

pride of others put him as a rich man at a disadvantage when associating with the poorer men into whose society his economic convictions often brought him; while his firmness in refusing to support what he could not commend, tended to excite suspicions of his generosity. For these reasons Mr. Shearman was not infrequently misunderstood. But those who understood him knew him to be a man of generous impulses and democratic instincts.

He was one of the few rich men of our time who have linked their names with something better than wealth-getting, and whose memory will be green long after his riches have been dissipated.

#### AN EXHAUSTIVE REPORT.

Prof. Jeremiah W. Jenks, of Cornell, has investigated the Sugar, Lead and Standard Oil trusts, and 38 other combinations, and has given as a result about 60,000 figures in a report of the Department of Arithmetical Labor.

He adopted a simple plan which he describes as "the statistical method." It consists in asking the various corporations whether they have advanced prices or not. It is gratifying to learn from their own secretaries that not one of them has done either.

Why did no one ever think of this "statistical method" before?

Great credit is due to the diligence and accuracy of Prof Jenks's clerks, as the figures given, if placed in line, would stretch to 191 yards.

The value of the report would have been greater if the figures had covered the full 200 yards, or if some attempt had been made to separate combinations like the Standard Oil and street railways, which depend upon natural monopolies, from printing, cigar and awning combines, which are open to the competition of any discharged mechanic. Tables of the "average" destructiveness of wolves, lambs and other mammals are interesting, to composers, but a little exhausting to the taxpayer's pockets.

But Prof. Jenks is a dear old man; you can't help loving him—if you have a monopoly.

BOLTON HALL.

New York.

## NEWS

The great anthracite coal strike is still in progress, having begun its third week on the 1st stronger than ever. Less than 5 per cent. of all the miners in the anthracite region were then at work, and during the next two days more went out. Yet it had been widely published on the 27th that the strike had been settled, the employers having conceded their men's demands. This news proved, however, to be only a political canard originating with a campaign literary bureau in New York. Senator Hanna was credited by these reports with having personally, after frequent conferences with the great coal operators in Wall street, induced them to bring the strike to an immediate end. The only basis for this unique exploitation of Mr. Hanna as a "friend of labor" was the fact that on the 27th the anthracite coal operators, at a meeting held in New York, had decided to offer the workmen in their respective mines, as individuals, an advance in wages of 10 per cent. provided they would withdraw from the strike at once. The miners' union was to be ignored.

Having heard reports of this decision, President Mitchell, after a conference with the other executive officers of the general union, instructed each local president in the anthracite region to advise all miners in his district that—

no attention should be given to these reports and that they will be officially notified should any offer of settlement be made. Under no consideration whatever should work be resumed unless authorized by a convention representing all mine workers in the anthracite fields. It is vitally important that all miners stand firm and determined, and not be deceived by those whose interest it is to defeat the purpose for which the strike was inaugurated.

Mr. Mitchell's appeal to the strikers had full effect. The overtures of the operators were ignored by the men as completely as the miners' organization had been ignored by the operators. Pursuant to the operators' agreement the Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron company announced on the 30th a 10 per cent. increase in wages, to begin on the 1st; but on the 1st only 7 of its 39 mines started, and they are small affairs and were working short-handed. Similar offers were made by the other

operators in the region, but no attention was paid to them. President Mitchell declared, however, that the officials of the general organization would not require a recognition of that body as a condition of ending the strike; but he insisted that the individual unions must be recognized. An immense mass meeting of strikers was held on the 2d at Wilkesbarre, at which from 25,000 to 30,000 were in attendance. In speaking to this gathering Mitchell promised in behalf of the general organization that the strike would not be called off until a convention of the anthracite miners, at which every colliery in the region should be represented, had so decided.

Some of the state troops, whose appearance upon the scene of the strike was chronicled last week, have been withdrawn. This movement followed a conference between Gen. Gobin, the sheriff and representatives of the mine operators, called at the solicitation of Gen. Gobin. The strikers were not consulted. At the conference the operators were undecided as to the advisability of withdrawing the troops and referred the question to the sheriff, who, unwilling to assume the responsibility of deciding, referred it to Gen. Gobin. Convinced, as he said, that the presence of troops was unnecessary, since there was absolutely no indication of violence on the part of the strikers, Gen. Gobin decided to send away one regiment on the 1st. The Twelfth regiment accordingly left Shenandoah on that day for home.

Other labor troubles are brewing. On the 1st the Logan iron and steel works at Burnham, Pa., reduced wages 25 per cent. and the 3,000 employes threatened to strike. As a measurable offset to this news, however, the steel trust had resumed operations under the new scale of wages. It shut down on the 1st of July (see page 201), throwing 100,000 men out of work, and assigning as a reason the necessity for repairs, readjustment of the wage scale and declining business. It was not until the 22d of September that the scale of wages was readjusted. The men to the number of 60,000 were then allowed to go to work at a reduction. This unsatisfactory resumption was followed by the closing down on the 29th of some of the mills of the Illinois Steel company's plant at Joliet, which threw 1,200 men out of work, the reason