

mills. The American sheet and tin plate company, a subsidiary of the United States steel corporation, declared its sheet and tin mills "open shops" this month. Union men refused to work unless the billion dollar combination recognized their combination of labor. They are out of jobs now and the trust is filling their places with what they call "strike-breakers." This grasping, greedy combination of wealth prefers to employ foreigners. Why? Is it easier to grind foreign bodies and souls into dividends? Does this gigantic monopoly fear that the sons of the brave men who won freedom for the country and preserved and protected it will rebel against oppression? And this is the same trust that pleaded for tariff laws which would protect the American laborer. What hypocrisy! This is the trust which appealed to the American people, the American lawmakers, the American Congress for protection for the American workman. With those pleas still ringing in the ears of the country, the steel trust arrogantly kicks the American out of its mills. It insolently announces through the public press that it will give preferment to Syrians, Poles and Roumanians in filling the vacancies in its plants.

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A Labor Injunction Fiasco.

Judge Baker, of the Federal court in Indiana, denied an application on the 26th of the American Sheet and Tin Plate Company of Elwood, Indiana, for an injunction restraining its striking employes from picketing the plant of the company. The company complained that some of its employes had been attacked by strikers and intimidated; that the wives of some of the men who had remained at work had been threatened and hints made that homes would be dynamited; and, that but for the picketing of the strikers many employes would return to work, but under present conditions were afraid to do so. But Judge Baker denied the injunction because, as he said, the affidavits of the company did not make any specific allegations against any of the defendants, and did not show that the defendants had attempted to interfere with the freedom of the company in the labor market. He held that the strikers had a legal right to organize and leave their employer in a body, and that they could maintain a system of picketing so long as they did not interfere with the employer's access to the labor market. Elwood city authorities testified that the strike had been orderly.

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A Strike in Wisconsin.

At Kenosha, Wisconsin, a strike began on the 21st at the tannery of N. R. Allen's Sons. The details do not appear in the dispatches, except that an increase of wages was demanded. Bloodshed marked the events of the second day—the 22d—and at night the hospitals were reported full of wounded men. It is said that the company faced a million dollar loss because the vats were filled with unfinished leather which must be cared for at once

or it would be ruined. The dispatches of the 22d had it that violence began on that day with the opening of the plant. A committee representing the strikers was said to have been in the office of the company negotiating a settlement. Apparently, from these reports, the plant was opened with non-strikers during the negotiations, whereupon violence of some kind took place, and when this trouble arose the managers declared the negotiations off and ejected the strikers' committee from their office. "The first outbreak occurred," says the special report of the Chicago Daily News of the 22d, "at the central entrance on Grand avenue, where Tony Monkton, one of the strikers, was shot. The bullet passed through his hip." Another report indicated that the police fired into a body of strikers to disperse them. "Soon thereafter," continued the Daily News report, "a riot was started at North Chicago and Union streets and Peter Sobocic was shot through the left side. . . . One man who said he was a strike leader was struck down with a coupling pin and was taken to the county jail and held on a charge of rioting." It appears that Mayor Scholey sympathized with the strikers, which led the president of the police and fire board, Z. G. Simmons, Jr., to order the police force to "shoot and shoot to kill," if it became necessary to "preserve law and order." The Chicago Tribune reported the strike as ended on the 24th, saying that "a committee from the strikers who still maintained an attitude of defiance conferred with Charles W. Allen, president of the company, and it was agreed that all the men should return to work Monday. The committee at first demanded that the strikers should receive pay for the time they had been out. This demand was refused by Mr. Allen, who informed the committee that the men would be taken back and paid only for the time they worked." This report added that "in several of the tannery departments the company granted the strikers an increase of 50 cents a week, but in the majority the demands were denied and in these the men who return to work will do so on the original wage scale."

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Legalizing Corporate Consolidations.

A curious legal proceeding was instituted in Chicago on the 26th, apparently in favor of a more complete consolidation of the public utilities corporations. It is a mandamus action to compel the recognition as law of an act of the legislature which the Governor has vetoed.

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The bill for this act was introduced in the Senate at the last session of the legislature, by Senator Billings. Considerably amended, it subsequently passed both houses, and as enacted it would permit one corporation to hold the stock of other corporations. The bill went to the Gov-

error for approval or veto on the 29th of May, and the legislature adjourned on the 4th of June, with the bill still in the Governor's hands. On the 11th of June, about 11:28 p. m., Governor Deneen sent the bill, without endorsement or other indication of Executive approval or disapproval, to the Secretary of State, who issued his receipt as for a bill which had become a law, without the Governor's approval. But two hours afterwards—about 1:30 a. m., of June 12,—the Governor's veto message reached the Secretary of State, and was stamped as having been received June 12 and filed with the bill, which was thereupon treated as a bill which, in consequence of the veto, had failed to become a law. These at any rate are the allegations of the petition of Charles H. Seeberger, through his attorney, Mil-lard R. Powers, asking for a mandamus to correct the Secretary of State's record. The petitioner's contention is that the veto message was not sent in until the day after the bill had been duly entered and filed as a bill which had become a law without objections by the Governor.

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One of the newspaper reports of the mandamus—the Tribune's—explains that—

the theory that the act is wanted to permit the purchase of elevated railroad stock by the Commonwealth Edison Company and for a general consolidation of the public utility interests in Chicago is said to be a vagary, but it is admitted that many Illinois corporations seek an easier method of controlling other corporations than the one which they now have to adopt—that of incorporating under the laws of New Jersey or of some other State. Secretary Rose is interested because the act would increase the revenue which the State receives through his office by about \$1,000,000 a year. The petition filed by Attorney Powers sets out that this would be the amount of the additional revenue, but the attorney says estimates made in the office of the Secretary of State show that the additional revenue to be derived from a new corporation tax of one-twentieth of 1 per cent of the par value of capital stock, as proposed in the act, would be more nearly \$1,500,000.

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The Cleveland Traction Referendum.

Opposition to the Schmidt ordinance to be voted on in Cleveland on the 3d (p. 706) found expression on the 19th at a tent meeting, the first of the Chambers of Commerce's campaign, at which Homer H. McKeehan, one of the attorneys for the old monopoly company, was the principal speaker. The speaking was of such a character that the Plain Dealer, which persistently opposes the ordinance, was obliged to say editorially on the 21st that—

the opening of the speaking campaign under the auspices of the Citizens' Committee of 100 was far from commendable. The speakers not only indulged

in personal abuse, but deliberately misrepresented facts.

Robert E. McKisson, the former mayor, who led the Republican faction opposed to Senator Hanna, entered the contest on the 21st. Since then the campaign has been an active one—McKisson with one tent against the Schmidt ordinance, the Chamber of Commerce with one on the same side, and Mayor Johnson with two tents for the ordinance. Two debates between Mayor Johnson and Mr. McKeehan have been arranged for, the dates fixed being the 27th and 28th. As the referendum takes place next Tuesday, the campaign will be over before another issue of The Public appears.

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The New French Ministry.

Upon the fall of the Clemenceau Ministry (p. 710), President Fallières, on the 22nd, summoned Aristide Briand, a scholar and orator of socialistic affiliations, to the Elysée palace, and gave him the task of creating a new cabinet. By the 24th Mr. Briand had succeeded in forming a ministry made up as follows:

Premier and Minister of Interior and Public Worship—Aristide Briand.

Minister of War—General Brun.

Minister of Marine—Admiral De La Payrère.

Minister of Justice—M. Barthou.

Minister of Foreign Affairs—M. Pichon.

Minister of Finance—Georges Cochery.

Minister of Education—M. Doumergue.

Minister of Public Works, Posts and Telegraphs—M. Millerand.

Minister of Commerce—Jean Dupuy.

Minister of Agriculture—M. Ruau.

Minister of Colonies—M. Trouillot.

Minister of Labor—M. Viviani.

It is reported that the position of Under Secretary of Posts and Telegraphs, which has been held by Mr. Simyan, whose resignation was demanded during the recent strike of postmen and telegraphers (pp. 277, 301, 345, 391, 468, 493, 511), will be abolished, and that Mr. Millerand, the new Minister of Public Works, Posts and Telegraphs, will restore the post officials who were dismissed, beginning with the most meritorious, but finishing with amnesty for every one.

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An Unpopular Spanish War.

The construction of a railway by Spanish capitalists from Melilla on the coast of Morocco (p. 711) to mines twelve miles inland, has aroused the hostility of Moorish tribes, especially of the powerful Kabyles. Spanish troops guarding the construction work have entered into numerous engagements, and on the 23rd met with serious defeat. General Marina, in command of the Spanish forces, has informed the Spanish government that he will need 40,000 soldiers to