

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