

**The Farmers' Free List Bill.**

During the week Congress came to an agreement on the "farmers' free list" bill, and sent it to the President, who promptly vetoed it, principally on the same ground of objection he had set up against the wool-tariff bill. The House failed to pass the bill over his veto, the vote being 226 for passage and 127 against—99 majority against the veto, and only 10 short of the necessary two thirds. [See current volume, page 854.]

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**The Cotton Tariff Bill.**

When the cotton tariff bill of the House came up in the Senate on the 17th it was passed with amendments, to which the House agreed on the 21st. The Progressive Republican program had been defeated in the Senate by some understanding of the Democrats with the Standpat Republicans, and the House bill as amended was carried 29 to 24. This vote represented the strength of the Democratic votes in the affirmative, and that of the Progressive Republicans and a few Standpat Republicans, including Senator Root, in the negative. In the House on the 21st the Senate amendments were accepted by a vote of 180 to 107, and on the 22d President Taft vetoed the bill. On motion of the Democratic leader in the lower House the veto was referred to the committee on ways and means a few minutes before adjournment. [See current volume, page 829.]

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**President Taft's Veto of Arizona and New Mexico Statehood.**

President Taft's veto of the bill for the admission of the Territories of Arizona and New Mexico to Statehood in the American Union was delivered to Congress on the 15th. The veto message placed the President's objection on one ground alone. He was satisfied with the admission of New Mexico on the terms conceded by Congress; but his objections to the popular recall of judges were such that he could not consent even to leave that question to a direct vote of the people of the Territory. His argument is long. So far as it relates to his veto action he asserts that at this stage he is himself primarily responsible, and must therefore assert his judgment in no doubtful terms. [See current volume, page 853.]

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Before the veto message came up for action in Congress, the Territories committees of both Houses agreed on the 17th to a compromise bill requiring the people of Arizona, as a condition precedent to admission as a State, to eliminate from their proposed Constitution the Recall so far as it applies to judges. The bill thus modified was passed by the Senate on the 18th by a vote of 53 to 8. Among the Senators voting in the negative

were Bourne, Brandegee, Bristow, Clapp, Cummins and Heyburn (Republicans), and Bailey and Pomerene (Democrats). Of the affirmative vote 26 were Republicans, including Borah and Root, and 27 were Democrats, including Bacon and Kern. The House accepted the Senate bill, and on the 21st the President signed it.

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**Memorial to Michael J. Flaherty.**

A memorial meeting to one of the leading democratic Democrats of New York, ex-Sheriff Michael J. Flaherty, who died recently in his home in Brooklyn, was held by the Brooklyn Central Labor Union at the Labor Lyceum in that city on the 13th, at which Charles Frederick Adams made the principal address. [See vol. viii, p. 834.]

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**Settlement of the British Labor Strike.**

An adjustment of the most formidable labor strike of modern times in Great Britain, was effected on the 19th, by the British ministry under the leadership especially of Lloyd George. [See current volume, page 852.]

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A "reign of terror" was reported on the 15th in Liverpool, and sensational reports of military action came over the cable, climaxing on the 19th in the reported killing of two and wounding of others by a volley fired into a crowd in Wales. Ocean vessels were tied up, traction service was disturbed, railroad service was threatened, the supply of food in cities was running low. The cities affected included Liverpool, London, Manchester, Glasgow, Bradford, Chester, Sheffield, Bristol, Doncaster, Leicester and many others. Business was so generally paralyzed on the 18th that no part of the country was wholly unaffected. Estimates of the number of strikers ranged from 200,000 to 220,000.

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It appeared to be a spontaneous strike from the mass of workers, and not a leaders' strike. But a curious feature of the dispatches was the entire omission of any explanation of the causes. It had burst upon Great Britain over night, and unless facts were suppressed in the dispatches, with no visible cause whatever. Inference, however, lead to the conclusion that the principal cause was the refusal of railroad companies to recognize labor organizations—the old question of organized employers insisting upon treating with workmen only as individuals. The Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, along with the Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, and the General Railway Workers' Union adopted a resolution unanimously on the 15th declaring a general railway strike throughout the United Kingdom. But the actual

strike was held in abeyance pending negotiations for compromise.

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Conferences were held on the 15th between the Prime Minister and prominent representatives of such industries as shipping, cotton, coal, engineering and railways. Also with representatives of trade unions and other labor organizations. On the 16th the Home Secretary, Winston Churchill, stated in a speech in the Commons that non-unionists were entitled by law to work without molestation and would be protected in the exercise of that right; while Lloyd George, declaring that while the government was determined to protect the railways and the food supply at any cost it would not intervene in the interest of any party. An offer of a Royal commission was refused by the strikers, apparently because representatives of organized labor would have no representation upon it, as such; and at this time there were serious doubts of the possibility of a settlement. Mr. George, however, did not share these doubts, and on the 19th, chiefly through his instrumentality, but with the support of Labor members of Parliament and the pressure of Mr. Asquith upon representatives of the companies, a settlement was effected.

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G. H. Claughton, a director of the London Northwestern Railway, and Sir Guy Granet, general manager of the Midland Railway, had been empowered by the employers to confer with labor representatives and the Government; and at this conference there were present in behalf of the labor organizations James Henry Thomas, M. P., and Messrs Bellamy, Williams, Fox, Lowth and Charlton. Lloyd George, Sir H. L. Smith and G. K. Askwith participated on behalf of the Board of Trade, and Ramsay McDonald, M. P., labor leader was present. Following is the agreement, which was signed by all:

1. The strike to be terminated forthwith and the men's leaders to use their best endeavors to induce the men to return to work at once.
2. All the men involved in the present dispute, either by strike or lockout, including casuals, who present themselves for work within a reasonable time, to be reinstated by the companies at the earliest possible moment, and no one to be subjected to proceedings for breach of contract or otherwise penalized.
3. Conciliation boards to be convened for the purpose of settling forthwith all questions at present in dispute as far as they are within the scope of such boards, provided notice of such questions be given not later than fourteen days from the date of this agreement. If the sectional boards fail to arrive at a settlement, the central board is to meet at once. Any decisions arrived at are to be retroactive as from the date of this agreement. It is agreed for the purpose of this and the following clause that rates of wages include remuneration whether by time or piece work.

4. Steps are to be taken forthwith to effect a settlement of questions now in dispute between the companies and classes of their employes not included within the conciliation scheme of 1907, by means of conferences between representatives of the companies and representatives of the employes who themselves are employed by the same companies, and, failing of an agreement by arbitration, they are to be arranged mutually or by the Board of Trade. The above is to be a temporary arrangement pending a report of the Commission as to the best means for settling disputes.

5. Both parties are to give every assistance to the Special Commission of Inquiry, the immediate appointment of which the Government has announced.

6. Any questions which may arise as to the interpretation of this agreement are to be referred to the Board of Trade.

The Special Commission is to consist of two labor representatives, two employers' representatives and an impartial chairman.

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Labor leaders claim a victory because unionism, the most vital principle at stake, is recognized in the agreement and in the personnel of the Special Commission.

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## NEWS NOTES

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—The corrupt practices act of Congress was signed on the 19th by President Taft. [See current volume, pages 369, 682, 854.]

—At the Saturday Lunch Club, Minneapolis, on the 9th of September, at 12:30, Louis F. Post, editor of The Public, will speak on "The Singletax at Work."

—Plans for a national organization of Negroes are to be considered at a mass meeting of Negro voters at Odd Fellows' Hall, 3335 State street, Chicago, on the 24th.

—Gamaliel Bradford, anti-imperialist and public-spirited citizen of Massachusetts, was struck by a trolley car on the 20th, and died at his son's home near Boston in a few hours. Mr. Bradford was in his eighty-first year.

—The American Federation of Catholic Societies met in annual session at Columbus, Ohio, on the 20th, with about 1,500 delegates in attendance. Speeches of welcome were made by Governor Harmon and Mayor Marshall.

—Professor Frederick Starr, of the University of Chicago, who spoke at Abraham Lincoln Center, on the 20th, on Japan and Korea, is to leave this country on the 25th for an ethnographic tour of Korea. [Current volume, page 585.]

—Reports from Winnipeg of the 10th were to the effect that the Dominion Government had given to Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, Canadian Provinces, corresponding to American States, their natural resources, which means that the Manitoba and Saskatchewan boundaries are to be extended to

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