

## BY TELEGRAPH.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.

## AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, 22.—The President today sent the following message to Congress on the subject of the labor troubles:

To the Senate and House of Representatives: The Constitution imposes on the President the duty of recommending to the consideration of Congress from time to time such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient. I am so deeply impressed with the importance of immediately and thoughtfully meeting the problem which recent events and the present condition have thrust upon us, involving the settlement of disputes arising between our laboring men and their employers, that I am constrained to recommend to Congress legislation upon this serious and pressing subject. Under our form of government the value of labor as an element of national prosperity should be distinctly recognized, and the welfare of the laboring men should be regarded as especially entitled to legislative care. In a country which offers to all its citizens the highest attainment of social and political distinction, its workmen cannot justly or safely be considered as irrevocably consigned to the limits of a class and entitled to no attention and allowed no protest against neglect. The laboring man bearing in his hand an indispensable contribution to our growth and progress, may well insist with manly courage and right, upon the same recognition from those who make our laws as is accorded to any other citizen having a valuable interest in charge, and his reasonable demand should be met in such a spirit of appreciation and fairness as to induce contented and patriotic co-operation in the achievement of a grand national destiny. While the real interests of labor are not promoted by a resort to threats and violent manifestations, and while those who under the pretext of an advocacy of the claims of labor wantonly attack the rights of capital, and for selfish purposes or the love of disorder sow the seeds of violence and discontent, should neither be encouraged nor conciliated, yet all legislation on the subject should be calmly and deliberately undertaken, with no purpose of satisfying unreasonable demands or gaining partisan advantage. The present condition of the relations between labor and capital are far from satisfactory. The discontent of the employed is due in a large degree to the grasping and heedless exactions of employers and the alleged discriminations in favor of capital. As an object of governmental attention it must also be conceded that the laboring men are not always careful to avoid causeless and unjustifiable disturbances. Though the importance of a better accord between these interests is apparent, it must be borne in mind that any effort in that direction by the Federal Government must be greatly limited by constitutional restrictions. There are many grievances which legislation by Congress cannot redress, and many conditions which cannot by such means be reformed. I am satisfied, however, that something may be done under the Federal authority to prevent the disturbances which so often arise by disputes between the employer and the employed, and which at times seriously threaten the business interests of the country, and in my opinion the proper theory on which to proceed is that of voluntary arbitration as a means of settling these difficulties. But I suggest that instead of arbitrators chosen in the heat of conflicting claims and after each dispute shall arise, there be created a commission of labor consisting of three members, who shall be regular officers of the Government charged, among other duties, with the consideration and settlement, when possible, of all controversies between capital and labor. The commission thus organized would have the advantage of being a stable body, and its members, as they gained experience, would constantly improve in their ability to deal with questions which might be submitted to them. If arbitrators are chosen for temporary service as each case of dispute arises, experience and familiarity with much that is involved in the question will be lacking. Extreme partisanship and bias will be the qualifications sought on either side, and frequent complaints of unfairness and partiality will be inevitable. The imposition upon the Federal Court of a duty foreign to the judicial function, as the selection of arbitrators in such cases, is at least of doubtful propriety.

The establishment by Federal authority of such a bureau would be a just and sensible recognition of the value of labor and its right to be represented in the departments of the government. So far as its conciliatory offices had relation to disturbances which interfered with the transit and commerce between States, its existence would be justified under the provision of the Constitution, which gives to Congress power "to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several States," and in the frequent disputes between the laboring men and their employers of less extent and the consequences of which are confined within State limits and threaten domestic violence, the interposition of such a commission might be rendered upon the application of the legislature or executive of the State, under the constitutional provision which requires the general gov-

ernment to protect each of the States "against domestic violence." If such a commission were fairly organized the risk of the loss of popular support and the sympathy resulting from the refusal to submit to so peaceful an instrumentality, would constrain both parties to such disputes, to invoke its interference and abide by its decisions. There would also be good reason to hope that the very existence of such an agency would invite application to it for advice and counsel, frequently resulting in the avoidance of contention and misunderstanding. If the usefulness of such a commission is doubted because it might lack the power to enforce its decisions, much encouragement is derived from the conceded good that has been accomplished by the railroad commissions which have been organized in many of the States, which, having little more than advisory powers, have exerted a most salutary influence in the settlement of disputes between conflicting interests. In July, 1884, by a law of Congress a bureau of labor was established and placed in charge of a Commissioner of Labor, who is required to collect information upon the subject of labor, its relations with capital, the hours of labor and the earnings of laboring men and women, and the means of promoting their material, social, intellectual and moral prosperity. The Commission which I suggest, could easily be engrained upon the Bureau thus already organized by the addition of two more Commissioners and by supplementing the duties now imposed upon it by such other powers and functions as would permit the Commissioners to act as arbitrators when necessary between labor and capital under such limitations and upon such occasions as should be deemed proper and useful.

Power should also be distinctly conferred upon this bureau to investigate the causes of all disputes as they occur, whether submitted for arbitration or not, so that information may always be at hand to aid legislation on the subject when necessary and desirable.

(Signed) GROVER CLEVELAND.

Executive Mansion, April 22, 1886.

NEW ORLEANS, 22.—The case of the United States vs. John H. Aufdemonte and Erastus Sheppard, charged with conspiracy to defraud the government, was closed to-day. The jury found a verdict of guilty.

Aufdemonte was convicted about a month ago of embezzling \$25,000 of government money and was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. Sheppard was with Aufdemonte in Mexico when arrested, and had a portion of the stolen money in his possession, which he had received from Aufdemonte.

The prisoners were remanded for sentence. Erastus Sheppard spoke in his own behalf. He made a statement in regard to his life substantially as follows: "When I was 12 years of age I was employed in a counterfeiting establishment which was owned and operated, among others, by Charles H. Leonard, recently Mayor of Galveston, Texas, and at present one of the most prominent citizens of that city. Interested with him in this business were the Mayor of New Orleans, city officials, the chief of police, judges and limbs of the law. Then the judge of the Criminal Court for the Parish of Orleans was a partner in the establishment, also a certain prominent lawyer who now occupies a judgeship in Baltimore. These people were engaged in counterfeiting Mexican coin, United States bills and money of every description.

Mexican money was manufactured down stairs, and United States notes, etc., were turned out up stairs. My position was that of messenger for the establishment, and as such I delivered counterfeited money to banks of the city and high officials. Thousands and thousands of dollars of this money was made and circulated here and elsewhere throughout this country and Mexico. It was while in the employ of this establishment that I became acquainted with the art of counterfeiting. Many of the persons engaged in the business of counterfeiting in the times to which I allude have left behind them sons and daughters who move in the highest society circles of the Crescent City—ladies and gentlemen of prominence and of the greatest respectability. For this reason I do not propose to make known the names for whom I first worked in the counterfeiting business. All my life it has been my misfortune to suffer for and bear the brunt of others' misdeeds. My whole life has been one of continued sacrifice."

Sheppard is now 62 years of age.

CHICAGO, 22.—The train with the deputies and new workmen reached the Forty-third street yards a little before 2 p. m. Through the persuasion of the strikers several new men deserted. The deputies then endeavored to clear the yards of the two thousand men assembled there. An engine was run out of the round house but the strikers reached the engine and he reversed the lever and went back to the round house. Another attempt will soon be made to run the train, but trouble is feared as the crowd is large and threatening.

HUNTERS POINT, 22.—At 1:30 p. m. the strikers at Havemeyer's sugar refining works at Green Point began rioting. The police were called out in full force and attacked the strikers, using their clubs freely, but the strikers outnumbered and overpowered the officers, attacking them with stones and bricks. Three policemen were seriously injured and removed to the hospital. One striker was seriously injured about the head by the clubs of

the police and was removed to the hospital also. Several pistol shots were fired, but no one was injured by the bullets so far as known at this time. After driving the police from the works, the strikers captured several wagons loaded with sugar and dumped the contents on the streets. The rioting still continues.

HOUSTON, Texas, 22.—The yardmen of the Southern Pacific Railroad struck to-day, for what cause is not stated. The strikers number about fifty men. Freight traffic has been suspended since the trouble began.

NEW YORK, 23.—The strike of workmen in the Williamsburg sugar refineries has boomed prices of consumers' sugars. Granulated sugar was quoted at 6% on Saturday last; yesterday it reached 7%. It is said prices are sure to advance still higher. The stock of refined sugar on hand amounts practically to nothing. Business has been slack and dealers have been buying sugar in quantities just sufficient to supply the demand. Now that the country demand has increased, the strike has caused prices to advance out of proportion in the natural course of trade. Raw sugar was quoted at 5 1/2-16 on April 14th; yesterday it was 5%; this shows a slight advance in the cost of the raw material, which is not accounted for by the present strike, but which will account for something of the advance in price of refined sugar. The strike however has tended very much to strengthen the advance.

COLUMBUS, O., 20.—President Green, of the Columbus, Hocking Valley and Toledo Railway, says in his report that arrangements have been made between the Chicago & Atlantic, Kanawha & Ohio and Chesapeake & Ohio for a through line from Chicago to Newport News.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., 23.—The plasterers at work throughout the city all struck yesterday, demanding \$3 for eight hours or \$4 for ten hours work per day. No trouble has yet resulted.

HELENA, Ark., 23.—Last night the levee at Oldtown, 16 miles south of here, broke on the Arkansas side, and in a short time the channel had been worn away by the escaping waters. There is no hope of closing the break while the water of the river remains at its present depth. A thousand acres of fertile cotton lands have already been overflowed, and it is estimated that a million acres will be submerged before the levees can be repaired. The inhabitants of this region had expected this calamity for some time and had removed their stock and refrained from planting their regular crops, so that the actual damage will not be very great.

WASHINGTON, 23.—The fourth day's session of the House committee on labor difficulties in the southwest was opened at 11 a. m. by the examination of Frederick S. Turner, general secretary and treasurer of the Knights of Labor. During the progress of the examination, the chairman asked: "In your statement you used the word 'order,' in reference to the men going back to work. I want to know whether the central power of your organization can 'order' men to work, or order them to quit work?"

Turner—The general laws do not contemplate strikes.

Chairman—That is not the question. Turner (hesitatingly.)—Well—I do not understand that if we issued an order for the men to go to work they would refuse to go, no matter who ordered them out.

Craine—You have no power to order a strike have you?

Turner—Yes.

Chairman (With an air of surprise)—You have?

Turner—Yes. There is no law on our constitution governing strikes. We do not believe it strikes.

Craine—Then where do you derive your power to order strikes?

Turner—We have no power directly to order a strike, but we have power to approve or to disapprove of a strike.

Craine—Was this strike approved or disapproved?

Turner—We never knew anything about it until we received a telegram from Hopkins. It has never been approved.

Craine—Then I suppose the power is vested in you to direct the men to return to work?

Turner—Yes.

Being questioned on the subject of arbitration, Turner said he had read the President's message on that point to-day, and thoroughly agreed with it. He believed there should be some fixed tribunal of arbitration.

The committee after hearing Mr. Turner closed its sitting in Washington and arranged that the members should leave this city for St. Louis on Monday morning.

CHICAGO, 19.—The situation here on the Lake Shore road remains unchanged. Several conferences have been held this morning between officials of the road and the switchmen, but no result has been reached. The sheriff's posse has not visited the grounds at Forty-third Street up to noon. The crowd assembled there at that hour was of great magnitude.

The strike on the Lake Shore railroad is at an end. Chairman Stahl, of the Switchmen's Union, has just sent a telegram to the strikers at the Forty-third Street yards to report to the yardmaster there for duty. President John Newell, of the Lake Shore road, just said to a representative of the Associated Press: "We have allowed the old men to get back to work at their own request without any stipulation whatever on our part. Eight non-Union men returned to work along with

the Union men formerly in our employ. The men brought here from other cities will not be put to work in our yards here. The order for the men to return to work was telegraphed from the general offices of the Lake Shore Co., at 2:38 p. m. and within ten minutes the switch engines began to leave the round house."

NEW YORK, 23.—The police were on hand early to-day to guard the men who are running cars on the Third Avenue surface railroad. The cars began running at 7:30 o'clock. No excitement whatever around the depot. Up to 10 o'clock, forty-four cars had started from the depot.

BOSTON, 23.—The Commercial Bulletin to-morrow will say: The sudden and unexpected collapse of what threatened to be a serious strike at the Whittenton Mills, Taunton, was caused by the discovery that that mill belonged to a huge organization of textile industries of New England which has been formed so quietly that it had escaped all notice. This organization extends over Rhode Island and Connecticut and already includes forty-nine large woolen mills. This society was organized for mutual protection. It does not recognize the authority of the Knights of Labor in any way, but proposes to use arbitration in the settlement of strikes. The organization is growing in numbers, and it proposes to give each strike careful consideration and to assist only those manufacturers who are unfairly treated by their help.

A second society embracing all the cotton mills of any importance in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, was quietly completed and elected its officers in Boston on Wednesday. The Massachusetts League is the league of cotton mills to which the woolen mills are to be admitted, while the Rhode Island Society was formed by the woolen mills and subsequently admitted the cotton manufacturers. During the last month the cotton mills of this State have been quietly preparing for organization for mutual insurance against labor disturbances. The cotton manufacturing industry is better adapted for the formation of such an organization than many others, because it is composed of a large number of large mills, rather than a large number of small ones.

The quiet organization which has taken place, therefore, has been conducted with much expedition and its result will probably be witnessed at the next attempt of the mill bands to secure the discharge of workmen who are not members of the Union. The society is not a corporation, and has no stock.

The yearly pay rolls of the Massachusetts mills that have already joined amount to \$15,000,000. The aims of the society are not in any sense aggressive, and its purpose is not to attack the Knights of Labor, but simply to protect its members against unjust persecution. The methods of self-defense which the society will employ have not yet been made public.

NEW BRUNSWICK, 23.—John W. Hayes, a member of the General Executive Board of the Knights of Labor, returned to this city last evening. He says that no progress has been made toward a settlement of the difficulties between the strikers on the Gould system and the railroad officials. The case is now, however, in a shape from which it is expected that when the congressional committee reaches St. Louis and meets with the citizen committee, these two bodies may be able to hit upon some plan whereby a settlement may be effected. He says the reports sent out by the railroads that they are handling all the freight they want to every day, are untrue. The roads are all blocked up and what freight is run out goes under the protection of deputy sheriffs and the militia. The railroads claim, and Mr. Hayes admits, that they have now all the men to do the work they have to do, which is very little, on account of the blockade. There have been, he says, 10,000 loaded cars standing in the yards for four weeks.

Mr. Hayes says that the uncalled-for massacre of innocent people by the deputy sheriffs was instigated by the railroad authorities. They knew they could not get the help of the State militia until some act of violence was committed. They therefore got together a gang of roughs who brought on the troubles, and the Governor ordered the militia on the scene. He further says that the lawyers employed by the Knights of Labor have now in their possession ample evidence to convict prominent officials of the Louisville & Nashville road of instigating the riot. It is in view of the great success of the strikes and boycotts that the General Executive Board have just called a special session of the General Assembly to meet in Cleveland on May 25th to take action upon the great questions brought up by the recent strikes and boycotts. An endeavor will be made to prevent in future any such uprisings as are now in progress without the authority of the General Assembly. Hayes returns to St. Louis this evening.

CHICAGO, 23.—Further investigation to-night reveals that the strikers have virtually carried their point. Chairman Stahl of the strikers committee to-night produced a copy of the agreement on the strength of which the men returned to work, and said to a reporter: "I'll read this to you because I don't want you to get the signature."

Mr. Stahl then read as follows:

CHICAGO, April 23.

W. L. Stahl, Chairman:

Sir—If all the switchmen of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad

Company in Chicago or Cook County return to work at once, I will personally guarantee that within sixty days from this date the eight objectionable switchmen will be furnished with other employment and permanently removed from their present positions.

Signed, "BY AUTHORITY."

Stahl said that although he was not at liberty to give the name of the signer of the agreement, it was genuine and fully sanctioned by Mr. Newell and sworn to. He said further that all prosecutions begun against the strikers were to be dismissed. A number of packers at the stock yards and other business men who are known to have interested themselves in raising the blockade, when seen to-night, were also under a bond of secrecy, but enough has been learned to warrant the conclusion that they brought sufficient pressure to bear upon the company to induce them to capitulate as above related.

KEYPORT, N. J., 23.—At the home of J. Monroe Smith, seven miles south of this place to-day a most dreadful tragedy occurred. Mr. Smith is 65 years old and his wife 43 and the mother of six children aged 19, 18, 13, 11, 7 and 4 years respectively. Some years ago the wife and mother was sent to an insane asylum and was discharged a year later, presumably cured. Last fall she had severe pains in her head and her husband sent her to her brother's house in Elizabeth, where she improved greatly and returned home a short time ago. This morning after breakfast she went to one of the out-buildings on the premises, and after swallowing a dose of "Rough on Rats," returned to the house with an axe concealed under her dress. Eva, her four-year old daughter, was still sleeping when the mother entered the bedroom. Lifting the axe above the sleeping child the maniac mother brought it down, splitting the little one's head open killing her instantly. She then attacked Rufus, aged 13, dealing him several severe blows on the head with the poll of the axe; next the 11 year old daughter begged for mercy, but the terrible blood-stained axe whirled in the air and went crashing into the fragile little head. The 18 year old daughter then locked the baby in an adjoining room and ran screaming outside to apprise her father of the awful work within. After a terrible struggle the woman was secured. One of the children is dead and the others are likely to die before morning. Mrs. Smith is herself in a very precarious condition.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., 23.—John Boyd (colored) was arrested to-night at Hopkinsville, Kentucky, charged with stealing \$16,000 from T. J. Fuller, a wealthy farmer near Jackson Tennessee. During the war Jackson buried \$16,000 in gold in his front yard. He has allowed it to remain there ever since for safe keeping. During the night his yard was plowed up and the money was stolen. Boyd was suspected and followed to Hopkinsville where he had deposited several thousand dollars in a bank.

SAN FRANCISCO, 23.—The jury in the case of Dr. J. Milton Bowers, charged with causing the death by phosphorus poisoning of his wife, who died Nov. 1st of last year, to-night brought in verdict of murder in the first degree. The alleged reason for the murder was to obtain \$17,000 insurance in various benevolent orders on the life of deceased. The case, which had been in progress several weeks, attracted widespread attention.

AUSTIN, Texas, 23.—The grand jury to-day found an indictment against James Phillips, charging him with having murdered his wife on last Christmas eve in this city. This is one of the two mysterious wife murders committed on that night, which caused a wide sensation at the time. Phillips was found lying in bed, insensible from an ugly wound in the head, while the body of his wife was found in the backyard.

NEW YORK, 23.—Mail advices from Panama, under date of the 15th inst., say: General Ricardo Galton, who was a prominent leader in the revolution of 1884-5, died from a fever in prison on the night of April 2nd. As is customary, his relatives and friends issued notices that the funeral would take place at 4 p. m. next day, but to the surprise of most people, before the arrival of the hour named, the corpse was interred privately. The reports in circulation, but it is not credited, that he was poisoned. Arrests have been made of some persons who circulated such reports.

By the explosion on March 20th, at the port of Tumaco, of the boiler of the steamer *Colombia*, a serious loss of life resulted. The *Colombia* had on board 64 passengers, of whom 15 were killed and 19 seriously wounded. The scene presented was most heartrending, and instances are noted of aged mothers dying of grief at the loss of their children.

HOLYOKE, 23.—The two months strike at Wm. Skinner & Sons' silk mills continues. The executive board of—District Assembly, Knights of Labor, has sanctioned the request for boycott and will notify every Assembly in the District. The Central Labor Union of New York has also endorsed the boycott and is pushing it hard. An application has been made to the General Executive Board for a general boycott. The employees did not strike until the firm refused arbitration.

FORT SMITH, Ark., 23.—James Wasson and Joseph Jackson were executed here to-day for murders in the Indian Territory. Anticipating a respite, U. S. Marshall Carroll postponed the hour of execution until this afternoon at