

Chicago from witnessing the count of bona fide subscribers of the Automatic Telephone system operated by the Illinois Telegraph and Telephone Company. The corporation's charter provides for forfeiture of its plant to the city should it have less than 20,000 bona fide subscribers receiving its service. The corporation has tried to obtain permission from the city council to sell out to the local Bell Telephone Company. The Penny Phone League objected to this request and started an agitation to enforce the forfeiture provision. Council was finally forced on October 5 to order an investigation. Sixteen organizations joined in a demand that the count of subscribers by Public Service Commissioner Montague Ferry be witnessed by a committee of two aldermen, a reputable accountant, a representative woman and a representative of the Federation of Labor. The organizations making this demand were the Penny Phone League, the Republican County Executive Committee, Prohibition County Committee, Progressive Club, Socialist party committee, Woman's City Club, Woman's Party of Cook County, Political Equality League, Woman's Municipal Committee, Chicago Federation of Labor, Chicago Singletax Club, Woman's Trade Union League, Embroiderers' Union, Chicago Civil Service League, and the Edgewater Improvement Association. By a vote of nine to four the council committee on gas, oil and electric light, at a meeting on November 25, rejected the demand of these organizations. Strong protests were made against this action, and at a subsequent meeting on November 30 the committee surrendered after first endeavoring to have accepted a motion by Alderman Bowler authorizing the mayor to appoint the committee. This was defeated through vigorous opposition of Alderman Merriam, who had led the minority at the previous meeting. Three witnesses will accordingly be selected by the civic organizations. [See current volume, page 996.]



Candidacy of Robert Bridges.

The candidacy of Robert Bridges for Collector of Customs of Seattle has attracted attention on account of Mr. Bridges' service as Port Commissioner wherein he prevented a grab by private individuals of the publicly owned water front. In a letter dated November 23 to Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo concerning this matter, Thorwald Siegfried of Seattle wrote as follows:

Mr. Bridges has been of greater service in promoting the welfare of all of the people in the Port district and a greater hindrance to the spread of Plutocratic exploitation than any single person in our community. On that account and on account of his fitness to occupy with credit any position to which he may be appointed, all the people of Seattle, excepting those whose selfish designs he has frus-

trated, would feel a peculiar delight in having Mr. Bridges honored at your hands.



Mexico and the United States.

Wild rumors fill the press dispatches from Mexico. General Lucio Blanco, who was to have held the City of Mexico until the arrival of General Villa, evacuated the city on the 25th, and General Zapata took possession. Some disturbance occurred at the time, but quiet was quickly restored; and no violence has since been reported. Assurances of full protection to property and person is given foreigners and natives alike by General Zapata. General Villa and General Zapata are reported to be in accord in their support of the new provisional president, General Gutierrez. General Carranza retired to Vera Cruz, where he is awaiting developments. General Gonzales, one of Carranza's chief supporters, declared himself on the 29th provisional president, and named a cabinet. General Villa, General Gonzales and General Obregon were the three leading Constitutionalist generals who carried the movement to success. They now head three separate movements. The last named is the only one who now sides with General Carranza. [See current volume, page 1139.]



General Villa entered a suburb of the City of Mexico on the 1st at the head of 25,000 men, where he will remain until the arrival of Provisional President Gutierrez. General Villa issued to the press the following statement:

"My only mission is to restore order in Mexico and not to take personal revenge on anyone. I promise that order will be restored at once. I am acting as the subordinate of Provisional President Gutierrez and the national convention.

"The Provisional President is is now the supreme power in Mexico, and I am merely acting as field commander of the armies. All foreigners and foreign property will be protected."



General Funston's army, which evacuated Vera Cruz on the 23d, reached Galveston on the 26th. The chartered steamer Antilla brought 330 American and Mexican refugees.



The European War.

Interest has been centered mainly upon the campaign in Poland, where the Russian and German armies are struggling for the mastery, and where a decisive battle will have a direct effect upon the war. Steady progress is reported of the Russian campaign against the Austrians. The Austrians also are reported to have been checked by the Servians and Montenegrins. Little has been reported of Turkish activities, or of the

military operations in South Africa. The campaign in Belgium and the north of France has been comparatively quiet. Large British re-enforcements are said to have landed at Havre, and an aggressive movement on the part of the Allies is expected at an early day. Nothing of great moment has happened on the sea. The week on the whole is thought to mark a decline in the fortunes of Germany. [See current volume, page 1142.]



The Campaign in the East.

Interest still centers in the Titanic struggle between the Russian and German armies in Poland. The impact of the enormous force of German troops now invading western Poland carried the Russians half way to Warsaw; but the advance was finally stopped by the Russians, who succeeded in cutting the German army in two, and by advancing upon the flanks of the army between the Vistula and Warta Rivers threatened its defeat, and possible destruction. German re-enforcements from East Prussia and from Thorn succeeded in fighting their way through the intercepting Russian army to relieve their hard-pressed brethren, and it appears beyond question that through this move they managed to prevent a serious disaster. Official reports are lacking; but unofficial reports from Petrograd and Berlin claim advantages for their respective armies. The campaign embraces in reality three armies on the long battle line from the Vistula to Cracow, and as the struggle waxes and wanes successes may be claimed at different points by each side. It is evident that the check to the German advance is a serious reverse in the Kaiser's campaign, and every possible spare man from the western front, and the last of the reserves are being thrown into the struggle in Poland. General von Hindenburg, who has the principal command, has been raised by the Kaiser to the rank of Field Marshal. The Crown Prince is reported to be in command of the German right wing, the southernmost of the three armies. Cracow is reported to be under siege by the Russian forces. The Austrians have been compelled to retire before the Russian advance until nearly all the territory north of the Carpathians except the fortified town of Przemysl has been abandoned. Vienna admits the evacuation of Czernowitz, the capital of Bukowina, the southernmost province of Galicia. The latest reports on the Eastern campaign indicate slight Russian advances in Eastern Prussia, a deadlock along the line from Thorn through Lodz to Cracow, and the bombardment of Cracow by the Russians. The campaign of Austria against Serbia and Montenegro appears to have made little progress. Engagements are reported between the Austrians and Servians along the Kolubara River south of Valievo, in which each side claims the victory. The same conflict of reports is found in

dispatches regarding the battle between the Austrians and Montenegrins at Vishegrad on the Drina River in Bosnia. Fifteen regiments of Russian troops with supplies have ascended the Danube from the Black Sea to aid the Servians.



The Campaign in Western Europe.

Comparative quiet has reigned on the western battle line. The withdrawal of all the German troops, save enough to hold the entrenchments, for the struggle with Russia has prevented the Germans from engaging in offensive movements, and the Allies have not seen fit to begin their attack in force. Heavy re-enforcements of British are unofficially reported as landing at Havre, from which point they have made their way to some point on the long battle line, presumably on the western end. The little news that filters through the lines is taken to indicate that the Germans have abandoned their original purpose of breaking through the Allies' line in the Belgian territory near the coast and will try to get through farther to the south. They are said to be collecting large forces in the vicinity of Ypres and at Arras. It is estimated by military critics that there are now 4,000,000 men on the western field, with the Allies outnumbering the Germans as much as the Germans surpassed the Allies in the earlier stage of the war. It is assumed that the Allies are now ready to take the offensive. Food prices in Germany are rising rapidly. Wheat is reported at \$1.69 a bushel; beans, peas and lentils have doubled in price; eggs and vegetables have almost entirely disappeared; pork is said to be plentiful. Luxemburg papers announce that Germany has paid the Duchy \$256,000 for damage done to fields and crops by passage of troops, and \$62,200 for damage to roads, streets and buildings. The indignation of Sweden over the action of Germany in declaring wood, tar and sulphur contraband, has aroused such bitter criticism in the Swedish press that Germany has threatened reprisals if the tone is not modified.



Turkey.

Reports of military operations in Turkey are vague and contradictory. The Russians claim successes in an advance on Erzerum in Armenia. The Turkish advance is reported as turning into a disastrous retreat to the fortifications of Erzerum. Rumors of Turkish troops about to descend upon the Suez Canal still lack verification. Unrest among the natives in Egypt is reported, and an uprising predicted by Berlin. The British are reported to be preparing to set up a new Khedive in Egypt, having selected for the office Hussein Kemal, son of Ismael Pasha, who was khedive 1863 to 1879, and uncle of the present khedive. Little evidence is yet manifested of a general

response to Mohammedan uprising in response to the declaration of a Holy War.

On the Sea.

No naval engagements have been reported, and but little of the operations of cruisers. Two British ships of small tonnage are reported sunk by German submarines off Havre. This is considered a remarkable feat, as the action took place a hundred and fifty miles from the German base. The British collier, Khartoum, was wrecked by a mine fifteen miles southeast of Hull. But the severest disaster was the blowing up of the battleship Bulwark while lying at anchor in Sheerness harbor at the mouth of the Thames. The accident is supposed to have been caused by spontaneous combustion in the ship's magazine. Practically the entire crew of 800 men was lost. The British fleet is reported to have done effective work in bombarding the Belgian coast. Particular attention was given to Zeebrugge, where extensive fortifications were destroyed. Six new submarines are reported as wrecked before they were launched. Charges of infringement of neutrality are made against the German vessels operating in South Pacific waters off the coast of South America. The United States is making inquiries into the complaints of Chile, from whose ports German vessels are reported to have coaled and departed without clearance papers.

NEWS NOTES

—Judge Catlin of the State Circuit Court of Minnesota on November 23, at St. Paul, held unconstitutional the minimum wage law of the State. [See current volume, page 1092.]

—President Wilson consented on November 23 to see on a date to be fixed in December a delegation of Democratic women who wish to urge support of a constitutional amendment for woman suffrage. [See current volume, page 658, 701.]

—Luther Casting, electrician of the State penitentiary at Arkansas, resigned on November 30 in preference to becoming the executioner of ten men condemned to die in the electric chair. No action has yet been taken on his resignation. [See current volume, page 1143.]

—K. P. Alexander of Little Rock, Arkansas, has accepted the invitation of the Little Rock Science Club to present to it in January plans for scientific taxation based on a comparison of the present tax system in that city with systems prevailing in Houston, Texas, and Vancouver.

—The Christmas Ship, which sailed from New York on the 14th, arrived at Devonport, England, on the 25th, where it was received with the highest military honors by the British government. After discharging the Christmas presents for the children of Great Britain and Belgium, the vessel sailed on the 28th for Marseilles, where the gifts for France

will be delivered. Gifts for Germany and Austria will be delivered at Genoa, to be forwarded by rail. And those for Servia and Montenegro at Saloniki. The gifts for Russia were sent direct to Archangel on the steamer Korsh. [See current volume, page 1143.]

—A change of venue was granted Theodore Roosevelt on November 25 by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court at Albany in the case of the libel suit brought against him by William Barnes. The trial will take place in Onondaga County at Syracuse. [See current volume, page 976.]

—Miss Alice Henry, editor of *Life and Labor*, is specializing her work in the suffrage movement by devoting attention to proportional representation. Women, she says, who would make their votes really effective must see to it that electoral methods are modernized and representation made truly democratic.

—Crocker Land, the Arctic continent which Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary believed he had discovered, was declared to be non-existent in a report of the exploring expedition of Donald B. MacMillan to the American Museum of Natural History, published on November 24. [See vol. xiii, page 445, vol. xvi, page 709.]

—The Interstate Commerce Commission suspended on November 30 until March 31 all proposed advances in freight rates which were to go into effect on December 1, but it declined to interfere with increases in passenger rates, which consequently went partly into effect on December 1 and will go completely into effect on December 15. [See current volume, page 1144.]

—Statistics of exports and imports of the United States [see current volume, page 1047] for the ten months ending October, 1914, as given by the statistical sheet of the Department of Commerce for October, 1914, were as follows:

	Exports.	Imports	Balance. Exp.
Merchandise	\$1,662,685,841	\$1,548,429,652	\$114,256,189
Gold	207,998,750	45,876,812	162,121,938
Silver	42,452,890	20,340,603	22,112,287
Total	\$1,913,137,481	\$1,614,647,067	\$298,490,414

The exports of merchandise for October, 1914, the third month of the European war, were \$195,283,852, as compared with \$271,861,464 for October, 1913, and \$254,633,504 in 1912. The imports of merchandise for October, 1914, were \$137,978,778, as compared with \$132,949,302 for October, 1913, and \$177,987,986 in 1912. Of the merchandise imported in October, 1914, 62.97 per cent came in free of duty. Of the total imports of merchandise for the ten months ending October, 1914, 61.36 per cent came in free of duty; whereas of the imports for the corresponding ten months of 1913, 53.61 per cent were free of duty.

—Official returns of the Illinois election show the result of the vote on the senatorship as follows: Lawrence Y. Sherman, Republican, 390,661; Roger C. Sullivan, Democrat, 373,403; Raymond Robins, Progressive, 203,027; Adolph Germer, Socialist, 39,889. Raymond Robins received 89,517 more votes than the next highest candidate of the Progressive party. Elza V. Williams, Democratic candidate for