

A small steamship called the Texas, owned by the Archipelago American Steamship Company, and engaged in carrying passengers and mails from Constantinople to Levant ports under a Turkish captain, was blown up at the entrance to the Gulf of Smyrna on the 29th, and about 140 persons on board of her are unaccounted for. The first dispatches laid her loss to Turkish mines planted as protection against Italian warships. Later reports have laid the disaster to a shell fired from the fort. The Turks claim that the only shots fired were blank cartridges, intended to warn the vessel that it was out of its course and in danger. [See current volume, page 278.]

NEWS NOTES

—Homer Davenport, the cartoonist, died at New York on the 2nd at the age of 44.

—A British official inquiry into the loss of the Titanic was opened in London on the 2d. [See current volume, page 420.]

—The twenty-fifth quadrennial General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church met at Minneapolis on the 1st.

—Archbishop Giovanni Bonzano, the new papal apostolic delegate to the United States, arrived on the 4th at New York. [See current volume, page 132.]

—A 3-cent piece and a ½-cent piece were provided for in a bill passed by the House of Representatives at Washington on the 6th. [See current volume, page 398.]

—A parade of 20,000 men and women favoring votes for women took place in New York on the 4th, with 150,000 applauding spectators along the line of march, from 8th St. to 57th St.

—Leaders of both the Liberal and Conservative parties in Panama have requested the United States to intervene in the approaching elections to the extent of seeing that they are fairly conducted. [See vol. xiv, p. 805; current volume, page 361.]

—Rains in the South have again forced up the waters of the lower Mississippi, and the highest previous records in Louisiana have been surpassed. Vast regions have been flooded through the breaking of levees, and New Orleans and Baton Rouge have been threatened. [See current volume, page 398.]

—The Stockbridge and Munsee Indians of Wisconsin, descendants of Indians of New York and New England, have at last adopted civilization, and are going to found in Shawano county the first Indian township in the United States. The officers of the new town of Stockbridge will all be full-blood Indians.

—That women have no right to serve on trial juries is the official opinion of the Attorney General of California. He holds that the amendment to the State Constitution granting the elective franchise to women deals with political rights and duties alone, and his ruling was given on the 4th in answer to a request of the Board of Supervisors of Sacra-

mento who wanted to place women on the panel of trial jurors.

—The first trial by jury recorded in China opened in Shanghai on March 23, according to the London Daily News. The proceedings were conducted with the greatest decorum. Three Chinese judges sat, of whom two are members of the English bar. The prisoner was a Japanese ex-official. [See current volume, page 422.]

—Dispatches of the 8th indicate that at the Maryland Presidential preference primaries on the 6th ex-President Roosevelt came out slightly ahead of President Taft on the Republican side, and that Speaker Clark was far ahead of Governor Wilson on the Democratic side, with Governor Harmon a weak third. [See current volume, page 323.]

—The monthly statement of the United States Treasury Department for April, 1912, shows the following thus far for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1912 [See current volume, page 371]:

Gold reserve fund	\$150,000,000.00
Available cash	125,613,947.76

Total	\$275,613,947.76
On hand at close of last fiscal year June 30, 1911	288,200,599.23

Decrease	\$ 12,586,651.47
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—The land reform movement in Germany has grown to such an extent as to drive its opponents to pay it the compliment of organizing to combat it, an Anti-Land Reform League having been founded under the name of an "Association for Protection of Land Ownership and Credit." This new association with a long list of important names and considerable money at its disposal, is put together out of the remains of several real estate associations with a considerable admixture of persons connected with the land mortgage banks.

—The monthly Treasury report of receipts and disbursements of the Federal government for April, 1912, shows the following thus far for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1912 [See current volume, page 372]:

Receipts	\$548,013,205.58
Disbursements	561,539,199.81

	\$ 13,525,994.23
Repayment of unexpended balances.....	945,559.21

Ordinary deficit	\$ 12,580,435.02
Panama Canal (surplus from bonds).....	3,715,778.18

	\$ 8,864,656.84
Public debt deficit.....	5,698,321.53

Grand deficit	\$ 14,562,978.37
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PRESS OPINIONS

Labor Side of the Labor War in Chicago.

The Chicago Daily Socialist (Soc.), May 4.—The working class of Chicago has united, and it is that power the great Beast desires to crush. Call it a Beast. Call it a monster. Call it anything that is vile; that is expressive of danger to the people; that

signifies oppression; that signifies exploitation; that signifies greed; that signifies wanton, vicious, merciless trampling of the people. You will not have used language strong enough or descriptive enough. . . . This great combine runs Chicago. It names candidates for office on the Republican ticket. It names them on the Democratic ticket. It selects between the two tickets. It puts men on the bench. It puts them in the executive offices. It puts them in the law-making body. It writes the laws, and it enforces or obstructs the laws to suit its own greedy purposes. It has the power of the press to give or withhold the truth, or to strike down its enemy with the poisoned lie. Big Business of Chicago is in league with it, and together they carry on an exploitation of the people of Chicago that runs into the millions and billions. Chicago is fighting the Beast for the first time in its life. The people can drive it back to its lair if they will.



The Chicago Daily World (Soc.), May 6.—In every great industrial struggle the capitalists try to turn public opinion against the strikers by charging them with all sorts of violence. Flaring headlines in the capitalist dailies declare that the strikers are riding rough shod over the law; that they are destroying property and inciting riots. As a matter of fact, exactly the opposite is true. The working men want no violence. The workers are peaceable, law-abiding citizens. They do not engage in strikes because they want excitement. They strike only because they are driven to it by grim economic necessity. . . . It is contended by the newspaper trust, to be sure, that their employees are well paid, and that no wage issue is involved in the present strike and lockout. But the truth of the matter is, that the trust is endeavoring to weaken the position of the union in regard to the number of men employed to operate the presses, and, after having done this, to reduce wages. The real reason the newspaper trust wants to smash the printers' unions is not because of any technicality in regard to arbitration, as they contend, but because the union has compelled them to grant better conditions and better wages than they would grant if the men were unorganized. They have begun their war on the printing trades by locking out the pressmen's union, and if they succeed in destroying that union, they will never stop until they have smashed the others. And when the newspapers are run as "open" shops, which really means non-union shops, they will join with Big Business to make Chicago a non-union town, just as Otis and the Manufacturers' Association tried to do in Los Angeles. An open-shop town means a non-union town—a town where wages are low, hours of labor long and working conditions bad. Therefore, the interests of all the workers of Chicago are involved in the present struggle. The working class must stand solidly behind the locked-out pressmen, the stereotypers, the drivers and the newsboys. The capitalists are standing together. Therefore, all the workers must stand together. Already the capitalists are charging the strikers with violence; already they are calling The Daily World an incendiary sheet. What are the facts? The workers are causing no violence, and the World is simply telling the truth about the capitalists and the police. The police, who apparently

are acting under orders from Andy Lawrence, the manager of the Hearst newspapers and political dictator of Chicago, have forbidden the newsboys to cry out their papers on the streets because they are selling the only union daily—The Daily World. No such order was ever enforced before. Saturday night the police forbade the newsboys altogether to sell The World on several street corners, and when the newsboys disregarded this illegal order scores of them were arrested. Who is inciting the disorder in these cases—the newsboys, who are peaceably attending to their business, or the police, who are enforcing illegal orders? Fellow workers, do not be deceived by false reports circulated by capitalistic agencies. The cause of the strikers is just, and they are conducting their struggle in a peaceable, legal manner. If there is any violence, it will be caused, just as in most cases, by imported strike-breakers, gunmen, thugs, Pinkertons and police exceeding their legal authority. The trade unions and the Socialist press want nothing but justice. We stand, and shall continue to stand, for law and order in spite of the illegal acts of the capitalists and their tools. The cause of labor is just. The worker is entitled to the full product of his toil. The world is moving rapidly toward a true industrial democracy. Let us stand together in this fight—quietly, peacefully, yet unflinchingly—and we are bound to win.



The Chicago Daily World (Soc.), May 7.—"The unfairness of the demand," "these loyal men," "swayed by foolish advice," "the labor army," are some of the catch phrases which the Examiner uses to bolster up its cause with the public. It is the old game. There isn't a thing new about it. Capital always throws out these tempting phrases to give the impression that right and justice is on its side. But always back of the words there are the facts; back of the phrases are the guns, the ready weapons. Back of these words is the admission in the same editorial that the Chicago newspaper field is dominated by a trust, each part of which acts with the other parts, offensively or defensively. For the Examiner tells the people that the termination of the contract with the Hearst papers "naturally ended that contract in all the newspapers belonging to the Publishers' Association." Sure enough; one hit, all hit. Class solidarity, capital class solidarity. A regular hummer of a lesson for Labor!



The Socialist Attitude.

The Chicago Daily World (Soc.), May 7.—The international battle of Labor is on! All over the world there is the smoke of battle! The workers are getting a glimpse of the sunrise, and it looks good and beautiful and "wantable." And with the want comes the determination, and with the determination comes the knowledge, of How. Capital has played a silent game, but it has gotten the goods. Now Labor is getting a peep at the inside works, and it sees how the thing is worked. It discovers that the game is crooked. That's enough. Labor sees that it is robbed every day, robbed while it works and while it sleeps. It sees that its sons and daughters are robbed before they are old enough to

think of fighting back. Then Labor learns that there is a hope, a hope of straightening the game, stopping the crooked work, getting what it produces. It discovers its loss first, then it is fired with the determination to stop the losses, and then it learns how to turn the trick. Then Labor wreaths its face in the smile of the sure. The eternal smile, the eternal hope. Such is the awakening of Labor; the battle of Labor. It's a hard battle, but it inspires the hope that is saving the world. It is a glorious fight, a fight worth being in, a fight for humanity and home. Brother Worker, Comrade Worker, you can't afford to be out of it!



Absentee Landlordism.

Farm and Fireside (Agricultural), March 2.—Absentee landlordism seems to us no worse when the landlord lives across the sea than when he is but five hundred miles away or even five miles. . . . A tenant-farmer—whether his farm is owned in London, New York, Chicago, the county seat, or by the man on the next farm—is a tenant-farmer. . . . If he doesn't own it himself, the dice are loaded against him. What is needed in America, of course, is some plan by which every man owns his own land. Failing that, a system of stable and continued occupancy, with an interest for the tenant in the betterments he makes in fertilization and rotations, would be the next best thing. Given these, and where the landlord lives is unimportant.



The Minimum Wage.

The (St. Louis) Mirror (Wm. Marlon Reedy), March 21.—Strike and strike and yet again strike is in the news. Everywhere the workers complain of the high cost of living with which wage increase does not keep pace at all. The strikes in progress or threatened are of such proportions that only national governments can deal with them. They can't deal with them solely by repression. Government must try something else, first. There is but one thing to try—first. That is the establishment of a minimum wage. It will have to be tried, since so many people cannot think any farther than that device: but the minimum wage will fail. . . . The minimum wage is only a temporary stop-gap, which will temporarily relieve conditions only to make them worse eventually. There cannot be successful wage-regulation by law, while conditions which the law cannot touch operate irresistibly to lower wages. The best thing government can do is to make opportunity for work for every man. It can do this only by unlocking the land for the use of the people without their paying tribute to owners. That once done, the government can do nothing better than let wages alone. With a job open to everybody, wages will go up everywhere. It will go up because labor will be in demand, and it will not go up at the expense of capital, for with plenty of free labor at work it does nothing but create capital. The minimum wage theory will not work in a world where there is no minimization of monopoly of the only thing upon which labor can be exercised directly or indirectly—the land.

RELATED THINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

CHINA.

For The Public.

Ah, light is breaking; mark the Eastern sky.
The rosy dawn gives promise of the day,
And sets its radiant banners floating high,
To chase the dark and gloomy night away.

Oh, light will mean the freeing of the slave
And all of those so many years oppressed;
'Twill forge a tool to dig the mighty grave
Where Special Privilege will forever rest.

Oh, fire the beacon, let a ray of light
Come shimmering o'er the sea to our dear land,
And cheer our workers on to harder fight,
And swell to greater strength our little band.

Ah, working brothers in that far-off land,
You'll forge a golden link in friendship's chain.
When hand goes out across the sea to hand,
Then Henry George will not have lived in vain.

ANNE W. RUST.



THE SPADE GUINEA.

Gilbert K. Chesterton in the London Daily News
of March 2.

It was one of those wonderful evenings we have had of late, in which the sky was warm and radiant while the earth was still comparatively cold and wet. But it is of the essence of spring to be unexpected; as in that heroic and hackneyed line about coming "before the swallows dare." Spring never is spring unless it comes too soon. And on a day like that one might pray, without any profanity, that spring might come on earth, as it was in heaven. The gardener was gardening. I was not gardening. It is needless to explain the causes of this difference; it would be to tell the tremendous history of two souls. It is needless because there is a more immediate explanation of the case; the gardener and I, if not equal in agreement, were at least equal in difference. It is quite certain that he would not have allowed me to touch the garden if I had gone down on my knees to him. And it is by no means certain that I should have consented to touch the garden if he had gone down on his knees to me. His activity and my idleness therefore went on steadily side by side through the long sunset hours.

And all the time I was thinking what a shame it was that he was not sticking his spade into his own garden instead of mine; he knew about the earth and the underworld of seeds, the resurrection of spring and the flowers that appear in order like a procession marshalled by a herald. He possessed the garden intellectually and spiritually,