

primaries and secure their lawful and peaceable temporary organization, and the Democratic member of the Board to perform the same function at the Republican convention. At the Republican convention there was no disturbance, but at the Democratic convention a faction controversy between the Hearst-Harrison and the Sullivan factions, in which the Sullivan faction refused to recognize Judge Owens's authority, resulted in an extraordinary situation. One of the Superior Court judges, Judge McKinley, of the Sullivan faction, issued an injunction against Judge Owens and all persons acting by his authority, including the sheriff, and at the instance of the Sullivan faction, a militia detachment was stationed in the armory where the convention was to meet. This detachment kept the doors closed. But Judge Owens, disregarding Judge McKinley's injunction, ordered the police to break down the armory doors, which they did. The Republican member of the Board of Elections thereupon called the convention to order, presented the official roll of delegates, called for the election of temporary officers, and this having been effected, withdrew. The Sullivan faction delegates, refusing to participate in this convention, held one of their own. What Judge McKinley will do regarding Judge Owens's defiance of his injunction is not yet clearly indicated. Judge Owens contends that under Supreme Court decisions the power of the County Court over elections is independent and absolute.



The Garment Workers of Chicago.

Supplementary to their agreement for settling the strike of 1911, the Chicago garment workers employed by Hart, Schaffner & Marx signed an agreement with that company on the 12th which is regarded as a long step forward in treaty adjustments of working relations between employers and employees. The agreement was formulated by a conference committee composed of Mrs. Raymond Robins, John Fitzpatrick, W. O. Thompson and Henry M. Ashton (for the employees) and Joseph Schaffner, Mr. Meyer, Milton Strauss and Professor Earl Dean Howard for the company. This agreement authorizes Prof. Howard and Mr. Meyer (representing Hart, Schaffner & Marx), and Mr. Thompson and S. Hillman (representing the employees) to organize a Trade Board of eleven members with the aid of Charles H. Winslow of the Federal Department of Commerce and Labor. For the guidance of the Board a code of rules and regulations has been formulated, binding upon both parties until the expiration of the agreement, April 1, 1913, the only restriction on this Board being that it shall not take up the question of an increase of wages or the issue of the "open shop." Five members of the Board are to be selected by each side, and the eleventh member, to be chosen by these ten, will act as chairman and have the

deciding vote in case of a tie. Deputies for each branch of the garment workers' trade will, with a deputy representing the employers' side of their branches, take up all questions arising under their jurisdiction. If in any case they fail to agree, or their decision is unsatisfactory, the case will be appealed to the Trade Board. [See vol. xiv, p. 253.]



In recognition of the services of Mr. Thompson, both in bringing about the execution of this agreement and in representing the garment workers as an arbitrator (a place from which he has just withdrawn and is succeeded by Henry M. Ashton), representatives of the garment workers gave him a complimentary dinner at King's on the 13th. Mrs. Raymond Robins presided and appreciative speeches were made by half a score of leaders in the garment makers' organization, men and women, and a silver loving cup presented.



The Anthracite Coal Miners.

When the joint conference of the operators' committee and the anthracite miners' representatives opened at Philadelphia on the 10th, both sides were outwardly uncompromising, but it was reported that the operators and miners had agreed on a 10 per cent wage increase. President White, of the miners, stated, however, that without recognition of the union the 10 per cent wage increase would not result in settlement, and that unless all the original demands of the men were granted there was likely to be a strike. The operators came to the conference directly from a meeting in New York which was reported to have decided against recognition. [See current volume, page 323.]



Industrial Unionism Among Farmers.

An organization which is reported to be gaining membership rapidly, especially in northern Texas, is described in a recent issue of the Houston (Texas) Chronicle as "formulating very ambitious plans for the political year." Its official name is "The Renters' Union of America, State Division No. 1." This organization was originally formed at Waco, Texas, on the 4th of last November, by a conference of from 75 to 100 Texas farmers representing 22 counties of that State. The conference was called to order by A. G. Maxey, secretary of the Falls County Renters' Union, one of the counties then already organized. A constitution was adopted by the Conference, which went to the local organizations for approval on referendum. Agitation and organization have proceeded actively under the spur of "The Rebel," which is successor to the old "Farmers' Journal," and is edited and published at Hallettsville, Texas, by T. A. Hickey, an originator of the movement and its tireless promoter.

The Waco constitution of the Renters' Union of America recites in a preliminary address or preamble that—

out of 165,000,000 acres of tillable land in Texas only 27,000,000 acres were in cultivation in 1910; white tenants have increased from 165,000 in 1900 to 209,000 in 1910, and the number of Negro and Mexican tenants and farm laborers has greatly increased; the cost of machinery necessary to obtain the best results in farming has greatly increased; many landlords demand contracts that interfere with the political and personal liberty of the tenant as well as the manner in which he cultivates his crops; the present tenant system, through lack of proper improvements, overcropping and single cropping, is causing the soil to lose its fertility and yield unsatisfactory returns; the increase in land values has made it impossible for the tenant, under ordinary conditions, to buy and pay for land; these conditions are forcing the landless farmer to live in miserable shacks and keeping the women and children in the fields to such an extent as to be exceedingly detrimental to the mental and physical well-being of our people and a menace to the homes and social institutions of our State.

Thereupon the preamble protests—

against the evils of increased rents, bonuses and money rents; advocates a tax up to the limit on all lands held for speculation or exploitation, declaring for use and occupancy as the only just title to land; and, proposing to carry out its program by orderly and lawful methods, presents its own demands to the platform committees of all political conventions in Texas and to all candidates for political office regardless of party, pledging opposition to all parties and candidates that decline to advocate those demands.

The primary specific demand is in these words:

That the officials of our organization prepare and present to the citizens of our State for signature a blank petition demanding of the legislature which convenes in January, 1913, to submit to the people a Constitutional amendment authorizing a tax on land values to the limit, and use and occupancy to be the sole title to land.

By the Constitution thus introduced, minute provisions for extending the organization through the State of Texas and over the Union are made, and among the obligations of membership are these:

Each member shall use all lawful means in his power to bring land rents down to one-third of the grain and one-fourth of the cotton. Any member of this union who shall at any time learn that any member has been rented out by anyone, or who hears of any member promising to pay money rent for land, shall report the same to the union at the first meeting thereafter. The initiation of new members shall consist merely of the reading of the preamble and purposes as set forth in this constitution, and the communication of secret signs or passwords. And member found guilty of renting or trying to rent land from under a member of this union without the consent of said member, shall be expelled from the union. No member of this union shall be allowed to pay more than one-fourth of cotton for

rent and one-third of grain. It shall be the duty of the union to send a committee of three members to the persons promising said money rent or attempting to rent from under any member. All white persons over 16 years of age, of good moral character, who are tenant farmers or farm laborers, are entitled to membership; provided that land owners who have no tenants and cultivate their own land shall be eligible. No one who holds land for speculative purposes, or who subrents or who rents more than a reasonable amount of land or who employs more than a reasonable number of laborers necessary in an emergency shall be eligible.



Hugh N. Moore of Chilton, Texas, is president of the organization. A. G. Maxey, R. 3, Lorena, Texas, is secretary.



The United States Warns Mexico.

The killing by the Orozco insurrectos of a Federal prisoner of war who was an American—Thomas Fountain by name—together with the destruction of American properties and the endangering of American lives in the disorders now existing in Mexico, has brought on a warning issued by the United States on the 14th to the Mexican government, as well as to General Pascual Orozco, leader of the insurrectionary forces, to the effect that—

The United States demands that American life and property within the Republic of Mexico be justly and adequately protected; and that this government must hold Mexico and the Mexican people responsible for all wanton or illegal acts sacrificing or endangering American life or damaging American property or interests.

The United States government, by special instructions to Ambassador Wilson at Mexico City, authorized the statement that intervention was not contemplated by the United States. [See current volume, page 349.]



The Chinese Republic.

Wu Tingfang, formerly minister to the United States from the old Chinese Empire, has been nominated by President Yuan Shi Kai to represent the new Republic of China in the United States. [See current volume, page 349.]



The great central city of Hankow, burned by the Manchus during the revolution, is to be rebuilt, with lofty buildings, wharves, broad roads and other commercial facilities, according to the North China Herald. The landowners will contribute 10 per cent of their acreage for the highways and for sites for public buildings and parks. The landowners have been instructed to establish their claims to their respective holdings in the