

meted out to the McNamara brothers and all others who may be guilty of participation in violence, which it declares to be contrary to the principles of organized labor. Similar resolutions were passed by the typographical union of Norfolk, Va., and also by that of Grand Rapids, Michigan, except that the latter refused to demand the death penalty because the majority of its membership is opposed to capital punishment. Pending more complete and trustworthy information the Chicago Federation of Labor took no official action at its meeting of the 3d.

On the 5th the two McNamaras were sentenced by Judge Bordwell on their respective pleas of guilty. John made no response to the formal inquiry if he had anything to say; but James submitted the following signed statement:

I, James B. McNamara, defendant in the case of the People, having heretofore pleaded guilty to the crime of murder, desire to make this statement of facts; and this is the truth: "On the night of Sept. 30, 1910, at 5:45 p. m., I placed in Ink Alley, a portion of the Times building, a suitcase containing sixteen sticks of 80 per cent dynamite, set to explode at 1 o'clock the next morning. It was my intention to injure the building and scare the owners. I did not intend to take the life of any one. I sincerely regret that these unfortunate men lost their lives. If the giving of my life would bring them back I would gladly give it. In fact, in pleading guilty to murder in the first degree, I have placed my life in the hands of the State."

He was sentenced at once to imprisonment for life. His brother John was sentenced to imprisonment for fifteen years.

#### The Los Angeles Election.

On the basis of the count of 52 out of 317 precincts, the newspaper dispatches of the 5th from Los Angeles report the re-election on that day of Mayor Alexander over Job Harriman by about 35,000 majority. The 52 precincts give 18,116 votes to the former, and 7,682 to the latter. A heavy falling off of the vote as compared with the registration is a feature of the reports. [See current volume, page 1214.]

#### Congress.

The first regular session of the 62d Congress of the United States began on the 4th. [See current volume, page 874.]

In the Senate the session was brief. In the House enough time was taken to allow Congressman Littleton of New York to make a speech denouncing muckrakers, the specific bearing of which had to do with his alleged connection with the Steel Trust. At its close the Republican leader,

Congressman Mann of Illinois, offered a resolution intended to support Mr. Littleton's position. It was referred to the committee on rules.

On the 5th President Taft's message was read. It is devoted exclusively to the trust question.

#### Controller Bay.

Washington dispatches of the 29th stated that inasmuch as the Administration has substantially changed its announced Alaskan policy Louis D. Brandeis, counsel for the House committee on Interior Department expenditures, has advised Chairman Graham that no further action by that committee in investigating Controller Bay affairs is necessary. Chairman Graham said the committee materially aided in effecting this change of policy, and added: "The committee may go further than Secretary of the Interior Fisher and recommend retaining to the Government the title to all the mineral, gas, and oil lands in Alaska."

"The committee accomplished its principal purpose," said Chairman Graham. "That purpose was to determine whether valuable public interests in Alaska were being subjected to syndicate exploitation, a condition rendered probable by the revelation in the Ballinger investigation. Attorney Brandeis said that he found no evidence of illegality or bad faith by any government official in the elimination from the Chugach national forest of a large tract on Controller Bay in aid of the Controller railroad company, though that elimination was opposed to the best interests of the people."

[See current volume, pages 802, 1124.]

#### British Labor Insurance.

Final Parliamentary work on the Lloyd George labor-insurance bill was begun in the British House of Commons on the 30th. An order for preventing a filibuster on the hundreds of pending amendments, most of them introduced by opponents of the bill, had already been adopted by the House; and when these amendments came before the House for action, 469 were defeated without a division and one upon a division called for by the Labor Party. [See current volume, pages 440, 516.]

The Opposition had disappeared through a spectacular withdrawal of the Tories under their new leader, Andrew Bonar Law. He accused the Ministry of shutting off debate at the behest of the Irish in order to clear the way for an Irish home rule bill next month. Lloyd George replied that the Ministry had but adopted the tactics of the Tories when they were in power. The plan thus objected to by the Tories and defended by Mr. George is a mixed scheme of "closure" ("previous question" as we should say in the United States) by "guillotine" and by "kangaroo"—to adopt

British parliamentary slang; that is to say, by giving power to the chairman in committee of the whole or "grand committee" to select some amendments for debate and to pass over others.

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The labor-insurance bill, known officially as the "national insurance bill," was agreed upon in substance and form on the 20th of October last between the Ministry and British friendly societies after a long period devoted by the Ministry to conferences with Labor and other interests. The bill has two parts. Its first part applies to sickness among workers with incomes of less than \$15 a week; its second to unemployment. As to sickness, the insurance fund is to be made up by contributions from employers, employes and Parliament on a graduated scale; as to unemployment, the fund (similarly made up) is to be paid out in benefits to unemployed workers. In advocating it with reference to Ireland, Richard McGhee, a Liberal member of Parliament from Ireland, made this reservation in a public speech at Lurgan last summer:

The great defect of the bill is the source which is made to provide the funds for the working of the measure. Every single penny of the contribution should have been paid by the state, and it should have been collected, not from the wages of the worker and the income of the employer, but from that fund created by the whole people and now pocketed by an idle and useless class. I mean "land values." Here would have been the proper source from which to have drawn supplies to finance the bill when it becomes law. Land values are the creation of the whole community, and they are more than enough to pay all taxation and to finance Lloyd George's bill as well. The contributions as now laid will fall upon industry, and will hamper it to some extent. Small as they are they will prove too much of a burden for some men to bear and to carry on their business, while, if they had been imposed on land values they would have encouraged and helped industry, and would have made both the employer and the workman more prosperous still; for it is the great merit of a tax on land values that it does not fall as a burden on any kind of industry, but brings fresh strength and fresh vigor to all industries. It would make an unemployment benefit absolutely unnecessary, for the best of all reasons, that it would completely abolish unemployment. It is not too late yet to take this wise step in the direction I have indicated, for under the great Budget of Lloyd George for 1909 and 1910 we are now having a complete valuation of land taken, and when it is completed we should set to work to have all taxation, as well as the contributions to the national health insurance fund, taken out of land rent.

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Explaining the bill at Whitefield's Tabernacle, London, as reported in the London Daily News of October 16, Lloyd George said that in his judgment it—

would do more to hinder or assuage human misery

than any bill passed since the abolition of the corn laws. The three principal causes of poverty and destitution in the homes of the industrial population were ill-health, unemployment, drink. This bill made for fifteen millions of men and women engaged in industrial occupations provision that would save multitudes from falling into ill-health and would diminish the pains and perils of sickness for many more. In addition, it made unemployment provision for two and a half million people. The great burden of sickness and poverty now falling upon the industrial population would be immensely mitigated under the bill, and in future the cost of half the burden would be borne by others. Incidentally the bill attacked the evils of drink, there being a provision in it whereby the organizations which had the control of the health provisions of the measure would have it among their duties to instruct the people on the evil effects of alcoholism.

He closed this speech with a response to the various interests that were urging delay in the progress of the bill through Parliament by saying:

Why are we to wait? Are we to tarry because the "Daily Mail" and the "Spectator" and Mr. Philip Snowden are in no particular hurry? This bill was promised three years ago. It has been on the table six months, discussed, advertised in every paper. I have not yet received a single practical suggestion from either of the three. No. We will have it through. We want to get on with other work. This is not the end of social business. It is a good beginning. It is in some of its provisions a great palliative until we can get deeper. I never said that this will do everything. It will help. And then we will go on. I am taunted that I have promised a new heaven and a new earth. They seem to think that phrase was uttered by me. I am a humble believer in it. I should like to be able in a humble way to help its advent—a new earth where the health of the multitude will be more precious in the eyes of the law than the wealth of the few; a new earth where the superabundance with which Providence blesses labor shall be directed and controlled so that the home of the laborer shall be saved from wretchedness, penury, poverty, and privation; a new earth where the best of all shall be concentrated and organized to avert the worst from each.

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#### Republican Advance in China.

The Republicans, as the Chinese revolutionists desire to be called, after a drastic siege of Nanking, accompanied by careful tactical fighting, took the city last week. The difficulties were great for Nanking is strongly fortified. The wall at various places is ninety feet high, built of solid masonry and thirty feet thick. The four main gates are at the principal points of the compass. Tai Ping Men, the north gate, and Chao Yang Men, the east gate, are commanded by Purple Hill, which is fortified and overlooks the entire city. Tiger Fort lies outside the wall, while Lion Fort, inside the wall, commands the river and is well fortified. Tiger Fort likewise is well fortified and equipped. Tiger