

matter. At about 9 o'clock on the morning of the 6th, an automobile of the publishers' union stopped in front of the Belmont avenue station of the Northwestern Elevated railroad. There were six "huskies" in it, and one more rode on a motorcycle behind. From this automobile, armfuls of Record-Heralds, Tribunes, etc., were carried into the station and piled upon the newsstand table without a word to the lessee. He had not ordered the papers and he cleared his table of them as soon as the "huskies" had gone, throwing them into a far corner of the station. In answer to questions elicited by personal observation of this whole affair, he said that he paid rent for this newsstand, that it was his property, that he was a member of the newsmen's union, and that he would not handle "scab papers." The only papers he had then on his table were The Chicago World and The Daily Socialist, which are distinguished by the newsmen as "union papers." Further inquiries drew from this dealer the statement that on the 4th and the 5th the same "huskies," or men like them, had covered his newsstand in the same manner with bundles of the "scab papers," and had placed there a representative of their own to sell them from his stand, in spite of his protest, and that two policemen stationed themselves near the front of the station on the street to protect the intruder and enforce the sale of the "scab papers." The owner of the stand, an industrious and peaceable and apparently truthful young man, who has served papers at the Belmont station for a year or more, asserts that all the news dealers on the Elevated system are, like himself, lessees of their stands and members of the newsmen's union, that they voluntarily refuse to handle the "scab papers," and that they are subjected to coercive efforts similar to those described above in his own case, by the publishers' union. As to street stands, many of which command high premiums for some obscure reason, it appears to be true that the police are preventing their use as far as possible for sales of The Chicago World and The Daily Socialist exclusively. They have taken away large numbers of street corner tables and forbidden the use of the places for newsstands. There appear also to have been a good many arbitrary arrests by the police, some of them justified, some of them not, and many of them discriminatory in favor of the publishers' union.



#### Railroad Strike.

A strike of Chicago freight handlers began on the 4th. In anticipation of the expiration of their contract with the Rock Island Railroad on the 1st of May, those employed by that road applied six months ago for an increase of wages, in order that the matter might be considered in time for renewal of contract. As no adjustment was made by the appointed time, the strike began; and when it began it included the entire force of freight

handlers on all the roads at Chicago, including checkers and receiving clerks. The General Managers' Association, which controls all the 24 roads centering at Chicago, had at the last moment offered an increase in wages of half a cent an hour. This was overwhelmingly rejected on referendum. An increase of ten cents a day had been asked for, besides a half holiday on Saturdays and double pay for Sunday work. Non-union freight handlers to the number of 600 joined the strikers on the 6th. Meanwhile, according to the Record-Herald of the 6th, "more than a thousand non-union men were imported" on the 5th, "to take the places of the 6,000 men who walked out Saturday noon," and "more are coming as rapidly as they can be engaged by local agents of the railroads throughout the Middle West. [See current volume, page 398.]



#### The Ohio Constitutional Convention.

The Thomas Fitzsimons plan of municipal government was adopted by the Ohio Constitutional convention on the 30th by 104 to 7. This plan provides for general laws for the incorporation of cities and villages, and additional laws operative in a municipality when approved at a referendum. All powers of self-government, inside the general law of the State, are given. Municipalities may construct, own, buy, lease or operate any public utilities, and issue bonds in payment, or may contract for public utility service. There can be no franchises, however, without approval of a local referendum. And municipalities may frame their own charters, subject to the general law of the State, if the citizens so decide at a referendum; the charter when completed to be also approved at referendum, as must be all subsequent amendments. "Excess condemnation" is allowed for the purpose of enabling the city adopting it to reap the "unearned increment" of land adjacent to public improvements, the bonds for such excess to be a charge upon the lands condemned and not an addition to the city debt. In the purchase or erection of a public utility, bonds issued above the limit of the city's debt are not to be a lien on the city property but only upon the utility. [See current volume, page 397.]



A hard fought controversy over taxation began on the 1st and continued through the 2nd. At a late hour that night the principle of the uniform rule as opposed to classification of property for taxation appeared to have a complete majority on the question of engrossing the uniform-rule proposal, which was carried by 65 to 25.



#### The New Mexican Revolution.

Fighting continues in Mexico between the Madero government and the insurrectionists. Emilio

Vasquez Gomez was formally proclaimed provisional President of Mexico on the 4th, by an insurrecto group. Gomez has established his capital at Juarez. Orozco on the 7th repudiated the Gomez government. The insurrectos have sent a junta to Washington to represent their movements, and to procure, if possible, belligerent rights. The leader of the junta, Dr. Policarpe Rueda, issued the following statement on the 5th:

The revolution is being conducted by two military leaders—Pasqual Orozco in the north and Emiliano Zapata in the south. Another military commander will be appointed in a few days to conduct the campaign in the western portion of the Republic. These leaders are all working harmoniously under the direction of President Gomez. I have letters from Generals Orozco and Zapata pledging themselves to support President Gomez and co-operate with each other for the success of the revolutionary movement.

The new Mexican ambassador to the United States, Mr. Manuel Calero, presented the Federal point of view in an interview at Chicago on the 1st. We quote from the Inter Ocean's report:

Senor Calero said that Mexico is harassed by two broils, one on the southern border, in the state of Morrelo, which was nothing more than uncurbed brigandage of dissatisfied Indians, and another on her northern border, in the state of Chihuahua, which, although not serious, was hard to handle. Americans are interested only in the trouble on the northern border, he said, as there were few Americans in Morrelo.

"The revolutionists are a band of men formerly adherents of General Reyes, who have taken sides with Orozco. They are backed by the wealthy land owners of the northern part of the country, who want a dictatorship. These men number about 6,000 and are led by Orozco, who is utterly unfit for leadership. He was a mule driver before his advent into war. The Government sent a column numbering about 5,000 or 6,000 men against them the other day. I expect a decisive conflict momentarily. The revolutionists are mountaineers and used to mountains, and for that reason they are hard to dislodge. However, I think that it will be only a question of time."

Discussing the shipment of 1,000 rifles from this country into Mexico for use by the Americans, confiscated by the Mexican government, the Ambassador said he thought it was due to a misunderstanding and that the matter would be rectified in a short time. He said the Americans wanted the rifles only for protection and had secured the permission of the Mexican government beforehand. The note sent by the Mexican government in answer to a note from this country regarding the protection of American interests in Mexico, Ambassador Calero said was not intended as an insult. "It was just stating the international law," said the Ambassador, "that is, that Mexico would be responsible for the destruction of American property to the full extent of the international law."

[See current volume, page 422.]

Light has been thrown on the alarming rumors\* of danger to Americans resident in Mexico, by Dolores Butterfield, whose graphic letter on the Mexican situation in The Public of April 12 will be remembered. Miss Butterfield makes in the San Francisco Star of the 27th the following illuminative statement in regard to the program of the "cientificos," as the intelligent, plutocratic reactionaries are called:

All of the papers owned and controlled by científico money (which are all the newspapers in Mexico except a counted few) have done their full share toward insidiously fomenting the Reaction; have spared no opportunity to misrepresent the Administration, and spread discontent against it, at a time so critical for Mexico that violence against the constituted government does not merely mean a rebellion against an Administration—in itself utterly unfair, since the Administration has not had a fair trial—but, jeopardizing the political independence of the country, amounts to treason against the Republic itself.

They have systematically exaggerated every report they could of danger to Americans, in a deliberate effort to provoke intervention, and, failing to rouse the United States, have made a point of printing stories (so far proved upon investigation to be utterly false) of atrocities perpetrated against other foreigners, in the hope that Europe would force the United States to intervene or stand aside.

These papers also make a practice of stirring up anti-Americanism, periodically breaking forth in a perfect frenzy of patriotism, calling upon all Mexicans to make war to the death upon the arrogant invaders from the North, etc.; assuring the ignorant—for of course the educated know all too well what the truth would be—that the United States could not be the victor in a war with Mexico, and trying to rouse the lower class Mexicans themselves to make some move which would precipitate intervention.



#### Italo-Turkish War.

The first successful use of the dirigible as a weapon of offensive warfare took place at Aziziah in Tripoli on the 2nd, when, according to press dispatches received from Italian sources, two of the new dirigibles sailed over the camp and dropped thirty bombs, practically destroying the enemy's position. The official dispatches speak of the maneuver as resulting in heavy loss of life. This is the first instance in the history of the world where airships have been used extensively as war machines, and kept at the task until an entire camp was wiped out. The Turks tried to utilize their field pieces to destroy the dirigibles with shrapnel, but they could not fire at a sufficient elevation, and the explosives fell far short.



The Italian fleet on the 4th seized the Turkish island of Rhodes in the Aegean Sea.