

on September 12 by the Wine Growers' Association of California, objecting to the proposed tax on wines, on the ground that it would be confiscatory and that if levied, the grape crop, now ripe, could not be sold.



The House bill, said to embody the wishes of Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, designed to eliminate dwelling houses in the alleys of Washington, passed the Senate on September 18.



The River and Harbor bill, carrying appropriations of \$93,000,000, which had passed the House was defeated in the Senate on September 21, when a motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Commerce carried by a vote of 27 to 22. The motion carries instructions to the committee to cut the bill down to a sum not exceeding \$20,000,000. The majority for the motion to recommit consisted of 16 Democrats and 11 Republicans. Four Republicans, one Progressive and 17 Democrats constituted the minority.



A resolution directing the House Labor Committee to investigate conditions in the textile mills at Atlanta, Georgia, was introduced on September 15 by Representative Greene of Massachusetts.



Treaties with the United States, embodying the Wilson-Bryan peace plan, were signed on September 15 by the governments of France, Spain, Great Britain and China. In comment on this, Secretary of State William J. Bryan, said:

The signing of the four treaties today with Great Britain, France, Spain and China bring under treaty obligations more than 900,000,000 people. These, when added to the population of the United States and the population of the twenty-two countries with which similar treaties heretofore have been signed, brings under the influence of these treaties considerably more than two-thirds of the inhabitants of the globe.

As these treaties all provide for investigation of all matters in dispute before any declaration of war or commencement of hostilities, it is believed they will make armed conflict between the contracting nations almost, if not entirely, impossible.

[See current volume, pages 805, 899.]



The Eastern railroads recently refused a five per cent advance in freight rates, petitioned the Interstate Commerce Commission on September 15 to reopen the case. Loss of income due to the war is given as the reason. The hearing has been set for October 19. On September 21 the railroads also asked for permission to increase passenger fares on the basis of 2½ cents a mile. [See current volume, page 756.]

The Federal Reserve Board on September 19 approved the general outlines of a plan submitted by bankers to meet American obligations to European creditors. One hundred million dollars in gold is to be deposited in the Canadian branch of the Bank of England. Details of the plan are still to be considered. [See current volume, page 783.]



In response to complaints that have come to him, Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo on September 21 issued a warning to the national banks which have received government funds to aid in crop moving, or have received emergency currency, that they must not charge excessive interest rates or refuse legitimate credits. [See current volume, page 783.]



The Labor War.

The Executive Board of the United Mine Workers of America at Indianapolis on September 15 accepted President Wilson's proposition for a three-year truce in the Colorado coal fields. A letter was sent to the President, of which the following is a part:

We have weighed well and thoughtfully both the sentiments expressed in your personal letter and the proposed tentative basis for the adjustment of the coal mining strike in Colorado, the acceptance of which you urge "with very deep earnestness."

The organization, which we have the honor to represent, stands for industrial peace. We favor the establishment of right relations between employers and employes to the end that strikes may be rendered unnecessary. Having proper regard for these aims, we sought in the beginning to avoid an industrial conflict in Colorado. We repeatedly asked for a meeting with the mine owners with the object in view of entering into contractual relations with them so that peace might prevail.

Had this been done, we are confident that the awful industrial struggle, which has been going on in Colorado, could have been avoided; instead of bloodshed, bitterness, industrial strife and economic waste, there could have been established throughout the coal fields peace, prosperity and harmonious co-operation.

It is our judgment that employers and employes, through their chosen representatives, ought to meet and settle their differences by mutual agreement. A direct, working agreement, entered into in a friendly spirit, makes for abiding permanent industrial peace. This, we believe, ought to be done by the miners and operators of Colorado. However, we are mindful of the suffering and waste which this strike has thus far imposed and the additional sacrifice which will be made if it continues.

Feeling keenly, therefore, our responsibilities, as the representatives of our organization, we accept your proposed basis of settlement of the Colorado strike—subject, of course, to the approval of the miners of Colorado. A convention of the representatives of the miners of Colorado will be held at

Trinidad, Colo., Tuesday, Sept. 15, at which time action will be taken thereon.

We sincerely appreciate the personal concern which you have manifested in the Colorado strike. Speaking as you do, in the name of all the people of our great nation, we feel it our duty to respond to your earnest wish. We do so, therefore, as we trust in the true spirit of American citizenship.

The Colorado miners at Trinidad on September 16 approved the action of the Executive Board and voted 83 to 8 to accept the President's proposal. [See current volume, page 900.]



The coal mine owners met at Denver on September 19 to consider the three-year truce plan. No definite decision was announced but a committee was appointed to call on President Wilson and explain to him their position.



Robert C. Moore Nominated.

Complete returns of the Illinois primary show that Robert C. Moore of Carlinville was nominated for Superintendent of Public Instruction. The first reports had given the nomination to Miss Caroline Grote. [See current volume, page 899.]



Mexico and the United States.

Plans have been completed for the carrying out of the President's order for the withdrawal of the United States troops in Vera Cruz. The exact date of withdrawal will not be set until adjustments of questions growing out of the customs management have been effected, and ample time has been allowed for the removal of American and Mexican refugees in Vera Cruz. A large number of nuns and priests have taken refuge in the city, and General Funston estimates that there are 1,000 other persons who wish to leave before the evacuation; and time must be allowed for all to secure transportation. [See current volume, page 898.]



Consular dispatches report that conditions throughout Mexico are fast assuming their normal appearance. It is said that virtually every governor and military chieftain has signified his intention of attending the national convention called by General Carranza for October 1st.

NEWS NOTES

—United States Senator John Walter Smith of Maryland was renominated by the Democrats at the primaries on September 15. The Republican nominee is Edward C. Carrington.

—The Wisconsin Democratic convention on September 15 at Madison was controlled by the reac-

tionary element. It disapproved of the pending amendment for the Initiative, Referendum and Recall.

—Registration days in Chicago for the fall election will be on Saturday, October 3, and on Tuesday, October 13. All voters, including those who registered in September for the primary, must register on one of these days to take part in the November election.

—The complexion of the Maine legislature is still in doubt. On the face of the returns the Republicans have a majority of two in the Senate and the Democrats of two in the House with a number of seats to be contested. The Progressives elected two members. [See current volume, page 900.]

—Attorney General Webb of California and the State Railroad Commission were enjoined on September 14 by Federal Judge Maurice T. Dooling at San Francisco from enforcing a state law declaring pipe line companies, common carriers, and requiring them to file their rates with the commission.

—The Nineteenth Annual Illinois State Conference of Charities and Corrections will be held on October 24, 25, 26 and 27 at La Salle. At the same time and place meetings will be held of the State Anti-Tuberculosis Association, State Probation Officers' Association and the State Association of Superintendents of Country Homes.

—The State Committee of the Washington party (official name in Pennsylvania for the Progressive party) met at Harrisburg on September 16 and substituted the name of Vance McCormick, Democratic nominee for Governor, for that of the regularly nominated Washington party candidate, William Draper Lewis, who has withdrawn. [See current volume, page 893.]

—Arkansas on September 15 approved an initiative act prohibiting employment of any child who has attended school less than four years or is under 14 years of age. It also prohibits employment of children under 16 in hazardous occupations. Children between 14 and 16 may not be employed more than eight hours a day, and those between 16 and 18 no more than nine hours a day.

—Ben J. Salmon, Democratic nominee in Denver for the Colorado legislature, announces his platform as follows: "Colorado has natural resources to employ more than 100 times her present population. Silly laws taxing the use of these available resources and surrounding them with artificial barriers prevents employment of labor and investment of capital. Tax population-values only—employ more people—invest more capital. We need fewer laws and these made to conform to natural law."

—As a result of a protest by a committee consisting of Thornwald Siegfried, E. B. Ault, G. E. Tilton and Theodore Teepe, the Seattle School Board announced on September 14 that its prohibition of school debates on the single tax will not go into effect this year. Acting President Shorrock of the Board explained that "the board is continually beset by individuals who wish to exploit the schools for political propaganda and it is obliged to guard against such attempts." Since the State Board of Education has already sent out literature to the high schools on this question, he said, it has been