

THE LABOR OUTLOOK.

THE outlook in the labor market for the coming spring has many gloomy points about it. Strikes are already commencing, and labor leaders are fighting vigorously and even aggressively. The strike of the Connellsville coke workers still continues. Owing to the large stores of fuel that were on hand before the strike, none of the foundries or smelting works have as yet shut down. But it is said that they cannot keep open much longer.

In Chicago there are a number of strikes threatened, while some are already inaugurated. The contractors of the World's Fair are working three hundred men under police protection. The men are lodged and fed on the grounds. It would not be safe to let them go into the public streets. There is a large strike going on at Pullman, a town near Chicago. There is also a strike of bakers in progress in Chicago. The labor agitators have learned that advertisements have been inserted in German papers, inviting mechanics and artisans to come to this country where plenty of work and good wages can be had. This has made the labor leaders furious, and they are crying out that government officials are in league with capital, and that the police agencies of this country are working hand in hand with the autocrat rulers of Europe, for the enslavement and degradation of labor.

The Chicago papers are treating the labor question in a purely philosophic method. They recognize the strength of labor when properly organized, and there is fear of amalgamation between the laborers and farmers. Such a fusion would undoubtedly bring about a political cataclysm, the like of which would have no parallel in history. The farmers are showing more radicalism in the reform line, than even the socialist sections of the labor leagues. With both rivaling each other in this respect, we may look for some political doctrines and theories never dreamed of even by Ferdinand La Salle, or by Karl Marx. Speaking on the situation as it as present exists, the Chicago *Tribune* says:

"This spring may behold the most gigantic struggle in history between labor and capital. Labor is organizing and centralizing its forces. It is preserving the autonomy, the individuality of the trades, and at the same time building powerful central bodies through which the immense force can be expressed. Labor is being educated. The advantages of preserving the individuality of trades was proved by the railway brotherhoods, the want of it by the Knights of Labor. The benefit of a powerful central body is being demonstrated by the Federation of Labor."

The South as an iron producing center is fast rivaling Pittsburgh. In

fact the labor troubles of the Pennsylvania coke and iron districts are caused by cheap iron from the South. The labor leaders realize this, but their cry now is assuming the form of a division of profits. John Swinton, Samuel Gompers and others, are coming into the socialist fold with this cry. The action of the leaders in endorsing the coke strike at the time it was first initiated, is regarded as singularly unwise. There was a supply of ore melting fuel on hand at the time, sufficient for months. One hundred thousand tons of coke are still stocked at the Braddock furnaces. The output of coal has been in advance of the consumption for a long time. The persons who seem to understand the situation think that the strikers are only playing into the hands of the capitalists; and that there is a possibility that the leaders were paid to organize the strike, so as to shorten the supply, and create a demand.

There is reason for thinking that some strategy of this kind might have been adopted. But if it should be so, it will not have any effect in mitigating the danger of the situation. It may demoralize labor organizations, and lessen the trust in labor leaders, but it will make the mass more desperate, more anarchistic, and less inclined to believe that capital has any consideration for the average wage-worker.

POLITICAL EXCITEMENT IN CANADA

CANADA is at present in the throes of a political campaign second only to such a one as precedes a presidential election in this country. On Thursday, the 5th inst., the Canadian elections will be held. As the day draws near the contest grows hot and bitter. The parties there are styled Liberals and Conservatives or Tories. The Liberals favor reciprocity in trade with the United States. In fact, they are charged with being annexationists in disguise. The Tories are opposed to all intercourse, politically and commercially, with the United States. The Tory organs appear with glaring headlines such as: "Home Rule and not Yankee Rule is the Rallying Cry of Every True Canadian," "Vote for God Save the Queen, and Against Yankee Doodle," "Vote for the Union Jack in preference to the Stars and Strips," and so on.

The Tories also charge the Liberals with being in alliance with Yankee politicians, and with receiving campaign funds from the United States. The *Halifax Herald* (Tory) says; "Let us oppose and run to the ground this annexation scheme, even if it is necessary at the point of the bayonet."

The Roman Church, it is said, is playing an important part in these elections. The higher dignitaries are asserted to be working hard for the Tories, while the humbler priesthood and many of the laity are operating for the Liberals.

It appears the French speaking Romanists are decidedly opposed to annexation to the United States, while the English-speaking Romanists are of the contrary opinion. Sir John MacDonald, the Tory leader, is very popular with the French Cardinal and Archbishops. He worked hard to gain some very extensive privileges for the Jesuits and others of the religious orders. In fact it was by the aid of his party that the Jesuits were recently compensated for some of their confiscated estates. Sir John has always given this church a kind of left-handed State recognition. He has some of the principal authorities of the church always present at his State banquets and State receptions. The church in return is working hard for him.

RUSSIAN EMANCIPATION DAY.

THIS day (March 3) is the anniversary of the emancipation of Russian serfs by the Czar, Alexander II., in 1863. It is the greatest event recorded in Russian history. In a country, the political condition of which is so chaotic, it is little wonder that with unlimited despotism on one side, there should be unlimited insurrectionary tendencies on the other. In early days the killing of Princes was quite common in Russia. The peasants in those times could, however, move from one estate to another, and had a certain measure of freedom. Perhaps it was with a view of preventing the assassination of men of rank, that at the close of the 16th century, an ukase was issued, binding the peasants to that particular estate on which they then resided. This was virtually a system of slavery, little better, if any, than that at one time existing in the United States. It lasted in Russia until Alexander II. issued his "Imperial Manifesto," on March 3, 1861, emancipating the serfs, to take effect two years later. Al, though the nobles opposed the edict it was carried into effect with little disturbance.

The legislation on emancipation acknowledged the inherent right of the freemen to own a certain portion of land. Each serf, in addition to being declared free, was endowed with from five to twenty-five acres, according to its fertility, and with a house and orchard attached. For this he had to pay a certain tax to the government for a number of