

managers of the companies meet the representatives of the miners with a view to effecting a mutual settlement.

Second: That the whole question in dispute be submitted to arbitration.

Third: That the question be submitted to arbitration and no member of the Western Federation of Miners be selected upon the board.

Fourth: That the companies agree to reinstate all of the workmen without discrimination relative to their being members or non-members of a union.

Fifth: That the companies post notices that they will re-employ all the strikers without discrimination relative to their being members or non-members of a union.

Each of these propositions as made were accepted by the representatives of the miners as a basis of settlement, but were rejected by the representatives of the companies on the ground that they would not deal with the Western Federation of Miners or have any of its members in their employ. The companies on December 1st posted notices to the effect that thereafter the minimum wage rate would be \$3 and the hours of labor per day 8 3-4.

The data contained in this report was collected prior to the shooting at Seeberville; the shooting at Painsdale; the Calumet tragedy at Italian hall on Christmas eve, and the deportation of Charles H. Moyer, and does not include any reports on these points.

HOMES FOR AMBASSADORS

Among the many meritorious movements which have gained strength during the last decade is the one having for its object the purchase of homes for American ambassadors and ministers abroad. Two reasons are given for the change, and they are so conclusive that they will convince all who take time to give them consideration.

First. The present system is undemocratic in that it limits the selection in most cases to men of means. Fitness for a diplomatic post is not accurately measured by possessions or income.

The high rents charged in foreign capitals—and rents are rising with increased population—make it impossible for a poor man, however well qualified, to accept an important diplomatic position. The government should be free to select for its foreign posts those most fitted without inquiring about their bank account.

The second reason is also a democratic one. The government should be in a position to regulate the expenditures of its representatives in order to prevent misrepresentation of American life and ideals, not to speak of the embarrassment which an extravagant diplomat may cause a less prodigal successor.

There is no reason why those who go abroad should not present in their mode of life and in their style of entertainment the ideals of their country. If the representatives of each nation will do this we shall learn more of each other and profit more by the examples furnished. As in the case of all movements of a worthy character, an organization was formed to arouse public opinion in behalf of the purchase of homes in foreign capitals for our official representatives, and in a remarkably short time the movement grew so strong that congress has approved the policy and purchases will be made as rapidly as money is available.

When the change is completed we shall have a permanent building in each country, appropriately furnished, into which the American representative will go upon appointment with a standard of living already established.

W. J. BRYAN.

Secretaries McAdoo and Houston have been busy for a month accumulating a remarkable fund of information about business conditions and banking power in the respective communities that have been asking for the location of a regional bank. Equipped with this arsenal of facts they would be able to make short work of the arguments of the men who were recently down at Washington insisting that the public interest demanded continued control of the country's financial system by New York.

President Wilson wants it made very clear that the administration is not taking any part in any primary fight in any state where senators are to be chosen this year. This will rob these contests of the amiable whisperers who confidentially informed each voter that the president was relying for his future success upon having them at his right hand.

WANTED—To correspond with Democratic State Chairmen, County Chairmen, Secretaries, Members of Democratic State Committees, Precinct Committeemen and others who are interested in circulating Democratic literature and organizing for the state and congressional elections this year. Address The Commoner.

MR. BRYAN STRIVES TO PLEASE

Some people are never satisfied. When Wilson had been chosen president, and the awful rumor spread that he fancied Bryan for secretary of state, a howl of protest went up from the usual anti-Bryan quarters. What? Put that man at the head of the state department? Incredible; it could not be true! But, alas, it was. The chair of secretary of state, vacated by Knox, was dusted off and presented to Bryan, and dismal were the prophecies. The country had a through ticket to perdition, sure, with no return coupon so long as Bryan was on the job. Recently, the secretary announced that he was about to spend several weeks lecturing upon the chautauqua circuit, and that naturally, for excellent physical reasons, he would be away from Washington and the state department. Were there sighs of relief from his critics? Not at all. The same persons who howled most dismally when Mr. Bryan took the secretarial chair let out a scream of pain on hearing of his proposal to leave it. The folks who didn't want him in Washington in any official capacity could not bear to have him off the job, even for a few weeks. Judging by their own past performances and frequently expressed desires they should have been the happiest of happy people, but they weren't. Man is a fickle animal.—Puck.

A GOOD SUGGESTION

Mr. Bryan is a prominent figure today in the campaign for universal peace. Having served as a private soldier from 1861 to 1865, I wish to make a suggestion, which if carried out, would assist very materially in bringing about the much-desired consummation. My proposal is this: Pass a general law requiring every able-bodied man of military age to take his place in line in time of war and perform actual service. Have the law forbid the purchase of substitutes and you will find the wealth of the country will be backward in advocating war even for purposes of speculation. Yours truly,
 D. S. LIPSCOMB, Visalia, Cal.

The order of the interstate commerce commission reducing the express rates in the United States 16 per cent went into effect on February 1st. There will be no effort made by the companies to contest the order in court, one of the few times when injunctions did not follow such decrees. The parcel post of the government has not only lessened the cost of transportation to those who patronize it, but to those also who must still depend upon the express companies.

When a democrat, ten or twelve years ago, spoke favorably of the project of government ownership of railroads or telegraphs or telephones, he was denounced as a populist. Down at Washington the government is arranging preliminary details for building a railroad of its own in Alaska and congress is seriously discussing taking over the entire telephone and telegraph business of the country. And nobody thinks of mentioning populism.

An average of a thousand men are fed each night in the bread line that forms before the Bowery mission in New York city. It should be stated, lest this figure appear too small, that these averages were compiled before the new currency law was passed and before the full effect of its provisions were felt among the stock brokers.

Immediately following the announcement that the democratic administration had forced the Bell Telephone company to agree that it would stop trying to stifle competition by the policy of buying up independent companies, President Vail announced that this ended government ownership discussion. The man who locked the stable after the horse was stolen has nothing on Mr. Vail in the matter of acute perspicacity.

INDORSES PRESIDENT'S MEXICAN POLICY

The American people have just cause to feel proud concerning the way in which President Wilson, our great and coming Abraham Lincoln, and Secretary of State Bryan are handling the Mexican rebellion.

President Wilson says, "Wait and watch," words in which volumes are expressed. Mothers, do you realize the lives those two words "Wait and watch" will save? Every mother that has a dear one in the United States army should give her heartfelt thanks to those two great men, who are using such wonderful judgment, thereby sparing the lives of their beloved ones.

The foreigners were warned by ex-President Taft to leave Mexico and also by President Wilson and Secretary Bryan and those who did not heed have themselves only to blame for the consequences. Only a few millionaires are anxious to plunge the United States into war with Mexico, just to satisfy their greed. They do not care how many of our boys are killed or maimed for life.

My sentiment is to let the Mexicans fight it out and save our boys.
 JOSEPH R. STARK, Berkeley, Calif.

All that the people of the United States will demand of these gigantic corporations that are suing for peace with the government is that they keep their promises of obeying the law. Disregard of the statutes and of the rights of others, that have been characteristic of those who have been commanding huge apparent successes in the industrial and commercial world, are responsible for the conditions that Mr. Wilson has declared must cease. This is a form of special privilege that has been most obnoxious, and there can be no real peace until it has been absolutely abolished.

Land speculation, says Secretary Lane, has greatly interfered with the success of the great reclamation projects financed by the government with the intention of bringing under cultivation a vastly increased area of farm land in the west. Half of the lands are held by men who want to profit personally through government enterprise and who do not want to do any farming. Mr. Lane promises a policy that will force these into use or on sale.

In his recommendation to congress that the government take over the telegraph and telephone systems, Postmaster General Burleson says that with the present compact postal organization, the business can be done cheaper than by private corporations. The trusts can't deny the logic of that statement without recanting their doctrine of the economic efficiency of aggregated business.

The unanimity with which the national bankers accepted and the fervor with which they commended the currency bill, after it became a law, was equalled only by the unanimity with which they condemned and the fervor with which they opposed it when it was in the making. Apparently, when they found they could not get what they wanted, they found they really wanted what they could get.

THE LITTLE MASTER

The Little Master lies so still,
 With quiet hands and folded eyes;
 It can not be it is his will
 To let the bright hours slip away,
 Forsaking all his merry play—
 It is a strange and sad surprise!
 The Little Master sleeps so deep,
 He does not list to any call;
 He does not hear his mother weep,
 Or hear the happy robins sing,
 He takes no heed of anything—
 We can not wake him up at all!

The Little Master sleeps so long;
 The day and night to him are one,
 No evening prayer, or morning song,
 Or tripping feet adown the stair,
 Or ringing laughter anywhere—
 His little joyous time is done!

Oh, Little Master, still and cold,
 Fairer than all the fair, you lie
 This last hour in the dear home-fold,
 And then your couch a low, green bed,
 With sweet flowers strewn above your head—
 Oh, Little Boy, good-by, good-by!

—Emma A. Leute in Farm Journal.