

district of Barisal, Bengal. Mr. Mitra was the superintendent of the city college, Calcutta, and editor of a vernacular weekly paper until his arrest. Of the remainder, the most important is Subodh Chunder Mullick, a Bengali millionaire, for the past few years a liberal donor to the Nationalist cause. When the National Council of Education was started nearly three years ago, for the purpose of providing higher education independently of the government colleges, he made a gift to the movement of \$30,000. He was the chief supporter of the *Bande Mataram* newspaper. S. C. Chakravarti is a journalist, who has been connected with several Nationalist newspapers. He was editor of *Sandhya*, a remarkable vernacular journal, written in colloquial Bengali, and sold by thousands in the Calcutta streets at a farthing, and when Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal left *Bande Mataram* he joined it as joint editor. Both these papers have lately been suppressed under the new press law. Pulin Dass is a young pleader of Dacca, and is secretary of the Anusilan Samiti (Physical Culture Society) in that place, said to be the largest of the student associations.

+ +

Journalism in the Philippines.

El Renacimiento, the Filipino daily, of which The Renacimiento (vol. xi, p. 837), was an English representative, has suffered from the "big stick." On the 5th of November, the day after the American Presidential election, five persons connected with the paper were prosecuted for libeling Dean C. Worcester, United States Commissioner. Mr. Worcester had not been mentioned by name, but it was assumed that he was alluded to in an article which described an anonymous official as a "bird of prey" who had used his position to make a fortune by improper means, such as secretly acquiring lands and mining rights. A dispatch of January 11 announced that two of the editors had been sentenced to six months' imprisonment, and fined \$1,000 each. In the meantime on the 15th of December the English paper, The Renacimiento, suspended publication, at least temporarily, expressing a hope of resumption about the first of next May. The heavy costs of the unexpected process against the "elder brother," were assigned as a reason for the suspension.

+ +

Cuba Libre.

Cuba celebrated her new independence (p. 104) with great rejoicing. An Associated Press dispatch of the 27th described the streets of Havana on the eve of the inauguration as filled with happy, shouting, cheering people. Brilliant illuminations, a magnificent triumphal arch, a great ball to the departing American officials, gave expression to the national feeling. At noon on the 28th José Miguel Gomez took the oath of office as President in the balcony of the executive palace facing the

Plaza de Armas, which was filled by vast crowds. The American Provisional Governor, Charles E. Magoon, read an address which was in the form of a letter to the President and Congress of the Republic of Cuba. In this letter Governor Magoon stated that—

It is the understanding of the United States, and it now declares that all the executive and legislative decrees, regulations and rulings of the Provincial Government now in force are to continue in force and effect until such time as the same shall be legally revoked by Cuba.

All money obligations of the Provisional Government down to this date have been paid as far as practicable. Such claims and obligations, however, as may remain unpaid are to be regarded as claims and obligations of Cuba, and the United States understands that these claims and obligations will be so treated.

The Provisional Administration constructed some and entered into contracts for other works of sanitation, and the government and control of the island are transferred to you with the express understanding that said contracts and all contracts relating to sanitation or other public purposes shall be held inviolable.

I am also directed by the President to declare that the United States considers that the second article of the appendix of the Constitution of Cuba forbids Cuba to assume or contract any public debt in excess of, or in addition to, the debt already contracted or authorized by now existing laws and now existing decrees of the Provisional Government, and that the United States will not recognize or concede to be a valid obligation of Cuba any bond or evidence of debt which may be issued in violation of this understanding.

In accepting the letter the new President said:

We receive from you the government of Cuba which you turn over to us in compliance with the instructions of the President of the United States. We have heard your statements and take note of the document which you deliver to us. All acquired rights shall be respected in harmony with the principles of international law, the principles of our Constitution and the provisions of the appendix of the Constitution. The Constitution shall be upheld in all its integrity, because our chief concern will be to preserve it inviolate. We shall faithfully adhere to the treaty between the United States and Cuba, as this is our duty while the same remains in force, and we shall endeavor through good government and vigilant administration to obviate the necessity of at any time applying any of its clauses. The United States will always find a friendly nation in Cuba. Immediately after the ceremonies the American officials left Havana on warships and transports.

+ +

The Trend of Organized Labor Towards Socialism.

Peculiar significance attaches to the action of the United Mineworkers' convention at Indianapolis in adopting the following resolutions proposed by the socialistic element among the delegates:

Whereas, In the light of the industrial depression

that has haunted America for more than a year, millions of willing workers have been forced into involuntary idleness, thereby being denied access to the means of life; and whereas, many of those who are victims of this industrial depression have, in self-preservation, become infractors of law; and whereas, a class of predatory rich, who scarcely know the limits of their wealth, are co-existent with the countless thousands whose poverty is directly attributable to their failure to find some owner of the means of production to employ them; and whereas, the denial of the opportunity to willing workers to engage in useful labor springs from the fact that the means with which the necessities of life are produced are owned and controlled by private individuals, who are not necessary factors in the field of wealth production, but whose only function is to profit by the activity of the working class so long as a market can be found where the product of the workers can be disposed of; and whereas, the workers receive in the form of wages only a small share of what their labor power with the aid of machinery creates, thus preventing them from buying back out of the markets the equivalent of what they have produced, necessarily causing a glutted market; therefore, be it resolved, that we, the United Mine Workers of America, in annual convention assembled, recognize and declare for the necessity of the public ownership and operation and the democratic management of all those means of production and exchange that are collectively used, that every man or woman willing and able to work can have free access to the means of life and get the full social value of what they produce.

The adoption of the resolution is especially significant because the miners' conventions heretofore have defeated overwhelmingly resolutions of like tenor proposed by Socialist delegates, but on this occasion this resolution was adopted without dissent.

* *

Public Schools and Financial Interests.

The perennial conflict, nation wide, between the public interests of the common schools of cities, and the private interests of what is called "Big Business," which comes to the surface now in one way and now in another, and now here and now there, has been especially fierce in Milwaukee politics during the past week. Crippled by insufficient funds for their schools, the people of Milwaukee voted last Spring for bonds for school purposes to the amount of \$360,000. Mayor Rose (Democrat) has tried to have this amount reduced to \$120,000, and the finance committee of the City Council recommended in the budget a compromise on \$245,000. But nine members of the City Council are Socialists, elected as such by the Social Democratic party, and they have unanimously led the opposition to this arbitrary overriding of the popular vote. When the contest came before the Council on the 25th in connection with the budget, Alderman Melms, one of the nine Socialists, moved to give to the schools the full amount of \$360,000 for which they asked,

taking \$115,000 off the proposed appropriation of \$425,000 for street improvements in order to do so. He argued that the issue lay between necessary expenses for promotion of education in the interests of citizenship, and comparatively unnecessary improvements of streets in the interest of investors. In his speech he specified school buildings in labor districts as "barracks," that could not be kept warm, some of them with basement class rooms and some of the latter almost dark; and on the subject of teachers' salaries he declared, in answer to charges of extravagance, that in no city of the size of Milwaukee do the teachers receive salaries so low—from \$450 to \$700. After an acrimonious debate his motion was laid over until the 1st, when Alderman Melms and his Socialist colleagues, were supported by five Republicans and two Democrats. But they were defeated by a vote of 16 to 18. The committee compromise was then adopted by 26 to 8.

*

The same general conflict between educational necessities and "Big Business" interests has risen to the surface in Chicago (vol. xi, p. 819; vol. xii, p. 15) during the past two or three weeks. It reached the public ear in connection with formal charges by the Superintendent that the Chicago Art Institute has rushed teachers through art courses in order to enable them to evade the "promotional" requirements of the Board of Education. These requirements, though nominally educational in their purpose, are actually for the purpose of serving financial ends. They consist in allowing teachers to advance automatically in salary up to and including their seventh year of service, after which they can advance no farther in salary unless they pass a "promotional" test. If they pass this, their salaries again rise automatically for three years more. But in order to be eligible for that test they must have a record of merit marks, made by their respective principals, which is secretly kept at headquarters where it is subject to secret revision by a board of district superintendents. And when "promotion" comes, it is in no sense promotion as to teaching functions. The promoted teacher goes on with the same work as before, in the same class room and grade, and side by side with unpromoted teachers of equal or longer experience, and not inferior in educational culture. Evidently the system is not for educational purposes, but for financial purposes. It even originated in and was adopted upon the advice of the finance committee without any action by the educational committee. Its effect, if undisturbed in operation, is to sustain an appearance of high salaries (those of a few "promoted" teachers), while the actual condition is one of low salaries (those of the unpromoted); but any considerable increase in the former group, however meritorious, frustrates this design. Some