

addressed on September 1 by the New York Lower Rent Society of which Benjamin C. Marsh is secretary. The candidates were asked whether they would sign a bill, in case of passage by the legislature, permitting a referendum vote to be taken in New York City on the question of taxing land values at a higher rate than improvements. Governor Glynn declined to commit himself, saying that the legislative committee had rejected the proposition, that the Merchants' Association had declared against it and the Board of Estimate and Apportionment had opposed action pending an investigation. All other candidates, including Governor-Elect Whitman, responded favorably. His letter, as published in the Tenants' Weekly, follows:

In reply to your letter of September 1st, let me say that, should I be elected Governor, and should the Legislature pass a bill submitting to a local referendum the question of gradually reducing the tax rate on buildings in New York City to 1 per cent of the tax rate on land, I, as Governor, would do nothing to interfere with such a referendum.

[See current volume, page 976.]

#### Roger Sullivan's Reflections.

In a post-election statement Roger Sullivan commented on the result in Illinois as follows:

It is regrettable that we have people so minded as to penalize a man for the religion he got from his mother, and that we have men willing to capitalize this baseness for the sake of getting office. This appeal to religious prejudice, particularly when given countenance by high personages in Democratic officialdom, is still effective in some parts of Illinois.

No man ever had a cleaner, more fairly won nomination. It came by direct vote of the people in the face of combined opposition from all political machines and all political payrolls—city, county, state and federal—in Illinois; it came without appeal to prejudice or factionalism, or resort to personalities. By all the rules of the game such a verdict should have been accepted. It is to be regretted that some opponents of my nomination could not accept the verdict of the state-wide primary election in the spirit that governed the leading contestants in the primary.

It is regrettable that the people were unwilling to give the national administration's work a fair chance to be tested by time. Cook county seems to be about the only debatable ground in the country where consistent Democratic success was recorded. This, is, personally, highly gratifying.

[See current volume, pages 997, 1039, 1046.]

#### Public Forum as Fels Memorial.

Plans for a public forum as a memorial monument to Joseph Fels were submitted to Philadelphia's city council on November 5 by the Joseph Fels Memorial Committee. The place proposed is the north plaza of the City Hall, where open air

meetings are now usually held. [See current volume, page 248.]

#### The Labor War.

On request of Federal Judge Woumans of Arkansas President Wilson on November 4 ordered federal troops to the Arkansas coal fields near Fort Smith. The mines are under a federal receivership, a strike is on and Judge Woumans claims inability to enforce his mandates.

Striking waitresses in Chicago were enjoined on November 5 by Circuit Judge Baldwin from engaging in picketing. This injunction includes even the silent picketing in which the strikers have been engaged. The picket would quietly stand on or walk about the sidewalk in front of the boycotted place, wearing a card stating that a strike was on, but saying nothing to anyone who chose to patronize the place. [See current volume, page 229.]

The Executive Committee of the American Federation of Labor presented its annual report on November 9, preliminary to the formal opening at Philadelphia on the 10th of the annual convention of the Federation. The report deals largely with troubles in the mining districts of Colorado, West Virginia and Michigan. Concerning these it says in part:

Land-holding conditions involved in some mining districts have enabled the operators to establish what amounts to a feudal operating system for the mines.

They own vast tracts of land, hundreds and even thousands of square miles in extent, on which the mines are located.

The mining companies own and therefore control all roads that traverse the land. They own the houses in which the miners live; the villages made up of these miners, the schools, the churches which minister to their spiritual needs, the stores from which they buy their clothing, food and other necessities, the postoffices where they get their mail, money orders, and conduct their crude banking transactions.

Every detail of mining life is under the supervision of the mine operators through their power of ownership.

In time of strike the mine operators have the power of eviction and have forced hundreds of strikers and their families to seek shelter in tent colonies, with the consequent danger of exposure. There can be no real freedom under such conditions of industrial tyranny.

In addition to the problems arising from the feudal ownership of land, the mine operators have assumed police power. They employ armed mine guards to maintain their regulations and to guard mine property.

In times of industrial peace the mine guards serve

as police and prevent "undesirable" persons from trespassing on the land of the mining companies.

The elastic term, "trespass," has been interpreted to mean all manner of organizing activities. . . .

Regarding the use of injunctions the report states:

Judge Dayton of injunction fame issued a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction forbidding the officers and all persons who now are or hereafter may be members of the United Mine Workers of America to organize the mines or to strike or to aid in a strike against the company.

Eighteen employes of the company and organizers were charged with contempt and haled before Judge Dayton. They were found guilty and sentenced to pay fines and serve jail sentences.

These are distressing proofs of how even the judiciary may be used by the mine operators as a strike destroying agency.

Speaking of Colorado it says:

In Colorado the same feudal conditions prevail in the coal mining fields. The mining companies owned all the dwellings; caused county commissioners to vacate parts of roads in their favor; required passes of those using public highways; controlled stores, churches and schools, and maintained their regulations by the use of armed mine guards. The mine operators' policies have been determined by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, which is controlled by the Standard Oil Company. There, too, all the organized agencies of the state were subservient to the corporations.

The laws of the state affecting miners were broken with cynical disregard.

Civil authority in Colorado broke down under the contest that ensued. The state militia was put at the service of the coal companies. The striking miners, driven from their homes, were collected in camps to endure the long siege.

These industrial struggles in the coal fields are most vigorous illustrations of a great menace to industrial justice and peace.

The detective agencies have made of the gunmen's work a specialized occupation or profession. The nature of the work attracts a daring and venturesome, lawless class of rovers who followed some of the predatory methods of gaining a livelihood. The men are shipped from one state to another whenever corporations may have need of their services.

Secretary Wilson of the United States Department of Labor called attention to this in his first annual report.

The report praises the Clayton bill, saying that "it contains the most fundamental, the most comprehensive enunciation of industrial freedom found in any legislative act in the history of the world." Reference was made to the European war and the conditions and policies condemned which led thereto. The following suggestion was offered:

Militarism and competitive armament must be abolished, and tribunals for awarding justice and agencies for enforcing determinations must be instituted. International interests and issues exist. Political institutions should be established corresponding to political developments. Those most interested

should lead in demands for world federation and the rule of reason between nations.

The working people of all lands bear the brunt of war.

[See volume xvi, page 1091, current volume, pages 515, 925.]



## Cattle Quarantine in Chicago.

The Illinois State Board of Health on November 4 seconded the action of the Federal Government in ordering the Chicago stockyards closed under a nine-day quarantine. Beginning with November 5 all shipment of animals to or from the yards was stopped and all animals affected with or exposed to foot and mouth disease were killed, except some prize cattle which have been isolated. After the yards have been thoroughly disinfected they will again be opened. [See current volume, page 1069.]



## Mexico and the United States.

General Carranza withdrew from Mexico City with his cabinet and set up his government at Puebla when the Provisional President, Eulalio Guiterrez, was chosen by the Aguas Calientes Convention. He refuses to recognize the action of the Convention. On the 9th he issued an ultimatum, declaring himself the chief head of the Republic, and calling upon the military chieftains attending the Convention to return to their posts on pain of being supplanted by the next in rank. [See current volume, page 1065.]



General Guiterrez, the new President, who took the oath of office on the 7th, has proclaimed himself the chief executive, beginning November 10th, and has appointed the following cabinet: Foreign Minister, Fernando Iglecias Caderon; Minister of Communications, General Antonio Villareal; Minister of War, General Juvencio Robles; Minister of Interior, General Jose Blanco; Minister of Public Instruction, Signor Soto y Gama; Minister of Justice, Jose Vasconcelos; Minister of Progress, Pastor Roaix; Minister of the Treasury, Felicis Villareal. Enrique C. Llorente will be appointed Washington representative of the constitutionalists. The new government threatens to treat General Carranza as a rebel unless he recognizes the action of the Convention. General Villa adheres to the Guiterrez government.



## The European War.

Little change in the general situation has followed the fourteenth week of fighting. The fall of Kiao-Chau, though of minor importance as compared with the whole, is the most striking incident. It marks the passing of the last of the German