

which may be of value, the Commission will hold private sessions daily at the rooms of the finance committee of the City Council on the fourth floor of the City Hall. Appointments with the Commission may be made by addressing Graham Taylor, chairman care of the Mayor. No statements will be given out by the Commission until it finally reports to the Mayor.

The Mayor hopes that the Commission will be able to secure information which will be of permanent value in eliminating the causes of like disturbances in the future.

Mayor Dunne's policy in this respect was advised by William Kent, a leading business man and lately a reform alderman, who was an ardent adversary of Mayor Dunne at the recent election. Mr. Kent has published an open letter in which he says:

The time has come when no line of argument, however logical it may seem, can justify the position of the employers any more than it can justify the position of the strikers. The disinterested portion of our population knows that things have drifted into a fearful condition. It knows that the wind is being sown and that the whirlwind will be its fruit. It makes little difference to this portion of the population whether it is hit by a stray brick from the hands of a striker or shot by some maddened and irresponsible Negro. We want peace under the law as you are trying to give to us. We want men disarmed by the police. We want the violators of the law and order arrested by the police and not fought by others as lawless in the public streets. We do not want the strike to spread. For this strike is war, and war engenders bitterness which will not blow away with the conclusion of open hostilities. If in any way I may be of assistance to you in your course, which is the only right course, whether financially or personally, my services are at your disposal.

Another active adversary of Mayor Dunne at the recent election, Raymond Robins, writes him the following open letter:

I am one of that minority of your fellow citizens that did what was in their power to prevent your election to the office of mayor of this city, but I am not among that group of unconscious anarchists that are seeking to discredit your administration and the great civic movement for the advance of which you were elected. Since my return to this city on last Saturday I have very carefully studied the facts and conditions of the present industrial war now in progress in Chicago and I am entirely certain that it is the present duty of every honorable citi-

zen to uphold and maintain by every means in his power the dignity and good faith of your administration and the peace of our city. I believe that there are many hundreds of men in this city that share with me the willingness to serve in any capacity that might seem useful to this end. Until the termination of this present disturbance I wish to be considered as a volunteer in readiness for any demand within my power in helping to preserve order under the dominion of the constituted authorities.

Upon President Roosevelt's arrival in Chicago, on the 10th, a committee of the Chicago labor organizations,—C. P. Shea, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Charles Dold, president Chicago Federation of Labor; Joseph O'Neil, vice president Chicago Federation of Labor; T. P. Quinn, Canvasser's Union, and T. Rickert, president Garment Workers' International Union—presented him with a written address, urging him to prevent any abuse of Federal power by complying with the demands of the employers for Federal troops without an inquiry into the case. After reciting the facts as the strikers view them, and referring to the arrogant demands of employers for Federal troops, the address reads:

Is it just or is it necessary to bring the United States army into Chicago in an effort to smother the cry of the toiler for arbitration? Is it right or expedient to attempt to stifle the demand for the settlement of controversy by court procedure? Is the purpose of the army to prevent the carrying out of written contracts that are open to all who care to read them? Can you, our honored President, afford to use the forces under your control to stifle labor's demand for peace and the methods of peace? Why should our attempt to get and maintain peace be met by the army and by war?

Every laboring man knows these facts. What will be the results upon the citizenship of this country, if, when American citizens ask for court procedure and order, they are met by the bullet and the jail? Is it not time to inquire as to the facts in the case?

The President deprecated the language used as to Federal troops, but is not reported to have given any assurances. In his speech at the Iroquois Club banquet at the Auditorium he said, with an apparent allusion to the Chicago labor trouble:

This government is not and never

shall be the government of a plutocracy; this government is not, and never shall be the government of a mob.

The Traction Question in Chicago.

Steps for the municipalization of street railways in Chicago (p. 58) have not been neglected by the Mayor in consequence of the exigencies of the strike situation. Considerable progress has been made, Judge Grosscup, of the Federal court, having at last been induced to sign a final decree upon the decision made several months ago in the suit involving the validity and extent of the 99-year franchise (vol. vii, pp. 778, 808), and to render a long deferred decision in the injunction suit to prevent the city's interfering with the Passenger Railway (vol. vii, p. 764), which is not affected by the 99-year grant and the franchise for which has expired. From the 99-year decision the city will now appeal. The Passenger decision dissolves the injunction, on the ground that the franchise expired in 1904. In explanation of his delay, Judge Grosscup said that—

in pursuance of an understanding between the court and some of the counsel, at least, for the city that the hoped for settlement of the whole traction problem might be hindered rather than helped by a decision in this case, I waited until I received official notification from the city that that view was changed, and then took it up. In the meantime I did not as much as consider the merits of the case.

In accordance with Mayor Dunne's policy, the streets released to the city by this decision are to furnish opportunity for the first experiment with municipal traction ownership in Chicago. The routes released are as follows:

Adams, from Clark to Desplaines; Desplaines, from Adams to Harrison; Harrison, from Desplaines to Western avenue; Western avenue, from Harrison to Twelfth street; Twelfth street, from Western avenue to the city limits.

On the 9th it was decided by the Mayor and his advisers to have a suit started at once to carry up to the Supreme Court of the State, with reference to the taking over of the Passenger Railway, the question of the validity of Mueller law certificates for the purpose of clearing the way for financing this municipal plant.

Other Municipal Subjects.

Before adjourning sine die on