

Promotion of violence by the use of gunmen, spies and provokers hired by employers.

National labor exchanges are advocated. It is understood that this preliminary report is to be followed later with a more complete one after the Commission's investigations have been completed.



Chicago's Trouble With Corporation Agreements.

After the committee of Chicago's city council had agreed to allow representatives of the city's civic organizations to witness the count of the automatic telephone subscribers, the Illinois Telegraph and Telephone Company, operating the system, formally admitted on December 3 that it has less than 20,000 subscribers. But its attorneys deny that this involves the forfeiture to the city of its plant as the terms of its franchise require. They construe the words "If at any time after June 1, 1911, the company shall cease to operate a telephone system serving 20,000 bona fide subscribers" to mean "ready to serve 20,000 bona fide subscribers." Since they are ready to serve this number, but have not secured them, they hold themselves secure. [See current volume, page 1162.]



Auditors employed by the city of Chicago to investigate the books of the Chicago Railway Company reported to the mayor on December 3 that the company has incorrectly charged to capital account \$6,945,130.40. This error has benefited the company in dividing profits with the city according to the contract of 1907. To rectify the error the auditors say the company should pay into the city's traction fund the sum of \$584,264.29. [See volume xvi, pages 26, 99; current volume, page 558.]



The Milwaukee Leader Wins.

The case of City Clerk Peter F. Leuch against the Milwaukee Leader, the Socialist organ, resulted on November 20 in a victory for the Leader. Judge George Clementson, who presided, directed a verdict in its favor, which put the costs of the case on Leuch. The case arose from publication in the Leader on December 9, 1912, of a story charging Leuch with violating the State law forbidding payment for overtime to public employes. Although the Supreme Court of the State had ruled that Leuch's act was illegal, he nevertheless brought suit for libel against the Leader. The case came up the first time in November, 1913, before a jury of anti-Socialists, which returned a verdict for Leuch. The Leader appealed. In the second trial the jury—which contained no member friendly to Socialism—was deadlocked, and the judge took matters into his own hands. Leuch says he will appeal. [See vol. xvi, page 1155.]

Mexico and the United States.

Direct communication with the Mexican capital, after an interruption of a week, was restored through El Paso on the 30th. Little authentic news, however, is yet to be had. General Blanco having left Mexico City in advance of the time agreed upon for the entry of General Zapata and General Villa, some disorder occurred, and the merchants begged General Zapata, who was awaiting the coming of General Villa, to take possession at once to restore order. This was done, and after provision had been made for policing the city, the General, in order to show his good faith, retired, to await the coming of Provisional President Gutierrez and General Villa. The new President, entering the city with General Villa, took possession of the national palace of the capital on the 3d. Efforts are under way by Generals Villa and Zapata to give effect to the new government, and to restore order throughout the country. [See current volume, page 1163.]



Sporadic fighting on a small scale is reported from various parts of the country where the forces of General Carranza come in conflict with those of the new government. General Carranza is reported to be at Vera Cruz, from which point he sends copious accounts to his agents in the United States for distribution. No serious campaigning appears to be under way, and little definite information of military movements is at hand. Desultory fighting continues on the Mexican border near Naco, Arizona, and complaints are made by the Americans of the danger from stray bullets. Nothing more has been reported of General Gonzales' assumption of the presidency. The Carranzistas seem to be on the defensive, and although still defiant of the new government set up by the Aguas Calientes convention, are impotent.



The European War.

The main center of interest continues in Poland where the Russian and German armies continue their indecisive struggle for the mastery, with the Germans again advancing. Russia is still making headway against Austria, and is laying siege to Cracow. Austria has taken Belgrade, the capital of Servia, and continues a slow advance into Servia. The campaign in the west favors the Allies, but marks little change in the battle line. Turkey continues an unimportant factor, the South African rebellion has collapsed. Nothing of importance is reported from the Sea. The situation as a whole shows little to encourage either side. [See current volume, page 1163.]



The Campaign in the East.

What seemed a week ago to be favorable fortune

for the Russians in the Polish campaign has again turned in favor of the Germans; and the see-saw movement of the great armies across Poland is now turning toward the east. The Russian forces south of the Vistula River were not strong enough to hold the Germans in the trap into which they had gotten the invaders. The Germans, at the cost of many men and guns, succeeded in breaking through the enveloping Russian lines; after which, by the aid of reinforcements, they cleared their flanks, and straightened their threatened lines. Lodz, an unfortified town, which the Germans occupied in a former invasion of Poland, has again been taken by them. Other advances have been made in the direction of Warsaw, but these have not as yet been sufficient to compel the Russians to retreat from East Prussia, or to give up the siege of Cracow. German dispatches claim 80,000 Russians captured, while Russian reports name even a larger number of German prisoners. Little is known of the real conditions, except that the losses on both sides have been very heavy. The Russians are reported as besieging Cracow, but few details are given. The fact that they continue this action is taken to indicate that they feel themselves strong enough on the Warsaw line to hold the invaders in check. The usual conflicting claims of the Servians and the Austrians are made. The only tangible evidence of progress on the part of the Austrians seems to be the capture of Belgrade, the capital, which was entered on the 2d. French troops are reported landed in Montenegro in the campaign against Cattaro, the fortified Austrian harbor containing warships. King Nicholas of Montenegro reports that one-third of his army, which numbers about 50,000, has been lost since the beginning of hostilities, but that it will continue to defend its independence. Austria is reported to fear an invasion from Italy, and to have posted 200,000 men near the Italian border.

The Campaign in the West.

Operations in Belgium and northern France, though still secondary to the campaign in Poland, are assuming greater importance. The prediction that the Germans had abandoned their efforts to reach Calais by the coast route, and were to attempt to break through the Allies' lines in France were not borne out by the subsequent events. Some heavy fighting has occurred about Dixmude and Ypres, but seems on the whole to have been favorable to the Allies. The policy of the Allies appears to be to keep up a continued series of small engagements to wear out the Germans. Incidentally, the plan has resulted in some advances, notably in Belgium, where the Allies have found lodgement on the north bank of the Yser, and in Alsace. A slight counter to this is the advance of the Germans to Vermelles, north of Arras, where the French line was caught unprepared, and

fell back two miles before they were able to re-establish their line and drive back the Germans. The Allies evidently are trying to take advantage of the withdrawal of German troops for operations in France, but little progress has been made. Operations along the center of the line are almost entirely confined to trench work, in which the trench-bred approach at some points within 70 yards of the other. The Reichstag, which met on the 2d, granted the government a credit of \$1,250,000,000. This credit will be used as needed, some of it not until spring. The presence of the heads of the five principal nations at war, the Czar and the Kaiser in Poland, and President Poincare, King George and King Albert in France, marked an attempt of the several rulers to hearten their men.

Turkey.

Little news of importance has come from Turkey, and that little is too confused to convey much idea of the facts. Both Russia and Turkey claim the advantage in eastern Armenia. The German cruiser Goeben, which came into the hands of the Turks at the breaking out of the war, is reported so badly damaged in the recent Black Sea engagement that it cannot be repaired without expert mechanics and engineers from Germany. Nothing definite is reported of Turkish operations in the direction of the Suez Canal. Apparently the chief effect of Turkey's entrance into the war is the holding of some Russian troops in the East, and the detention of the Australian and New Zealand troops in Egypt and at the Canal.

On the Sea.

It is reported that the German fleet in the South Atlantic numbers ten vessels of various dimensions; but the reinforced British fleet, and the approaching Japanese fleet, has caused it, according to dispatches from Buenos Aires, to leave the South American shore for South Africa. The German cruiser Karlsruhe is reported to be watching for merchantmen of the Allies along the North Atlantic lane. The British government has issued notice that after December 10th certain areas in the North Sea are likely to have the lighthouse lights put out, or moved. This is to confuse vessels engaged in mine-laying at night. Two Swedish vessels have been sunk by mines off the Finnish coast.

South Africa.

General Christian De Wet, chief leader of the South African rebellion of the Boers against the British, surrendered on the 1st. He and a few mounted men were pursued by General Botha's men in motor cars, which were able to tire out his horses and run him down. He is to be court-martialed by the South African authorities on their

own responsibility. While some of the Unionist papers in England are calling for the extreme penalty, it is said the South African government will be guided by the effect upon the Boers.

NEWS NOTES

—Forbach, Germany, is said to have the most profitable town forest known; it yields an annual net gain of \$12.14 an acre.

—The official count in Colorado shows that the State went dry on November 3 by a vote of 129,589 to 118,017. Majority for prohibition was 11,572.

—Proportional representation in the City Council is included among the charter amendments proposed for Los Angeles to be voted on on December 31. [See current volume, page 1143.]

—Imprisonment for debt in England, while still legal, is on the wane. Nine years ago, according to the Law Journal, 11,405 debtors were sent to jail; last year the total was 5,711.

—Mayor Mitchell of New York City appointed a committee of seventy-nine on December 2 to consider the question of unemployment. Elbert H. Gary, head of the United States Steel Corporation, was made chairman.

—The sixteenth annual meeting of the Anti-Imperialist League took place at the Century Club, Boston, on December 7. Addresses were made by Morfield Storey and Philippine Commissioner Manuel Quezon. [See current volume, page 733.]

—The Initiative and Referendum amendment in Mississippi failed to secure a majority of all votes cast for State officials, although it had a majority of votes cast directly on it. It has therefore failed of adoption. [See current volume, page 346.]

—Indictments were returned by the Marion County grand jury at Indianapolis on December 4 against Lieutenant Governor O'Neill and Speaker Cook and other officers of the Indiana legislature charging them with signing warrants for pay of employes in excess of the legal amount.

—The Christmas ship, the U. S. S. Jason, arrived at Marseilles, France, on the 5th, where it was warmly welcomed. On the 7th the Jason arrived at Genoa, where special envoys from Germany and Austria were on hand to extend a welcome. The gifts for the German and Austrian children will be unloaded at Genoa. [See current volume, page 1165.]

—Alfred Thayer Mahan, Rear Admiral, U. S. N., retired, died at Washington on the 1st. Admiral Mahan was born at West Point, N. Y., in 1840, and served forty years in the navy. He was best known as a writer and lecturer. His works on sea power are accepted as authoritative, and are credited with having had great influence upon modern naval development.

—In nine legislative districts of Massachusetts the question was put on the ballots at the November election: "Shall the representative from this district be instructed to support the Initiative and Referendum so as to give the voters the power to accept or reject at the polls measures that have

been proposed by petition?" Every district voted "yes" and each elected the Republican legislative candidate.

—Protests were lodged with the state department on December 5 by the British and Italian ambassadors against the new Arizona law which requires that at least eighty per cent of the employes of a corporation must be American citizens. The Italian protest is based on the Treaty with that country which accords to Italian subjects in the United States equal treatment with natives. The British protest is based on the fact that a suit is contemplated to test the legality of the act.

—To forestall underbidding for his job, Edwin B. Currier, official executioner of Massachusetts, has agreed to officiate at executions hereafter at a cut rate. Heretofore he has been paid \$250 for each execution and the same price prevailed in New York. On learning that the New York price has been reduced to \$150, Mr. Currier notified Acting Warden Nathan D. Allen of the Charlestown penitentiary that he would consent to similar reduction in his pay. [See current volume, pages 1162, 1165.]

—Complete returns from the State of Washington show that the only initiative measure to carry besides prohibition was one abolishing private employment agencies. Five measures were defeated as follows: A blue sky law, abolition of the bureau of inspection, an amendment to the workmen's compensation act, a convict road measure and an eight-hour day law. A proposed constitutional amendment was defeated which would have allowed aliens to own land. [See current volume, page 735.]

—To provide work for Seattle's unemployed the park board has appropriated \$11,500 for clearing and grubbing in the city parks. Henry Pauly—whose success in enabling the unemployed of last winter to support themselves by clearing land, has brought him into national notice—found his work hampered by the Central Council of Social Agencies, and threatened to resign as manager of the unemployed's home. His threat resulted in prompt remedying of his grievance, and he will stay. [See current volume, page 1140.]

—According to the Census Bulletin on Agriculture the percentage of North Dakota farms free of mortgage in 1910 was 49.1 per cent, as against 68.6 per cent in 1900. The unencumbered farms include those on government land to which title has not yet been secured and on which no mortgage can yet be placed. From 1890 to 1910 the average mortgage debt per farm in North Dakota increased from \$902 to \$2,493. During the decade ending with 1910 farm land values in North Dakota increased to the extent of \$557,028,000, and building values \$66,848,000. 14.3 per cent of North Dakota farmers were tenants in 1910, as against 6.9 per cent in 1890.

—The Collegiate Singletax League of New York City offers the following prizes for the best essays on the Singletax either in favor of or against: First prize \$125, second prize \$50, third prize \$25. The competition is open to the undergraduates of all colleges and universities in New York State. Each essay must contain not less than 2,000 words and no more than 2,500. Contest closes on June 1, 1915. The prizes will be awarded on August 1. The head-