

The general circumstances of last year's trouble are still remembered by the public. A reminder of the event, however, may be found in the following statement by Elder H. H. Pitchforth, of Nephí, who returned home a few days ago from missionary labors in the Yorkshire colliery district:

I was at Barnsley when the coal strike commenced, which lasted for sixteen weeks and caused great suffering and distress. Some 75,000 miners were out of employment. They became so enraged against their masters that they sought revenge by destroying property. To restore peace the soldiers were called out and the riot act read. Then the soldiers fired at the mob and several were killed instantly, and some of the leaders imprisoned for various terms. To relieve the women and children from starvation, relief committees were organized all over the district. Early every morning crowds of children met at their school houses and received for breakfast a penny bun and a cup of coffee. On one occasion they invited all over sixty-five years of age and fed them in one of the public streets of Mexboro. It was, indeed, a most pitiful sight. Seventeen starved to death in Barnsley and six in Swinton. While my companion and I were going through the streets of Denby, we saw a great many women and children following a bread wagon, in a half crazy manner, begging for food. A generous farmer in Manchester told 600 of these sufferers they could have what cabbage they wanted, so the half-starved wanderers cleared his field. Thousands of people were seen daily gathering what coal they could get from the pit hills to burn. When the men returned to work it was for a reduction of ten per cent and then they only worked from three to four days per week.

It will be seen that the coal miners do not occupy an enviable situation without the proposed reduction, and there is no wonder that there is talk of more violent proceedings than merely refusing to work under the reduced scale. If there was destruction of property before, it is not improbable that this will be the case again, except as it is prevented by troops and police. Behind the present attitude of the miners is a general sentiment among the working classes that the new proposition is an act of revenge upon the striking miners, and in that respect is a breach of faith on the part of the employers regarding the former settlement. The employees are irritated also by a conviction, as announced recently in the *Review of Reviews*, that in the Rosebery adjustment they were tricked by the mine owners' representatives. It was a stipulation that the board of conciliation should prescribe the minimum wage, and when a figure was agreed upon, the miners regarded that as the smallest amount that could be paid. On examination, however, now that the question has been raised again, it is found that the Rosebery settlement does not have a word about the minimum wage, and that this issue is still open for determination by the board to which both parties agreed to submit any future differences. Under this arrangement, therefore, the mine owners may enforce a reduction without technically violating the agreement, and as the very question which the miners thought was settled is untouched, there is considerable ill-feeling about it.

The action of the mine owners in this case is ominous of disastrous results. The employees looked upon the

minimum wage as the lowest possible figure at which they could live. They were not satisfied with it, but submitted because of necessity and under the impression that it was an official determination of the limit to which they could be pressed. Their disappointment in this will make them more desperate in resisting what they regard as a gross outrage. Unless there is official intervention to protect the workingmen against what they feel to be grinding tyranny, the industrial question will sooner or later precipitate upon Britain, as well as upon other nations, a fearful storm.

#### IMMEDIATE BUSINESS FOR VOTERS.

There is a great deal in the papers just now which the people of our Republic ought to read. According to the original design of the government, they have something to do with the management of the nation's affairs; and to perform their duty well they should seek, when opportunity affords, to post themselves on the character and habits of the thing they are to manage.

This is the very point on which the papers are just now giving a vast amount of information. They say, for example, that this is getting to be a government of trusts, that the most dangerous class in the country now—this country which was to be managed by the people—is “the men who are managing the government.” To make this matter clear it may be explained that the men here referred to are some of the members of the United States Senate. These persons, according to the popular idea, are in Washington as the people's agents to make laws and devise means for the subsistence of the nation. But there be journals of good repute which say that these congressmen, many of them, are employing their time in quite another line of business. For instance, it is declared that while ostensibly engaged in discussing the merits of a certain tariff bill, one purpose of which was to remove the bounty from sugar, they have been in reality spending their time in making private bargains in the matter of the said bounty with men whom the trusts have sent to Washington for that purpose. It is moreover stated in the papers that many of the said senators have made sale of their votes and speeches on the bounty question to these same sugar agents, and hold their places in the Senate day after day as the virtual retainers of the companies who it is charged in like manner purchased for money the votes that at the first enacted the bounty law; the proceeds of the original corruption being thus returned into the business for new investments and more profit in the same line. The papers also say that not only the sugar trusts but numerous other large enterprises have heavy investments in the Senate of the United States, and maintain regularly expensive agencies at that point for the purpose of protecting and promoting their legislative interests. And notwithstanding the enormous expense which must attend this particular method of getting bills

passed, the business seems always to pay well in the end, as witness the thrift of certain principal beneficiaries of frauds by which the government has been deliberately robbed of nobody knows how much.

Now, all this belongs to the nation's affairs, and the people, who are the nation's managers, should find it out if they can. For the trusts and other thieves and the legitimate concerns of the government together cost the people some over five hundred millions annually. If the books are honestly kept they should show how much of this enormous sum goes to any particular thief and how much for legitimate expenses. In any case it is the people's business and they have a right to understand it; and the papers at least are doing their best to clear up the problem. If the voters will read the news they will know very much more about it than if they don't; for it may be affirmed upon good authority, that if the said voters do not by some means or other improve upon the quality of the men they send to Washington, the five hundred millions which they pay to support the government will soon all go to the thieves, and more besides.

#### A MESSAGE TO MARS.

Time and again the question of establishing some sort of a communication with the planets of our solar system has been broached by students of astronomy, and the fact that scholars of such eminence as Flammarion and Schiaparelli have seriously discussed the matter gives ground for the supposition that the idea is more than a phantastic dream.

Recently the subject has again received attention owing to an interesting discovery made at the observatory at Flagstaff, Arizona, where the observer announces that he has seen two strange lights on the planet Mars, located within the south polar snow cap. Those who feel convinced that Mars is peopled with intelligent inhabitants much older and consequently much more advanced than the race on the earth, and who believe that these Martians have already endeavored to draw the attention of earthly astronomers to their existence, by means of signals, will undoubtedly see in these phenomena of light on the surface of the orb a new attempt to flash a message across the abyss to our earth. Many a thought will be bestowed on the possibility of returning an answer to the supposed signal.

Frank H. Norton, an eastern astronomer, in a recent article in the *Illustrated American* makes some novel suggestions relative to the subject. If it be taken for granted, he argues, that Mars is inhabited and that the people there are signaling us, all we need to do is to follow their lead. Three bright lights in the form a triangle is the device suggested. These lights should be placed where no other artificial light could detract from their brightness; they should be on a point of the earth peculiar to itself for some reason easily discernible by intelligent minds.

These conditions, the writer says, are fulfilled only on one spot