, this disturber rammed home his point by the final admonition, "Make not My Father's house an house of merchandise." Yet he was neither imprisoned nor arrested at this time.

One cannot help wondering at the comparative tolerance shown to this agitator by the gentlemen in charge of the temple and the city administration of Jerusalem.

The inference is unavoidable that 2,000 years ago in Jerusalem, a semi-barbarous Oriental city, a spirit of official and religious tolerance and freedom of discussion existed which is absent in Christian New York today.

For his crime Bouck White has been imprisoned in a distinctly mediaeval jail, where conditions of overcrowding confine six to ten men for fourteen hours a day in a small, foul cell. If you have yourself visited the workhouse, you know that the workhouse is a sink, into which the unfortunate refuse of the city is cast to rot and fester. You know that a large proportion of the inmates suffer from loathsome disease, and that these men, on account of overcrowding, are not and cannot be segregated from the rest. A sentence of six months in such a place, even for the most culpable kind of disorderly conduct, would be unjustifiable and inhuman. For such an offense as Mr. White's it is utterly uncivilized.

Mayor Mitchel in a public statement on the same day denied that he approved of police interference with free speech.



The United States Circuit Court of Appeals at Chicago refused on May 16 to grant any further stay of execution to the twenty-four members of the structural iron workers' union, convicted of conspiracy in 1912, and denied a new trial. They were ordered to report no later than June 6 to the warden of the penitentiary at Leavenworth. An application for pardon is pending. [See current volume, page 393.]

NEWS NOTES

—A lecture tour has been arranged for Louis Wallis of the University of Chicago, author of "The Sociological Study of the Bible." He will speak in Detroit on May 24 and 25, and goes thence to Cleveland,