

Mexico and the United States.

A preliminary agreement was arrived at by the American and the Mexican delegates to the conference at Niagara Falls, Ontario, on the 27th, and reports were made to their respective governments for approval. It was given out by the press that the tentative agreement embraced a provisional commission government of five members who, to conform to the Mexican constitution, are to hold the post of cabinet officers, the secretary of state succeeding to the presidency on the resignation of General Huerta. A majority of the five men is to determine the course of action. The United States is to withdraw from Vera Cruz, recognize the new government, and give its moral support toward establishing peace and order. Provision also is made for a Presidential election. [See current volume, page 513.]

A new complication arose from the protest of General Carranza against the action of the Mediators in attempting to arrive at a settlement of the Mexican problem without consulting him. The Mediators replied that they had extended to him the same terms as to the others and that the Constitutionlists had declined to enter the conference. General Carranza contended that the conference could deal only with international relations between Mexico and the United States, and declared himself willing, and indeed, demanded the right to participate; but as the internal affairs could not be settled by outside interests he would not abide by a decision of the Niagara conference regarding the issue between himself and General Huerta. The Administration at Washington urges the Mediators to admit the Carranza representative upon whatever terms is necessary. The Mediators however, decline to yield, and negotiations are progressing slowly.

A semi-official statement from General Carranza's headquarters at Durango on the 1st to the American press enters more into detail regarding the General's position. It is contended that the military achievements of the Constitutionlists entitle them to dictate terms in the settlement of Mexico's affairs. They propose to adhere to their original plan, according to which the Commander-in-Chief of the Constitutionlist army will be the provisional president of the Mexican Republic while constitutional order is being restored, and regular elections are held. They will, if let alone, settle the Mexican problem in a few months. They declare the Mediators have been unable to settle the agrarian question in their own countries, and should not attempt to do so in a foreign country.

Ammunition consigned to General Huerta that has been kept in hold of the German steamship

Ypiranga since the United States took possession of Vera Cruz, was landed at Puerto, Mexico, on the 27th. No effort was made by United States officials to prevent the act. But both the Ypiranga and the Bavaria, also charged with delivering arms, were seized by the American authorities, and fined \$200,000 for landing goods at Puerto, Mexico, that had been consigned to Vera Cruz, the penalty for which is 20 pesos on each package. Both ships were released on the bond of the agent of the company.

No military events of moment have taken place during the week. The Constitutionlists are engaged in rebuilding the roads leading to Mexico City, and putting themselves in readiness for an advance southward.

Municipal Ownership News.

Seattle started on May 23 to operate a municipally owned street railway. The street railway has cost \$400,000. Councilman Oliver T. Erickson, the leader of the municipal ownership movement, was the first passenger.

The initiative petition in Grand Junction, Colorado, for a municipal lighting plant has been presented to the City Council. The petition presents an ordinance providing for purchase, either by agreement or condemnation proceedings, of the existing privately owned electric and gas plants. It also provides for an estimate of the cost of erecting a new plant. Should the council refuse to pass the proposed ordinance it must be submitted to a popular vote at a special election. If the council should pass it, opponents may secure a popular referendum on it by securing the signatures of ten percent of the voters. [See current volume, page 516.]

Free Speech Fight in Tarrytown.

A number of street speakers were arrested in Tarrytown, New York, on May 31. They were all charged with blocking traffic, although one of them declared: "We didn't block traffic. We couldn't because there wasn't any." Tarrytown is the home of John D. Rockefeller, and the speakers were said to have been discussing the Colorado strike. The prisoners were held to the grand jury.

Sinclair Addresses Rockefeller.

Upton Sinclair has addressed an open letter to John D. Rockefeller, Jr., which was published on June 1. Mr. Sinclair refers to a previous letter concerning the Colorado situation, which he said was based on hearsay evidence. But now, he says, having first hand information he ventures to ad-

dress Mr. Rockefeller again. He describes interviews he had with victims of the Ludlow battle and refers to articles published in the New York Evening Post, to statements by Professor E. R. A. Seligman, and to official records to show the responsibility of the operators for the occurrences. He further quotes from George Creel's article in the June number of Everybody's Magazine, telling of illegal arrests and mistreatment of imprisoned strikers and sympathizers. He further declares that the Federal troops tried to prevent re-establishment of the tent colony at Ludlow, have tried to censor the miners' papers and have forbidden peaceful picketing. Yet in spite of these acts of injustice, the strikers have been peaceful. Commenting on Mr. Rockefeller's disclaimer of responsibility for what has occurred, Mr. Sinclair says:

If you step forward and say that you are ashamed of what has happened and that you will use your influence in the councils of the coal operators in favor of a just settlement, the public will then acquit you and turn its attention upon the men, whoever they may be, who continue to hold out.

The public understands that you are young, that you have not had any practical experience with strikes; the country will be prepared to believe you if you state you have been ill advised. But I assure you, on the other hand, that if in the face of the mass of evidence that has been produced you still continue to harden your heart, to set your face against all change, if you refuse to pay attention to the constantly growing indignation, you will find the public less willing every day to make excuses for you.

A month has passed since this storm of denunciation began; and in that month it was your business to find out the truth. You have better opportunities than the public to do this; and you cannot be forgiven for being ignorant of what everybody else has managed to learn.

Mr. Sinclair then goes on to make a strong appeal to Mr. Rockefeller to assume a progressive attitude. He says:

You will go back to the older men of your family and they will endeavor to hold you to their way. But you must realize, Mr. Rockefeller, that these men belong to a different generation from you; they got their ideas in a time when commercial cruelty was universal.

These old men can have but a few more years to live, while you have perhaps several decades before you, and I assure you that those decades will see vast changes in public thought; changes that will make your present attitude seem abominable beyond words, that will leave you in your later years an object of execration. You are young, and growth and change belong to the young.

I beg you to realize this, to cast in your lot with the future.

Take your stand publicly, be honest and fair with the people, and do not permit other men to use you as a bait.

In conclusion, Mr. Sinclair quoted the biblical story of the Rich Young Man containing the illus-

tration of the camel and the needle's eye. To this he adds:

I feel almost like apologizing to you for the lack of consideration in these words. This is not my creed, either theological or economic; but it is the creed which you publicly profess and teach. So the world has the right to look for some faint sign of an effect of it upon your handling of the Colorado situation.



Hearings of Commission on Industrial Relations.

Testimony concerning the affair at Ludlow was given before the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations at New York on May 27. Mrs. Pearl Jolly and Mrs. Mary Thomas, wives of strikers, appeared as witnesses. Both repeated the accounts that have been previously reported of events leading up to the battle, of burning of the tents, and killing of women and children. On May 28 Major Edward J. Boughton testified. He was Judge Advocate in the military zone during the strike. Major Boughton entered a complete denial of all stories of atrocities by the militia. Whatever the militia did at Ludlow, he said, was committed in self defense. He said that the laws of Colorado forbid picketing, interfering with workmen or persuading them to quit, and it was partly because the strikers had violated these laws that the militia had been sent to the district. He believed that the federal troops could now be safely withdrawn and that there would be no further clash. He denied that machine guns had been used on the tents at Ludlow, or that women and children had been shot. Louis Tikas, the Greek strike leader, he said, had been taken prisoner by the militia, and while under arrest, had been struck on the head with a rifle by one of the militia officers, but stories of his death were conflicting. In answer to questions by the commissioners Major Boughton explained that he is attorney for the Mine Owners' Association in the Cripple Creek district, and has no business relations with the coal mine operators, except insofar as some of these may also be interested in Cripple Creek. He further said that he did not think permanent peace in the district to be possible while the system prevails of making deputy sheriffs of company employes. He had come east as representative of Governor Ammons and before testifying had visited Rockefeller's office at 26 Broadway. [See current volume, p. 515.]



Judge Ben B. Lindsey was next called to testify at his own request. He took issue with Major Boughton. He declared the mining corporations of Colorado to be the most lawless in the country. He referred to the opposition of E. A. Colburn, president of the Mine Owners' Association, to the passage of child labor laws, although he is also president of the Children's Aid Society and of the State Board for Child and Animal Protection. As