

Britain. [See current volume, pages 800, 876, 893.]



Leasing Instead of Selling Public Lands.

Associated Press dispatches of the 6th from Washington report that the Department of the Interior has decided to lease public coal lands hereafter instead of allotting or selling them. In consequence of this decision those dispatches continue—

Van H. Manning, assistant director of the Bureau of Mines, left for Wyoming, where he will complete the details of leasing 2,480 acres of Government coal lands in that State to a local corporation. The leasing experiment will be carefully watched, and, if successful, probably will mark a revolution in the policy of the Government in dealing with the public lands. The land to be leased is located near Lander, Wyoming. The corporation desirous of mining the coal is to pay \$1 for each acre in the tract and a royalty of 6½ cents a ton for each ton mined during the first five years, and 8 cents for the following five years. After that the royalty will be fixed by the Secretary of the Interior, the leasing corporation having the right to renew the lease up to thirty years in all.

[See current volume, page 898.]



Taxation in Illinois.

Opposition to the proposed tax amendment in Illinois was officially declared on the 6th by the Chicago Federation of Labor. This amendment is the one for which the organized liquor interests and the Civic Federation of Chicago, have secured signatures for an advisory Initiative at the coming election. The Federation of Labor had referred the question to its committee on legislation, and on the 6th Margaret A. Haley presented the committee's report. The report explains that the proposition presented to the voters by this Initiative is the same as that which the last legislature refused to pass, that the petitions for it were procured by the liquor interests, and that its purpose is to prevent the submission of the amendment for a mandatory Initiative and Referendum which the voters of Illinois have twice demanded through the advisory Initiative. This report of its committee was adopted by the Federation of Labor, and delegates were urged by the Federation to work and vote against the proposed tax amendment. [See current volume, page 877.]



The Labor War.

A large crowd, composed mostly of members of the Industrial Workers of the World, was reported in the news dispatches of the 6th as having gathered on that day in the Square outside of Faneuil Hall, Boston, Mayor Fitzgerald having refused them permission to meet within this historic hall.

The object of the meeting was to protest against the imprisonment of Ettor, Giovannitti and Caruso, who are on trial at Salem for alleged murder in connection with the strike at Lawrence. A special dispatch of the 6th to the Chicago Record-Herald quotes speakers at the meeting as threatening to burn Lawrence if violent hands are laid on Haywood or any others of the working class there, and to tear down the Salem jail, stone by stone, if Ettor, Giovannitti or Caruso are harmed. [See current volume, page 947.]



At Lake Charles, Louisiana, on the 6th, nine workmen out of the 58 (most of them Industrial Workers of the World) who are under indictment for riot and murder, were put on trial on the 7th. The specific accusation has to do with the killing of four men and the wounding of 39 others in a labor controversy at Grabow, a lumber-mill town.



The Spanish military reserves who have left active service within six years were summoned to rejoin the colors on the 3d, and 60,000 men who ordinarily would not have been called to their regiments until next March also were ordered to report for duty. The decree mobilizing this vast army is regarded as showing that the government considers the railroad strike serious. Premier Canalejas asserts that the railroad men have virtually declared a social war, and that their demands are impossible. On the 4th King Alphonso convoked the Spanish Parliament for the 14th to discuss the situation. The strike on the Spanish railroads holds up almost the entire traffic of Spain.



American Intervention in Nicaragua.

The operations of Rear Admiral Wm. N. H. Southerland, with his American marines and sailors, have continued to prove effective in driving back the revolutionists in Nicaragua, and opening up the railways. One little battle has followed another, the most serious occurring on the 4th and 5th, when General Zeledon and his revolutionists were driven from hilltop fortresses commanding the railroad from Managua to Granada. General Zeledon escaped, but later was cornered and killed by Nicaraguan cavalry. As the other revolutionary leader, General Mena, is an American prisoner at Panama, the revolution is practically leaderless. The former President of Nicaragua, General Juan Estrada, is reported to have reached Bluefields from the United States, and to have been received with enthusiasm. [See current volume, page 950.]



The question of the relation of the United

States to the Nicaraguan situation became of increased seriousness with the battle referred to above, for in the final assault on the 5th four privates of the United States marine corps were killed, and a number were wounded. This loss of life in battle when the United States is not at war with any country is expected to bring to a climax in Congress the dispute over the right of this government to intervene in Nicaragua. It is maintained by the Department of State that Admiral Southerland has strictly refrained from interfering in any way between the warring factions in Nicaragua, and has confined himself entirely to opening up railway communication and maintaining it free from interruption, that the large foreign element scattered through the Nicaragua towns might be able to receive food. The Associated Press dispatches thus summarize the State department's justification for the intervention:

An examination of the authorities appears quite clearly to show that one State may without just cause for offense to another State thus interpose in favor of its residents in the other State, and there is not a little authority for the proposition that such interposition by the one State as against the other is a matter of right and indeed duty.

It is related in the dispatches that privation and suffering without precedent in the history of Central American warfare have been endured during the present revolution, foreigners as well as natives having been brought to destitution and many women and children having perished for lack of food. This unusual experience in a tropical country where ordinarily some kind of food may be obtained from the jungle and native crops, is explained by the fact of a disastrous drought which has blighted the crops and dried up the native fruits, so that to keep the railroads open has been the only way of escaping starvation. [See current volume, pages 829, 849.]



The Threatened Balkan War.

The latest ultimatum of the Balkan states to the Turkish government is said to demand for Macedonia, Albania and Old Serbia an autonomy at least as great as that enjoyed by Crete under the guarantees of the great Powers. A few skirmish engagements are reported to have come off on the Bulgarian, Servian and Montenegrin frontiers, and war has been formally declared by Montenegro. Greeks and Bulgarians in the United States are rushing to the port of New York to embark for the seat of the expected war. Among the hundreds arranging to go from Chicago are two men in training at the aviation field at Cicero for military flying. The American government has forbidden the ships bearing the returning exiles to carry ammunition. [See current volume, page 917.]

The great Powers are endeavoring to prevent the war by inducing Turkey to grant sufficiently extensive reforms to satisfy the protesting states. The least that would suffice for this is given in a dispatch from Paris on the 6th, as—

Complete national autonomy for Macedonia.

Christian governors of the provinces inhabited by Christians.

Creation of a local militia and the withdrawal of Turkish troops.

The proposals for intervention not yet fully agreed upon by the Powers, include—

Declaration that the reforms demanded shall not affect the sovereignty of the Sultan nor the territorial integrity of Turkey.

Assurance that the reforms shall be applied not alone to Macedonia, but to the Turkish empire as a whole.

Provision that the demand for reforms be made not in the form of a joint note, presented in writing, but shall be made verbally by the representatives of the great Powers at Constantinople.

Russia and Austria to inform Balkan states that in event of war, hostilities must be confined to the Balkans and that territorial changes must not follow the war.



British Conference on Land-Values Taxation.

A large and representative British Conference was held on the 7th in Caxton Hall, London, under the auspices of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, at which Charles Trevelyan, M. P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, presided. It was specially convened in view of the prominent position the question of taxing land values now holds in Liberal Party politics. There were some 700 delegates from local taxing bodies, and from political, industrial, economic, social and land-reform associations. Additional interest was lent by the recent announcement of Lloyd George, in connection with his proposed investigation into the facts regarding land and local-taxation questions in town and country, that there will be a Liberal campaign on the land question. [See current volume, pages 891, 898.]



Alexander Ure, Lord Advocate for Scotland, moved the first resolution, which was seconded by Josiah C. Wedgwood, M. P., and adopted by the Conference. It declares that—

the value of the land, which is not due to the exertion or expenditure of the holders of the land, but springs from common need and activity, and is enhanced by public expenditure, is the proper basis for rating and taxation, and that the existing system, which imposes the burden on industry and the earnings of industry instead of on the value of land, is unjust, and constitutes a hindrance to social progress.

A resolution endorsing the Memorial to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer,