

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

CHICAGO, June 30.—Three persons were killed outright and about 20 or 30 persons injured in a rear-end collision on the Chicago & Northwestern road at 1:45 this morning at West Chicago, 30 miles out of Chicago.

The dead are: Mrs. R. Shipman, Appleton, Wis.; Mr. John Gooching, Austin, Nev.; an unknown tramp, who was riding on the front end of the baggage car.

The colliding trains were sections No. 4 and 5, Christian Endeavor special sent out in nine sections beginning at 10:30 p. m.

Section 5 ran into section 4 which left Chicago fifteen minutes ahead of it. Section No. 4 carried the Wisconsin delegates, nearly 500 strong, and in the car sleeper were people from Fon du Lac, Green, Bay, Appleton and other Wisconsin cities.

Section 4 had come to a stop just out of West Chicago, where the Freeport line diverges from the main line. Section No. 5 came up behind at great speed, and the shock of the collision was terrific.

EL PASO, Tex., June 30.—What is regarded as a sensational statement is contained in a private letter from the City of Mexico, written by an officer known to be a close confidant of Gen. Diaz.

It is to the effect that a Japanese government commission recently visited Mexico for the ostensible purpose of securing colonization rights, which, had they been granted, would have resulted in a great influx of Japanese into two of the western states which are regarded as the richest in natural resources in the republic. The rights asked for were startlingly broad and extensive that the scheme was viewed with much suspicion, and was believed to have for its ultimate purpose an attempt to conquer the state on some slight pretext that might arise.

The officer says the Mexican executive and cabinet are greatly interested in watching the outcome of the Hawaiian controversy between Japan and the Great Republic. They believe the slightest delay on the part of the United States will result in the Japanese gaining possession of the islands. They think it will be brought about by an insurrection of Japanese now on the islands, with the assistance of a strong naval demonstration, which the United States would be unable to prevent because of its weak naval strength on the Pacific waters.

The Japanese are regarded as bold, smart and extremely visionary and afflicted with a dream for empires and greatness. He believed that Japan had already concentrated a fleet for Hawaii in addition to the Naniwa and other vessels now at Honolulu. He thought the Japanese would show their hands soon after the departure of the Homyl, the Japanese man-of-war now lying in San Francisco harbor, which is awaiting instructions from the home government through the Japanese ambassador at Washington.

The officer believes the Japanese can force the United States to acquiesce in Japanese possession of the islands

by quickly taking them by force and then proceeding to destroy United States coast cities and commerce in Pacific waters, unless their rights by circumstantial might are quickly recognized. The belief prevails that the United States are about totally incapable to cope with Japan in Pacific waters at least for some months to come, in which interval the threatened destruction of American commerce and property would bring about a strong public sentiment in the United States against a continuation of hostilities.

NEW YORK, June 30.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: "The government's financial affairs are in good shape," said Secretary Gage in an interview. "We have come to the end of the fiscal year with a good resource behind us and brighter hopes for the future. I am assured that by the time, June 30, 1898, rolls around the government's affairs will be in better condition while the people of the country will have cause for thankfulness. A new era of prosperity has set in. With the end of the fiscal year 1896, one year ago," continued Secretary Gage, "the gold reserve was only \$102,000,000, or just barely above the theoretical reserve of a hundred millions. There was a fear that before the year was over there might be very large expenditures compelling the administration to again issue bonds for gold. Now we not only have a gold reserve of \$141,000,000 but there is not a cloud in sight as to its continuance approximately at that very comfortable level. This is the most hopeful sign that I see in the present condition of the government finances, for when the country is all right and the government all right the gold reserve is sure to be all right, and vice versa.

"At the end of this fiscal year, looking over the official statement which had been on my desk, the condition of the government is all that could be desired. There is no trouble with the gold reserve, that barometer of confidence. The business men, capitalists and investors, not only of our own country but of the world, are content with our situation and prospects.

"All the nervousness which formerly held us in its toils has disappeared. In its place we have confidence in the future, confidence in the government, confidence in ourselves. The hoarding of gold has stopped and much of the yellow metal that was piled away during the repression has come out and gone into circulation. The closing of the fiscal year brings us nearer to the passage of a new tariff law, which will give business a settled condition, we hope for a long time. But it will also give the government sufficient revenue for its needs doing away with the deficit we have satisfactory evidence."

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., July 2.—The situation in the East Tennessee and south Kentucky coal mining country is becoming very serious. There are over 2,000 idle men in the Jellico district and nearly the same number along the line of the Cincinnati Southern railroad. These men

struck May 1st and have done no work since. All efforts to settle the strike have proved unavailing. Few of the men had any money saved up and the majority are now suffering for the necessities of life.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, July 2.—A general strike of the United Mine workers of America has been ordered on July 4, by the national executive board; also by the district presidents.

The official document says:

"To the mine workers of the country, greeting:

Fellow miners—At the last annual convention of the United Mine workers of America, held in the city of Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 12, 1897, it was determined that the scale of prices should be advanced to the following rates: Pennsylvania, Pittsburg district, pick mining, 69 cents per ton; Ohio, 66 cents per ton; Indiana (bituminous) 60 cents per ton; Illinois (Grape creek) 55 cents per ton.

Machine men were to be paid three-fifths of the price of pick mining, except in the Indiana bituminous, where the price shall be four-fifths the price paid for pick mining; other mining sections a corresponding increase in price that will place them on a relative basis. It was further agreed that the time for enforcement of the scale be left with the national executive board and the district presidents to determine when it would be most opportune to put this scale into effect.

"In the general business revival and industrial improvement, which is earnestly proclaimed, we ought to share, and if we do not attempt to share we shall rob ourselves and those dependent upon us. Let the watchword be, 'Mine workers are entitled to a fair day's work.' Local committees are directed to be formed and to see that action is taken at once.

"To insure success great care should be exercised by all that no breach of the peace occurs at any time or place, or under any circumstances. Bulletins will be issued from time to time to keep you informed of the progress of affairs."

The national executive board is composed of Fred Ditcher, David H. Jenny, Harry Stephenson, James M. Carson and Patrick Dolan.

M. D. Ratchford is president of the national executive board, John Kane vice president and W. C. Pearce, secretary. All these names are signed to the circular.

The officers here say that 375,000 men are involved as proposed strikers. President Ratchford says this is the best time to settle the question of wages, as during the summer the men can make use of their little garden patches to obtain subsistence. The needs of clothing are not so great as in winter.

The proposed scale is intended by the miners to make the work profitable to them in the Pittsburg district and elsewhere. Pittsburg as claimed is paying 54 cents per ton and Ohio 50. To make the difference what the Ohioans think it ought to be, they threatened to reduce the wages to 45. The miners proposed if possible to raise Pittsburg prices so as to prevent a reduction here, in case Pittsburg should keep on lowering, as Ohio lowered, to maintain the differential of nine cents.