

movement; Catherine Breshkovsky, now seventy-two years old and engaged in splendid work for the Russian children in Carpathia; Zeminoff, three times a prisoner in Siberia and once condemned to death by the Czar; Tchernoff, once Cabinet Minister and the leader of the peasant party; and other members of the Socialist Revolutionary party, have offered to surrender to the Russian Government as hostages in order to set free temporarily other members of their faith and party who have long been imprisoned by the Soviets and who are slowly dying, so that these poor sufferers may have a chance to recover health before returning to prison.

The facts in the case are not very clear. The offer was based on a statement coming from Russia attributed to Krylenko, the Soviet Minister of Justice, that he would accept such exchanges. In reply the noble men and women who have signed the offer declare: "We are ready to become in their stead hostages in the full and strict sense of the word. We shall come and go to prison for them." The letter in which this offer was made is not signed by Kerensky or Madame Breshkovsky, but reports state that they have joined the movement.

The friends of those now in prison quote a despatch of some length from Krylenko which distinctly offers to release for a year three prisoners named, "provided that in place of them there will come to Russia voluntarily other members of the Central Committee of the party who are now living abroad."

Whether the proposal is feasible or not, and whatever the exact facts leading to it may be, the incident has brought out the devotion and comradeship of those who make the offer. They are revolutionists, to be sure, but they are not Anarchists and mob absolutists as are the Bolsheviks. One of the volunteers declares that they are offering themselves for the elementary principles of liberty—freedom of the press and universal suffrage. It appears that a large number of members of the Socialist Revolutionary party are held in Moscow jails in wretched conditions and with breaking health. What is most significant of all is that they have steadfastly refused to accept release unless these principles were recognized by the Soviet, although they stood ready when such recognition came to work with the Soviet.

One despatch from Moscow states that one section of the Socialist Revolutionary party has disbanded in the belief that gradual change in the economic and political policy of the Soviets will make their efforts needless. However this may be, the offer just described



MME. BRESHKOVSKY

is one of beautiful self-abnegation and proffered sacrifice.

#### SUGAR AND RUBBER

**T**HE connection in the public mind just now between sugar and rubber is that both are abnormally high in price. The public in both cases naturally asks, Why? and, What can be done about it? The world's production of sugar is remarkably good this year; why, then, should the housekeeper pay several cents more per pound than she did a few months ago? There are two answers to that question, and there may be some truth in both. One answer is that the sugar growers of Cuba are holding back their product in order to make prices high; the other is that our Tariff Law puts such a high rate on sugar importations that the home producers are able to raise their prices despite competition from Cuba.

Secretary Hoover, of the Department of Commerce, is making an investigation to find out whether the recent rise in the price of sugar is due to a combination in restraint of trade. In reply to an intimation that the Government had favored a combination between American and Cuban sugar producers to restrict the production of sugar, Secretary Hoover properly points out that nothing of that kind could be done without the consent of Congress, that he told those who wanted to make such an agreement that this was the case, and that they of course failed to get any such action from Congress.

One check to the rise of sugar prices

might come from President Harding. He can, under the present law, with the support of the Tariff Commission, cut the tariff down on sugar even by fifty per cent. Probably the discussion that has followed the sudden rise in sugar will bring about relief in one way or another.

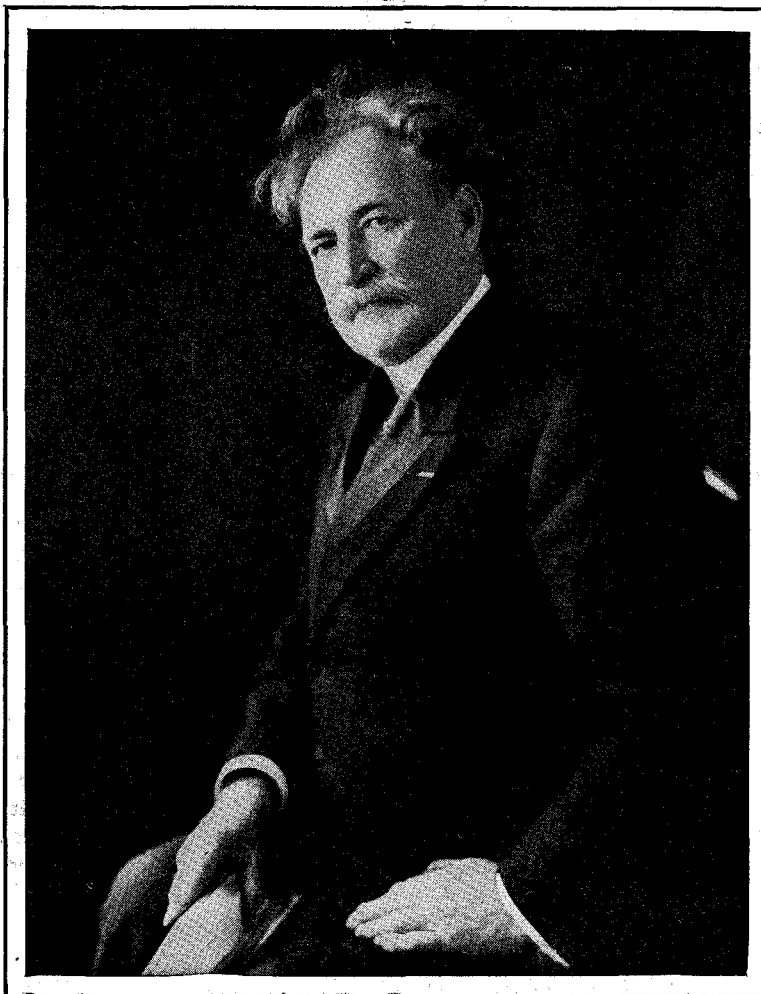
The rubber question is somewhat similar to the sugar question in that we cannot prevent the Governments of foreign countries from restricting the trade to this country. It is very doubtful whether that is a good general policy, and this has been shown in the past by Brazil's efforts to drive up the price of coffee by holding back the product. The rubber consumed in America comes chiefly from British rubber plantations on the Amazon. The world consumption of rubber is increasing enormously, and the restriction of rubber importation is a very serious thing for American industry. The British rubber growers claim that the United States wants to buy rubber below the cost of production, but that is denied by the Rubber Association of America, the largest consumers of rubber in the world, and is not probable in itself.

The result of this discussion about rubber has been to stimulate our Department of Commerce and the Rubber Association to begin efforts to find out whether rubber cannot be cultivated to advantage elsewhere than in the Amazon Valley. Experiments in the Malay Peninsula have already yielded good results. It is now proposed to look into the possibilities of the Philippines, and of Ecuador and Peru. Ecuador is believed to be particularly well suited for this purpose, and is much nearer to this country than the present source of supply. An appropriation was granted by the last Congress for investigations of this sort. It would certainly be of immense benefit to the world if the rubber product could be doubled or trebled.

#### HENRY KREHBIEL

**I**T is not often that a professional man, especially in the field of the fine arts, receives at his death such tributes from his colleagues as have been paid to Henry E. Krehbiel, who died in New York on March 20, after having served on the staff of the New York "Tribune" for forty years.

He was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the son of a Methodist circuit rider, about seventy years ago, and became a newspaper reporter at twenty years of age. In 1879 he was brought to the New York "Tribune" from Ohio by Whitelaw Reid. On that journal he not only did musical reporting, but reporting of other kinds, so that to the end of his



(C) Underwood

HENRY E. KREHBIEL

life he had profound interest and sympathy for journalism. He was considered by his colleagues in the field of musical criticism to be a man of distinguished scholarship and erudition. Royal Cortissoz says of him:

How he did labor! There was no limit to what Krehbiel would do to make his writings deserving of the absolute confidence they inspired. He was the kind of scholar who would ransack a library to make sure of getting a date right. He worked like a giant over the revision of Thayer's "Beethoven." And then he wrote with the ease and limpid clearness of the artist. He did this in book after book, but if anything makes his comrades in journalism proud of him it is the fact that he did this late at night for the next morning's paper. It used to be a joy to be with him on these occasions, to sit opposite while the busy pen marched down the page without any hesitation. It was an exhibition of trained craftsmanship, operating like magic. With his packed mind, his taste, his judicial faculty, and his supple English, he was the man of letters doing a first-class job of work at racing speed. It is sweet to remember him in that rôle, as it is sweet to remember his fun and his kindness, the constant evidences that he had a big heart to go with his big brain.

But, while these qualities of accuracy and knowledge, as well as his fine taste in the art to which he devoted his life, were recognized by all his colleagues, there were qualities of character which apparently impressed themselves still more upon his associates. "Ugliness not only revolted but puzzled him." He had "reverence for the great men of music." Opera singers had to demonstrate to Krehbiel "that they could do something finer than delineate the passion of Thaïs or Salome." "His best friends knew that the bed-rock of his character was sincerity." "In his mind there dwelt always a deep belief in the association of purity with beauty." "He detested all the flimsy pretenses which masqueraded as arguments in favor of crass realism and sensualism."

We do not mean to give the impression that Mr. Krehbiel was a professional moralist, or used musical criticism for the purposes of evangelism. But we do mean to say that his reputation, his achievements, his influence, and the tributes that are paid to him by his colleagues are a demonstration of the fallacy of the dictum "Art for art's sake." Great character is the essential basis of all great art.

## A COAL JURY

**F**OURTEEN writers have now expressed in The Outlook their views in reply to the question, Shall our Coal Mines be Nationalized? The two articles published last week and the twelve letters in this issue represent fairly the opinion of men versed in questions of industry and public interests, for among these writers are the head of the American Federation of Labor; the president of a coal company and a coal association; the president of a district of union coal miners; an author whose books on Socialism are regarded as authoritative by all moderate Socialists; a skilled engineer; the President of the Carnegie Foundation, formerly head of a famous technical school; three editors—one of a miners' journal, the second of a noted farmers' paper, the third associate editor of a great city newspaper; and the presidents of two American colleges.

Only one of the fourteen writers advocates nationalization. The jury's verdict this week is unanimous. But if the poll is taken as to whether the present condition of the coal industry as between owners, workers, and consumers is satisfactory, the verdict is nearly as strongly in the negative. Almost every one thinks that something should be done, and some believe that if nothing is done Government ownership or nationalization will follow.

The remedies are varied: Mr. Gompers believes the solution is in "a proper organization of the mining industry on both sides and a proper collaboration of both organized owners and organized workers in the mining industry," and deprecates the idea of Government ownership. President Bradley, of the West Virginia Coal Association, hopes rather doubtfully for help from the Coal Commission and for bettering of transportation facilities. Mr. Gilbreth, as an engineer, urges burning coal at the mines to make electric power for the railways and the development of water power. Dr. Pritchett calls for "a fair and disinterested agency which shall pass upon the conflicting claims of operators and miners and give a decision in accordance with justice and with consideration for the rights of the whole people;" Mr. Haskell, of the Kansas City "Star," asks, "Is it too much to expect that within the near future the law of supply and demand will work out an approximate solution?"

What seems undisputed and essential in dealing with the coal question is that there are three parties to be considered and three basic conditions to be sought. The three parties are the owners, the workers, and the consumers. The three