

ager (Frank Hedley) refused, and in his letter said: "Our men have contracted in writing not to become identified in any way with the organizations which those men represent." The advocates of the strike say that the men who signed this statement did so under moral coercion; that they despise the "Brotherhood" started by the company. Mr. Samuel Untermeyer, who is conducting the Transit Commission's investigation into subway affairs, proposed that a secret ballot be taken to show whether the men want the union or the Brotherhood; the company flatly refused.

Thus the strike which appears imminent as we write is really a test of strength for and against the enrolling of subway employees in the kind of organization approved by the American Federation of Labor.

The part played by the public, if one may judge by the past, is to swelter, swear at all strikes and strikers, and forget the whole matter as soon as some kind of end is reached—just or unjust. Mr. Untermeyer soundly asserts that there should be no such thing tolerated as a strike of the employees of a public service corporation. The public will concur; but that solution of the question is not as easy as it sounds. Perhaps the State and city may enact legislation applying to street and under-street railways the kind of concession and conciliation promoted by Governor Smith in the clothing-makers' troubles. But a closer analogy might be found over in Philadelphia, where the Rapid Transit Company under the Mitten plan is carrying on what *The Outlook* in a recent editorial called "an adventure in industrial democracy." Under this plan—

The workers have equal power with the management in all matters involving wages, working conditions, or discipline—by means of branch committees, departmental committees, and, finally, central committees, of men and of management. Corresponding committees of men and management meet together, each with equal power, and with no superior veto power threatening to undo the actions assented to by both committees. In case of failure to agree, issues are presented to arbitration.

Under the Mitten Management wages are based on living costs; the workers are in part stockholders and hold over a third of the company's voting power. Both officers and men are disposed to friendliness; they have a mutual financial interest.

One hardly sees Mr. Hedley or the union leaders looking for a solution in this direction; but assuredly in the es-

tablishment of mutual benefit between labor and capital will ultimately come the destruction of industrial warfare.

The End of a Hoax

THE mystery box said to have been left by Joanna Southcott, the English "prophetess," over a hundred years ago, to be opened only in case of a na-



Underwood & Underwood

Frederick A. Sterling, newly appointed
Minister to the Irish Free State

tional emergency and in the presence of a goodly number of bishops, was forced recently. One lone bishop attended.

As foreshadowed by the X-ray test of the box which we reported, nothing was found but trash—a pistol, cheap jewelry, a nightcap, a dice box, a lottery ticket, some written and printed pages of no moment. No prophecy, no message of salvation!

Whether the hoax was of Joanna's concoction to impress and hold her converts together or whether it is of later origin is not certain. It came into the hands of the Psychical Research Society of London with not enough evidence of its authenticity to settle any minor property dispute in a police court. A few surviving followers of Joanna are reported to say that they never have believed in the story or in the box.

Like Mother Ann Lee, founder of the Shakers, who also began her career an almost illiterate servant girl, and also had visions and prophesied, Joanna had a strange gift of attracting disciples among those who run after every new thing. But as many thousands of people profess in our day to believe in Joseph Smith's weird story of the golden

plates of the Book of Mormon and the Urim and Thummim by which they were to read, it is not for us to say that religious delusion is a bygone thing.

The Irish Free State Unshaken

THE murder of Kevin O'Higgins obviously has given the leaders of the Irish Free State a new determination to carry on. The best evidence of the character of the men at the helm of the new administration in Dublin is their response to the loss of their Vice-President.

Stringent measures against political plotters are reported to be ready for passage through the Dail Eireann, the national legislature. These include the abolition of jury trial for persons guilty of committing or planning assassination or conspiring for the overthrow of the Government. Other measures call upon all candidates for election to the Dail to pledge themselves to take the oath of allegiance to the King and of loyalty to the terms of the peace treaty with Great Britain, by which the Free State was set up. This latter principle is aimed against the members of Eamon De Valera's new republican party, the Fian Fail, whose representatives sought election in the last campaign and then refused to take the oath of allegiance when they appeared to be sworn in.

New strength to the Irish Free State will unquestionably come from the arrival of the first Minister from the United States, Frederick A. Sterling, as his official welcome in Dublin. This evidence of belief in the future of the Free State coming from America, where the cause of Irish self-rule always has had so many friends, should have a wide effect throughout Ireland. It is fortunate that the event came just at the time when an underhand blow had been struck at the Irish Government.

An Old Man and a Child-King

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD boy, Prince Michael of Rumania, became King on June 20, when his grandfather, King Ferdinand, died. And as he took the throne, Premier Bratiano, the head of the so-called Liberal Party and the real power in the country, must have smiled a little grimly. For over the new King the was appointed a Regency composed of his uncle, Prince Nicholas, and the Patriarch Miron Cristea and the Supreme Court Justice G. V. Buzdugan—both the latter appointees of Bratiano. This was the arrangement that had been made before Ferdinand's death. So a child who apparently likes best to romp with his playmates, the children of the American

Creatures of note

(King John, Act IV, Scene 1)

Seibel in the Richmond Times-Dispatch



What an appetite !

From W. W. Henry, Broad Run, Va.

Sykes in the Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger



" Now, if worms could vote—"

From L. B. Stewart, Moylan, Pa.

Hanny in the Philadelphia Inquirer



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There are few harder things than this

From G. L. Snyder, Coatesville, Pa.

Darling in the New York Herald Tribune



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Cleaning up while the political family is away for the summer

From George W. Lyon, Pittsburgh, Pa.