

On May 20 the following resolutions were adopted:

Hostility to business must stop. With feelings of profound anxiety we observe prevailing industrial and commercial depression, wholly at variance with those healthy and prosperous conditions to which our country is entitled. On all sides productive industry and operative manufacture is shrinking in volume and output to a degree that forebodes years of slow recovery before prosperity can be restored.

We witness with amazement hostility toward established and legitimate business from many sources—journalistic, legislative, and even administrative—but we fail to detect any concerted and affirmative efforts to resuscitate business vitality or augment those great industrial forces that should express the sovereignty of our trade and commerce. The number of unemployed American workingmen, now hundreds of thousands, is increasing.

We affirm our conviction that unless there is a cessation of hostility to legitimate business the vitality of our commerce and trade will be critically impaired.

Another resolution condemns—

Those self-appointed or politically protected demagogues who seek to perpetuate themselves in the administration of public affairs by any means or measures, no matter what the economic effect, so long as such seem to promise temporary popular votes.

A third resolution pledges the association to the open shop. A broadening of the term "anarchist" in the immigration law was advocated to include all who advocate or practice sabotage. The use of the union label was condemned.



The Labor War.

The testimony of Captain Edward F. Carson of the Colorado militia before the court martial at Denver on May 18 was to the effect that during the fire at Ludlow the discipline of the soldiers under his command was bad. He said he saw soldiers and civilians carrying away property of all kinds and that he succeeded in making some of them put back what they had taken. The order he had received from Mayor Hamrock through Lieutenant Lamme was to proceed to Ludlow and "smoke them out." Mayor Hamrock admitted to the court martial on May 20 that he himself had fired a machine gun near the tent colony where women and children were sheltered. He denied having ordered the tents to be burned, but said that after firing the machine gun several times the tents burst into flames. Hamrock was the last witness called. On May 21 a verdict was rendered, but it is sealed and will not be published until approved by the Governor and Adjutant General. [See current volume, page 491.]



Judge Ben Lindsey of Denver, accompanied by Mrs. Lindsey, by Mrs. Lee Champion of the Colo-

rado Women's Relief Committee, and by three women who had been through the Ludlow battle, called on President Wilson on May 21 to present a statement of conditions in the strike district. He declared Governor Ammons to be incompetent, and that violence would again break out should the federal troops be withdrawn. He suggested that federal authority be used to close the mines until both sides agree to submit their grievances to arbitration. He endeavored also to secure an interview with John D. Rockefeller Jr., but was refused. On May 21 the Denver Chamber of Commerce telegraphed to President Wilson that Judge Lindsey did not represent Colorado or its interests. Furthermore the chamber declared him to be a prevaricator moved only by self-seeking political designs. The Real Estate Exchange also denounced Lindsey.



The destroyed strikers' tent colony at Ludlow was restored on May 20, under guard of the federal troops.



A strike of all coal miners in Ohio was ordered by the United Mine Workers of America on May 18. The strike is due to refusal of the operators to make a new contract in accordance with a recent state law regulating the use of screens. Miners have not heretofore been paid for coal mined which would pass through a screen of a certain mesh. The last legislature passed an act designed to stop this screening practice. This led to the demand for a new contract.



The Federal Commission on Industrial Relations began in New York City on May 18 an inquiry into the cause of labor troubles. The first day's session was taken up with the testimony of city officials and charitable workers regarding fraudulent and harmful practices of some employment agencies, and regarding the maintenance of strike-breaking agencies under cover of private detective bureaus. On May 19 the testimony was taken of representatives of employing interests and of persons interested in employment agencies. A. Marr, secretary of the Lake Carriers' Association, told of the struggle with the Seamen's union. Testimony on May 20 related principally to child labor. Miss Anna Herkner of the Maryland Bureau of Labor told of difficulties in enforcing the child labor laws of that state. Speaking of the wooden box industry, where conditions are especially bad, she said the Bureau could do nothing because manufacturers do not listen to orders and continually threaten litigation, which the Bureau has no time to defend. Children in Maryland, she said, hardly ever reach the fifth grade of the public schools. Terence V. Powderly of the federal Department of Labor, advocated the issuing of in-

formation by the federal government telling where men were needed, but he opposed sending of men to take the places of strikers. On May 21, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, testified concerning that organization. He denied that it ever used coercive methods to get workers to join unions. He was questioned by Morris Hillquit, representing the Socialist party, regarding political activity of the federation. Gompers denied that the federation is a political body, but said "it will, however, try to help the workers along any line of political activity." He further declared that it had helped the workers to get a larger share of their labor products. He opposed a minimum wage law saying that history shows that such legislation always leads to industrial slavery. On the following day Morris Hillquit and Max Hayes, editor of the socialist paper, the *Cleveland Citizen*, declared themselves to harbor none but friendly feelings for the American Federation of Labor and that the same is true of the Socialist party.



National Conference of Charities.

The National Conference of Charities and Correction, in session at Memphis from May 12 to 15, decided in favor of a radical investigation of the causes of poverty. A committee was appointed to study and report on two subjects, (1) Taxation reform as it relates to congestion and poverty, (2) social insurance. The chairman of the committee is Prof. Henry R. Seager, of Columbia University; the other members are: John R. Commons, vice-chairman, Madison, Wis.; Roger Baldwin, St. Louis, Mo.; Frederick L. Hoffman, Newark, N. J.; Louis D. Brandeis, Boston, Mass.; John B. Andrews, New York City; Mrs. Florence Kelley, New York City; Rev. Harry F. Ward, Oak Park, Ill.; Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, Portland, Ore.; Benjamin C. Marsh, New York City; Alexander Johnson, Vineland, N. J.; James Mullenbach, Chicago, Ill.; John Mitchell, New York City; John H. Ferguson, Baltimore, Md.; Jean Gordon, New Orleans, La.; Chas. P. Neill, N. Y. A letter from Mrs. Mary Fels urging action similar to that which was taken had been sent to all delegates. [See vol. xv, pp. 603, 610; vol. xvi, p. 684.]



An auxiliary meeting of members of the conference, but not officially a meeting of the conference, was held on May 15 to discuss "Tax Reform as Related to Congestion and Poverty." Alexander Johnson of New Jersey presided, and A. Y. Scott of Memphis was secretary. Mr. Johnson told of efforts he has made since 1897 to secure discussion of the Singletax at these conferences. The speakers all advocated heavier taxation of land values as a means of attacking poverty. Among these were Judge A. B. Pittman of Memphis, B.

C. Marsh of New York, George S. Wilson of Washington, D. C., Stewart Rice of Seattle, Bolton Smith, R. G. Brown, Charles Kelly, A. Y. Scott and Rabbi Freinsheiber of Memphis, A. Halbert of Kansas City, and Rev. J. A. Magruder of Baltimore.



Scandinavian Militarism.

In accordance with the spirit of the recent election the Swedish government has introduced a defense bill in the Swedish Parliament, providing for an annual expenditure of \$15,500,000 for the army, and \$7,000,000 for the navy. The new program includes the construction of eight battle-ships, and sixteen destroyers. [See current volume, page 494.]



Norway, also, is yielding to the spirit of insecurity. The integrity treaty signed by Russia, Germany, France and England, by which the neutrality of Norway should be observed in case of European war is questioned; and steps are being taken to increase the country's defenses. Parliament has lengthened service in the navy from six months to twelve months; and a bill is in preparation to lengthen the army service, which is now 144 days.

NEWS NOTES

—In 1906 the Socialist party of France polled 877,999 votes. In 1910 the vote rose to 1,110,561, and in 1914 to 1,398,771.

—The California Home Rule in Taxation Amendment was endorsed on May 18 by the city council of Sausalito. [See current volume, page 465.]

—An initiative petition for municipal ownership of gas and electric light plants is being circulated in Grand Junction, Colorado. [See current volume, page 465.]

—Elections for eighty-eight members of the Belgian Chamber of Deputies were held on the 24th in the provinces of Liege, Limbourg, Hainaut, and Eastern Flanders. The relative strength of the several parties was not changed.

—Imports into Liverpool from the United States for 1913 amounted to \$361,494,734, of which \$25,283,749 were dutiable. Tobacco, dried plums, unrefined sugar, liquid glucose, cocoa, molasses and fruits containing sugar comprised the principal dutiable articles.

—No personal property tax return having been made by John D. Rockefeller as a resident of Cleveland, an arbitrary valuation of \$300,000,000 was returned for him by the deputy tax commissioner on May 20. Mr. Rockefeller claims non-residence. [See current volume, pages 158, 327.]

—Taxation in Western Canada will be discussed at the sessions of September 8 of the National Tax Association at Denver. Those participating will be Pro-