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THE STRIKE SITUATION.

There seems to be no present probability of a settlement of the difficulty between the striking miners and the Utah Fuel company. The conference of the "organizers" with the Governor and other state officials resulted in nothing satisfactory, except that there was no backing down on the part of the Executive and the agitators were given to understand that their presence and activities in this State are not regarded as conducive to the public welfare.

While the right of laboring men and women to organize for the promotion of their own interests ought not to be denied or interfered with, the right of other workers to refrain from becoming members of a society or union must be maintained. And protection must be given both to employers and employees whose rights or liberties are assailed or threatened. The militia should be kept at the scene of dispute as long as danger lasts to person, property or freedom. The cost in money is not to be counted, when compared with the principle involved.

There seems to be much dread of a scarcity of coal because of the continued strike. We do not think the fear is well-founded. Coal is still coming in from the Pleasant Valley mines, and the number of workmen is increasing daily with a prospect of further additions. Many of the strikers are leaving for other parts of the country, and as they go it is likely that non-union men will take their places in the mines. But above all that, in this connection, is the fact that coal is being brought here without hindrance from Wyoming and a coal famine does not appear to be imminent.

Two things should be kept in view just now. They are, first, that the law will be upheld and men who do not choose to work themselves will not be permitted to prevent others from working; and, second, that miners who want employment can find it, with ample protection, on good terms, at the mines of the Utah Fuel company. And if English speaking men come forward in sufficient numbers, they will not be required to labor in company with foreigners of the class that has become obnoxious and objectionable. If the mines are manned with the right kind of element, the disturbances will soon disappear, and the soldiers, who are enduring much hardship, will be able to return to their homes.

In the maintenance of order by civil or military force, it should be remembered that the law extends protection to all persons who respect its provisions. It is for the union man as well as the non-union man. It is for the employer as well as the capitalist, the striker as well as the worker, the "organizer" as well as the organized or unorganized. Everybody's rights should be considered and upheld. That which is done in execution of the law must be done lawfully. Force may be met with force, but peaceable agitation, persuasion, argument and assembling for their promotion are not to be illegally interfered with.

It is highly desirable that the controversy which has so disturbed affairs in the coal regions shall be settled. And while it may not be suppressed by unlawful means, the position must be maintained that no individuals or combinations shall be permitted to dominate business affairs, by virtue of some organization that assumes such authority. The line must be sharply drawn against encroachment upon individual or corporate liberty, and the power and revenue of the State will be devoted, as long as necessary, in support of this position, no matter what may be the consequences of those who undertake to rule or ruin.

RECOGNITION OF PANAMA.

The question whether our government had guilty knowledge of the agitation that culminated in the establishment of the Panama republic, or took part in any conspiracy, is answered in the negative by the London Times. That paper observes:

"Whatever may have been the action of individual Americans, participants of the Panama canal in fomenting the revolution, there is no reason whatever to suppose that President Roosevelt's government took the least part in working for the overthrow of Colombian rule upon the isthmus. Very little knowledge of the character of the President's needs to show how untenable is any such theory. But, the revolution having once broken out, his government scouted an extremely strong position. It had merely to observe the letter and the spirit of the treaty, and wait to see if the new state had sufficient vitality to establish itself, and could command the general adherence of its people. Mr. Hay's vigilant and skill-

ful diplomacy turned the opportunity to full account, and without any transgression of the law of nations the United States government came in sight of the fulfillment of its cherished scheme for building the canal."

Another question raised in connection with the Panama affair is whether we were not indecently hasty in recognizing the new republic. To this the chairman of the committee on foreign relations, Mr. R. R. Hitt, replies in the Chicago Tribune:

"Not at all. When a new government is established after a revolution, with the manifest assent of the people, without substantial opposition, and capable of maintaining order, we have always held it the duty of our government to recognize it as soon as it applies. For example, when a revolution occurred in Rio Janeiro, Nov. 17, 1888, Minister Adams, by instructions, opened diplomatic relations with the new government Nov. 19, after only two days' delay. When the revolution occurred in Paris Sept. 4 and 5, 1870, Minister Washburne was instructed to recognize the new government, and did so on Sept. 7, with three days' delay. When the revolution occurred in Paris on Feb. 24, 1848, Minister Rusk, within two days, intimated on Saturday, the 26th, to the provisional government, that he was ready, and on Monday, the 28th, he formally recognized it, delivering an address of congratulation, and he wrote to Lamarine as minister of foreign affairs. He did this without instructions, for there was no ocean cable then, and our government heartily approved his action."

The revolution at Panama occurred Nov. 2, and on the 7th, after careful consideration, the Washington government instructed its consul to enter into relations with it when satisfied that a de facto government was established. This was longer by five days than in the other cases I have mentioned. The unanimity among the people of Panama in support of their new government was far greater than in any of the other cases. Our government acted carefully, on full information, and deliberately according to precedent."

Questions relating to the Panama affair are eagerly discussed; and it is well to be acquainted with both sides. Only so can one form a just opinion.

NAVAL DESERTIONS.

Rear Admiral Taylor, in his annual report, states that the desertions from the navy during the year reached the percentage of 12.5. The reasons given for this showing by both officers and men are, discontent with the food, discomforts as to sleeping accommodations, confinement on ship without frequent liberty to visit shore, harshness in language and bearing on the part of officers toward the crew, the disappointment of the recruit who believed that sea service was a pleasant and easy thing, and the restless spirit existing among some of the men.

These reasons certainly explain much. Especially is the well known brutality of some petty officers, as amply shown in their amusements at hazing for instance, unbearable to the American boy. And as for the foreigners, many of them have come to this country to avoid the tyranny of militarism at home. They cannot be expected to hasten to place themselves under the yoke here, and if they do enter, they naturally leave the service if they find themselves subjected to unwarranted persecution by small-souled officers.

The general spirit of this country is foreign to the spirit of militarism. In the time of real danger no doubt all patriotic men would flock to points of danger and give their lives for the preservation of the country. But in time of peace militarism has no attraction for the majority of citizens. And it is to be hoped that it never will, for in the degree that militarism prevails, liberty must recede. They two cannot flourish together.

THE AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

The annual report of the secretary of agriculture shows that for 1903 the export of agricultural products amounted to over \$578,000,000. It is quite clear that this is one of the most important branches of American industry. The welfare of the country rests mainly upon the prosperity of the farmers.

It will surprise many to learn that the free distribution of seed has grown to so enormous proportions that forty million packages have been sent broadcast among the constituents of congressmen. The secretary thinks that this distribution should be limited to rare seeds, and in this he will be supported by public opinion. No practical results can be obtained by the system of distribution hitherto followed. Free seeds should be provided, only for the purpose of improving agriculture.

RETURNING IMMIGRANTS.

Many immigrants are now said to be returning to the old countries. Some of the steamboats are taxed to the limit of their capacity, and hundreds of passengers are left on the docks, to await their turn to be carried over. It is probably not true that all these persons leave in anticipation of hard times, or because unable to find employment. In all probability many of them just go for a brief visit to friends. They have earned enough to indulge in the luxury of a trip abroad. Others have saved enough to live comfortably in the old countries for the rest of their lives, and they go to enjoy themselves. Their places will be filled by others, just as able and willing to work, as they were, and as capable of saving. It is a good thing, too, that Europe can supply us with the kind of workmen that are willing to bear the burdens and do the heavy work, which the native American likes to steer clear of. The large return current of immigrants is a proof of several years of prosperity among the laboring classes.

Like the ordinary messenger the President's message was rather long.

That the President believes in reciprocity is made patent by what he says about patents.

People ambitious to see their names in print will do well to consult the tax list on another page.

The message calls for great economy in public expenditures. It should be heeded, but will it?

It should ever be borne in mind that the balance of trade is largely a matter of ledger de main.

Mrs. Langtry speaks of Chicago's "splendid vice." Is it so splendid as that of the West End?

In the matter of the frauds of postal employees, Mr. Bristow seems to be a foeman worthy of his steal.

Edwin R. Booth has been nominated as postmaster at Nesh. This will be a snug little booth for him.

General Wood is of opinion that a confirmation in hand is worth two nominations in the Senate.

Mr. Bryan has arrived in Paris. We trust that it is not his intention as a good American to see Paris and die.

Pius X is very unconventional. It may be that unconventionality may yet become conventional at the Vatican.

The New York World refuses to accept Mr. Cleveland's declination. If so minded Mr. Cleveland can have the World for his oyster.

Even the autocratic censor of the press at Victor, Colorado, could not have objected to a single sentence in the message to Congress.

What Mr. Roosevelt wants most at present is not a new system of promotions but a new system of confirmation.

The militiamen at the coal camps wish Santa Claus would put a return order in their stockings, and put it in several days before Christmas.

Does not Governor Wells recognize that by asking Demoli and Thul how they knew the condition of the coal mines when they had never been in them, he was asking questions that would upset any system of coalology.

At a recent dinner at Delmonico's Mr. Carnegie said: "The child of the millionaire cannot know what the words father and mother mean. Few Scotchmen have been cursed by being born to wealth. They've been born to poverty." That sounds a bit like the cant of a Canny Scot.

The headliner on a morning paper who classes Danes, Swedes and Norwegians as "Slavs" must be the same genius that a few days ago called Patti "The Swedish Nightingale," and often reverses completely the purport of dispatches and other reading matter. His work makes fun for well-informed people but is likely to deceive the ignorant and confuse the student. He's a dandy, sure enough.

The chances are that the story about Prince Otto and his youthful wife, Princess Elizabeth Marie, is a fake. At every court there are talebearers with lively imagination and stunned consciences. The romance of the shooting sounds improbable. In the case of the scandals published about Queen Wilhelmina's consort, the author put in a duel. That was more like it. But the Holland tales were officially denied, and this new story is also denied at Vienna.

ANOTHER HERESY TRIAL.

Springfield, Republican.
It is a good while since there was a right down earnest trial for heresy, and now that certain Methodist ministers have set up a shining mark in the person of Prof. Borden P. Boyne, there is promise of an interesting denominational row, if it goes no further. Prof. Boyne has been professor of philosophy in Boston university for 27 years, and is one of the most distinguished ornaments of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is really a philosopher, and not merely a teacher of philosophy. From the great thinkers of the world he has learned what certainly does not accord with any sectarian creed, and reading his books on theism, ethics, the Christian revelation, the atonement and other such matters, and his excellent setting forth of Herbert Spencer's system, it is easy to find the grounds on which Rev. George A. Cooke brings charges against him which are to be the basis of a trial before the New York East conference next spring.

Boston World.
We observe that the charges assert that he holds and teaches doctrines contrary to the scripture and contrary to the church's creed—that is to say, contrary to the scripture as it has been interpreted by Methodists formerly, and contrary to a creed made before new light was shed by science and by Christian scholars on the very meaning and authority of the Bible. It may seem necessary for the conservation of all forms of belief that the Methodist church should not suffer any member of scholarship and influence to think or teach beyond them. The real question would be not whether the modified doctrine is sanctioned by the creed, but whether or not it is true.

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