

current year will be 60,000,000 tons. One dollar per ton increase would make several men multimillionaires. These men, of course, saw the end from the beginning, and initiated an ordered sequence of events as logical as the tale of The House That Jack Built. Where the graft was faulty was in overlooking the tendency of the unexpected to happen. Proposals for government ownership of coal mines and the strike commission have boosted the cause of organized labor.

The people were careful to lodge the taxing power where it would be under the best control. Courts have power to find that the value of stocks and bonds is a fair basis for taxation, but organized wealth finds it easy to rob this wasp of its sting. Violation of equity in this point is presumptive evidence of conspiracy, to the same extent as the determination to strike on the part of organized labor. The court shows a disposition to treat everybody alike in the same way as the Almighty, who does not do for us what we can do for ourselves.

A commission to study government by injunction would be as sensible as a tariff or finance commission.

The injunction having issued against a body of strikers the latter are in contempt if they dare to violate the judge's ipse dixit. It affects others as well as the strikers, who happen to be driven into the industrial whirligig. Suppose the judge who brings forth the injunction could be an eye witness to a head-end collision between the contending forces, in which a striker commits murder. Would the striker be punished for contempt, or would he be reserved for the criminal court to make a horrible example of? It cannot be a doctrine of American jurisprudence that a man must commit murder in order to be entitled to trial by jury.

JAMES E. FREE.

## NEWS

Week ending Thursday, Feb. 25.

Russia has made reply to the American diplomatic note (p 729) with reference to limiting the sphere of hostilities in the war be-

tween Japan and Russia in China. The reply was made public on the 19th. It acquiesces in the American suggestion, but definitely insists that Manchuria must not be considered as excluded from the field of military operations.

Regarding hostilities in Manchuria China has addressed both Russia and Japan. She reiterates her intention to maintain strict neutrality, but warns the combatants that they must respect the sanctity of the royal tombs in Manchuria.

Although the American newspapers have been full of "headline news" of the war (p. 727) during the week there has been no trustworthy war news of importance. That important events have occurred at the seat of the war is not improbable, but the military censorship on both sides is so rigorous that no correspondent can forward really reliable information.

Complaint was formally made on the 23d by Russia to the other Powers, respecting Japan's manner of conducting the war. Russia charges Japan with violating the fundamental rules of international law in five particulars, as follows:

(1). Before the opening of hostilities against Russia Japan landed her troops in the independent empire of Corea, which had declared its neutrality.

(2). With a division of her fleet she made a sudden attack on February 8, that is, three days prior to the declaration of war, on two Russian war ships in the neutral port of Chemulpo. The commanders of these ships had not been notified of the severance of diplomatic relations, as the Japanese maliciously stopped the delivery of Russia's telegrams by the Danish cable, and destroyed telegraphic communication of the Corean government.

(3). Shortly before the opening of hostilities the Japanese captured as prizes of war certain Russian merchant ships in neutral ports of Corea.

(4). Japan declared to the Emperor of Corea through the Japanese minister at Seoul, that Corea would henceforth be under Japanese administration, and she warned the Emperor that in case of his noncompliance Japanese troops would occupy the palace.

(5). Through the French minister at Seoul Japan summoned the Russian representative at the Corean court to leave

the country, with the staffs of the Russian legation and consulate.

Accompanying the foregoing statement is a protest in these terms:

Recognizing that all the above facts constitute a flagrant breach of international law, the Russian government considers it its duty to lodge a protest with all the powers against this procedure of the Japanese government; and it is firmly convinced that all the Powers, valuing the principles which guarantee their relations, will agree with the Russian attitude. At the same time the Russian government considers it necessary to issue a timely warning that, owing to Japan's illegal assumption of power in Corea, the government declares all orders and declarations which may be issued on the part of the Corean government to be invalid.

Since this protest it has been announced that Japan and Corea have made an alliance under which Japan guarantees the independence and integrity of Corea, and Corea in return gives to Japan the right to operate her military forces at will in Corean territory.

The first important decision of the international arbitration tribunal at The Hague (p. 417) was announced on the 22d. It adjusted the priority of claims made against Venezuela (vol. v, p. 728), by 11 nations—Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Spain, the United States and six others. The first three had jointly attacked Venezuela to enforce payment in behalf of their subjects. In consequence Venezuela made a treaty setting aside 30 per cent. of her customs receipts for the benefit of all foreign claimants. A question of priority of payment thereupon arose, the three belligerent nations asserting their right to full payment before any payment to the nations that had asserted their claims peacefully. This is the question that was submitted to arbitration at The Hague. The arbitration tribunal has by its decision of the 22d awarded the priority to the allied assailants—Great Britain, Germany and Italy,—doing so upon the theory that the preliminary negotiations between Venezuela on the one hand, and Great Britain, Germany and Italy on the other, for raising the British-German-Italian blockade, gave the blockading Powers a preference