

dered by the International Freight Handlers' Union. It is reported to have grown out of the refusal, several days before, of freight handlers on the Fall River Line of steamboats to work under a non-union foreman; but the scope of the dispute appears to have been much enlarged, for the company and the strikers could not come to an agreement although, as the president of the international union, Lawrence J. Curran, said on the 24th, the union receded from the original demand. Mr. Curran said:

We offered the management every concession we possibly could make. We were willing even to forego the question of the discharge of Assistant Foreman William McCarthy, and we would not insist upon his discharge. We were even willing to arbitrate.

A suspicion is gaining ground in labor circles that the railroads of the country are forcing a policy of glutting the labor market by wholesale discharges of men. It may be possible therefore that the strike noted above has been provoked as being in harmony with that policy. At any rate many of the great railroads are discharging men in large numbers with a view, as they explain, to reducing the number of employes to the basis of 1902. The Pennsylvania system alone will discharge about 22,000 men. No cut in wages is contemplated at present, but it is believed that the glut in the labor market, caused by the discharges of men, will react upon the wages of those retained. The reason given by the roads for these discharges is decline in volume of traffic.

Another large strike began in Chicago on the 24th—a strike of machinists for a renewal of their agreement as to wages and hours with a slight increase of wages for certain kinds of work. The employers insist that business conditions are too poor to warrant an increase in wages.

The nature of the labor troubles in Colorado (p. 106) has had light thrown upon it by a public statement made at Denver on the 22d by Adjutant General Bell, who has been using State troops against strikers in the southern and west-

ern parts of Colorado. His statement refers to their contemplated use in Denver on the occasion of the city election there. While it is somewhat enigmatical, it is significant of some power of the corporations which makes him indignant. Gen. Bell says:

I shall resign the office of adjutant general probably Monday, and by the 1st of July there will be another man in my place. I don't approve of using the militia of the State to help any political movement, and I object, whether it is in a positive or negative way. I am accused of using or attempting to use the military in the late campaign. This is false, but the corporations used the militia for their purposes and instead of the militia being used to protect the people and uphold the law, that force was actually degraded to the uses of the local corporations who connived at the breaking of the law. I found last Sunday that there were many familiar faces upon the streets of the lower part of town, and that they were of the worst type of men in the West. I then discovered that the corporations had sent out all over the West and brought them here. I thought then more than ever that the militia ought probably to be in the vicinity of Denver in case of trouble, but imagine my surprise when I was given orders on Sunday night by the Governor not to call out a single man and to abandon my plan of assembling the troops for practice. It was then that I became convinced that the militia was to be used, not to enforce law and protect property, but to encourage trouble. The very men whom we used the militia to protect, imported all-round bad men—the very men I ran out of their camps—to break the law in Denver and carry the election in their interests. I am sick of the whole thing, and I will hand in my resignation, probably Monday, to go into effect as soon as I can clean up department business, which will not be later than July 1.

Gov. Peabody's reply, made on the 23d, was as follows:

I saw the papers were full of gossip about the necessity of mobilizing the militia for the city election. I saw several petitions printed in the papers purporting to be addressed to me by the Honest Election League and other independent political organizations, but I never received any formal application for troops. Riots cannot be anticipated. When they come action should be quick. I knew that eight companies of the National Guard in Denver, with artillery and cavalry, could be in the field two hours after any call for their services. I was satisfied to let it go at that. The good citizens of Denver seemed to be of the same mind,

for they did not urge me to any other policy.

The political difficulties in the Republican party of Illinois (p. 105) are still unsettled. After taking 58 futile ballots for candidate for governor, the convention agreed to a recess until May 31. Following is a comparison of the 47th ballot, the last ballot reported in these columns, with the 58th, the last one taken before the recess:

Candidate.	47th Ballot.	58th Ballot.
Yates	482	483
Lowden	403	392
Deneen	432	385
Hamlin	111	113
Warner	38	53
Pierce	33	29
Sherman	2	46
Necessary to a choice.....		752

Following the bolt of the Payne-Babcock faction in Wisconsin (p. 105) two Republican conventions were held and on the 19th two State tickets with two sets of delegates at large to the national convention were chosen. The regular convention nominated Robert M. La Follette for reelection as governor, and chose Gov. La Follette, Isaac Stephenson, State Senator James H. Stout and W. D. Connor as national delegates at large. The choice of the bolting convention was as follows: For governor, Samuel A. Cook; for national delegates at large, United States Senators Spooner and Quarles, Congressman Babcock, and Judge Baensch. Both conventions named the same presidential electors; the bolting convention accepting those named by the regulars, though only by a majority vote. Both conventions indorsed the national administration and instructed for Roosevelt. The action of the bolting convention was supported by the two United States senators from Wisconsin, not only by their acceptance as delegates at large, but by their speeches at the convention.

The Republican convention of Wyoming, which met on the 19th, nominated a State ticket. It also named national delegates at large, but did not instruct them.

Four Democratic conventions (p. 105) have been held this week. One of them was the Arizona con-