

the atmosphere is purer. I imagine if the coal operators, whose hearts, judging from the recent conference, are as hard as the coal they mine, were confronted with an angry public we would have coal in a short time. The world is ever better for righteous indignation expressed at vile wrong.

"Finally, remember the prohibition 'sin not.' Ordinarily a man should keep cool at any personal injustice, but he will do well ordinarily to be angry at an injustice to another. Doubtless there are other excellent ways of meeting the wrongs of the world, such as kindness, but there are times when kindness fails and then the only weapon in the Christian quiver is a strong, righteous indignation. Failing in that, the Christian has failed in his duty."

This seems to us an excellent view of the just province of anger, as a passion not selfish but wholesome. Have we not recently had an instance, how by a brief display of it "the very air is clearer and the atmosphere is purer." Fortunately Baer made Odell angry, and Odell's words in reply have given the American people as genuine satisfaction as any of the many that have been uttered during the coal strike. By speaking out in righteous anger Odell came at once to the point of immediate difficulty in the settlement of the strike, and came to it with an emphasis that cleared the atmosphere of murkiness. "You've got to recognize the union," says Odell. "We won't do it," says Baer. This is straight talk; and how much better appearance even Baer makes than in his pious letter of blessed memory!

Another point in the preacher's discourse is worthy of note, where he says, "Ordinarily a man should keep cool at any personal injustice, but he will do well ordinarily to be angry at an injustice to another." This is the doctrine which has been ably supported by Bishop Gore in his very interesting commentary on the Sermon on the Mount. In this work the Bishop argues that one should be angry at an injury to one's self only when the injury is of such a nature as to be social rather than personal. It would appear that this distinction is the key to the true interpretation of the New Testament doctrine, where certainly no argument can be found for a weakish or compromising condemnation of social injustice.

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NEWS

The anthracite coal strike (p.421) was compromised on the 16th.

At the time of our report last week the President had proposed to Mr. Mitchell that if Mr. Mitchell would secure the immediate termination of the strike the President would appoint a commission to investigate the merits of the strike and do all in his power to settle the questions at issue in accordance with its report. Mr. Mitchell had replied to this proposal, but his letter had not yet been made public. It is dated the 8th and was published on the 10th. After a courteous introduction, in which he tells the President that he has consulted with the district presidents of the miners' union, who fully concur in his own views, Mr. Mitchell writes:

We desire to assure you again that we feel keenly the responsibility of our position and the gravity of the situation, and it would give us great pleasure to take any action which would bring this coal strike to an end in a manner that would safeguard the interests of our constituents. In proposing that there be an immediate resumption of coal mining upon the conditions we suggested in the conference at the white house we believed that we had gone more than half way and had met your wishes. It is unnecessary in this letter to refer to the malicious assault made upon us in the response of the coal operators. We feel confident that you must have been impressed with the fairness of our proposition and the insincerity of those who maligned us. Having in mind our experience with the coal operators in the past, we have no reason to feel any degree of confidence in their willingness to do us justice in the future; and inasmuch as they have refused to accept the decision of a tribunal selected by you, and inasmuch as there is no law through which you could enforce the findings of the commission you suggest, we respectfully decline to advise our people to return to work simply upon the hope that the coal operators might be induced or forced to comply with the recommendations of your commission. As stated above, we believe that we went more than half way in our proposal at Washington, and we do not feel that we should be asked to make further sacrifice. We appreciate your solicitude for the people of our country who are now, and will be, subjected to great suffering and inconvenience by a prolongation of the coal strike, and we feel that the onus of this terrible state of affairs should be placed upon the side which has refused

to defer to fair and impartial investigation.

Closely following Mr. Mitchell's letter, Secretary Root came on from Washington to New York and conferred with J. Pierpont Morgan on the latter's yacht. Two days after the Root-Morgan interview, a conference of representatives of the coal carrying roads was held at New York. On the same day Mr. Morgan went to Washington with his partner, Robert R. Bacon, arriving at 9 in the morning. They were met and immediately conducted by Secretary Root to the White House, where a conference lasting into the early hours of the 14th took place between Mr. Morgan, Mr. Bacon, Mr. Root and President Roosevelt. At its close Secretary Cortelyou gave to the press an address to the public which Morgan and Bacon had laid before the President. This address, signed by Geo. T. Baer, E. B. Thomas, W. H. Truesdale, T. P. Fowler, R. M. Oliphant and Alfred Waters (the latter for the Lehigh Valley, which had not before appeared), thus coming from all the anthracite coal and coal carrying interests, is too lengthy for reproduction here in full. It opens with the statement that "there are in the anthracite regions about 75 operating companies and firms and 147,000 miners and workmen (of which 30,000 are under age), comprising some 20 nationalities and dialects," and asserts that "of these workmen possibly one half belong to the United Mine Workers' Union, of which John Mitchell is president." The address then declares that from 7,000 to 10,000 miners are now at work, and many more have wished to work but have been prevented by violence, continued and steadily increasing, which Mr. Mitchell "either cannot or will not prevent." As to wages it expresses the belief of the coal companies that "the wages paid in the coal regions are fair and full, and all that the business in its normal condition has been able to stand if the capital invested is to have any reasonable return." In explanation of the refusal to arbitrate, the address insists that its signers "are not and never have been unwilling to submit all questions between them and their workmen to any fair tribunal for decision," but that they of not willing to enter into arbitration with the miners' right union," which they describe as "an organization chiefly composed of men in a rival and competing and

terest," the allusion here being to a preliminary statement that the miners' union "was originally formed in the bituminous coal region, and three-fourths of its members are miners of bituminous coal." The address also puts its refusal to accept the arbitration heretofore proposed upon the further ground that such arbitrations ignore the right of miners to work in safety whether they are union men or not. In conclusion the address proposes terms of settlement as follows:

We suggest a commission to be appointed by the President of the United States (if he is willing to perform that public service) to whom shall be referred all questions at issue between the respective companies and their own employes, whether they belong to a union or not, but decision of that commission shall be accepted by us. The commission is to be constituted as follows: (1) An officer in the engineer corps of either the military or naval service of the United States; (2) an expert mining engineer, experienced in the mining of coal and other minerals and not in any way connected with coal mining properties, either anthracite or bituminous; (3) one of the judges of the United States courts of the Eastern district of Pennsylvania; (4) a man of prominence eminent as a sociologist; (5) a man who, by active participation in mining and selling coal, is familiar with the physical and commercial features of the business. It being the understanding that immediately upon the constitution of such commission, in order that idleness and nonproduction may cease instantly, the miners will return to work and cease all interference with and persecution of any nonunion men who are working, or shall hereafter work. The findings of this commission shall fix the date when the same shall be effective, and shall govern the conditions of employment between the respective companies and their employes for a term of at least three years.

The foregoing proposal was not satisfactory to the strike leaders because it made no provision for allowing the strikers any representation in the arbitration board, while it did provide for representation for the corporation; and Mr. Mitchell went to Washington on the 14th to confer with the President. All of the 16th was spent in negotiations through the President with the conflicting parties, with the result that at 20 minutes after two o'clock on the morning of the 16th the following official announcement was given out at the White House to the newspapers:

After a conference with Mr. Mitchell,

and some further conference with representatives of the coal operators, the President has appointed the members of the commission to inquire into, consider and pass upon all questions at issue between the operators and miners in the anthracite coal fields:

Mr. E. W. Parker, Washington, D. C., as an expert mining engineer. Mr. Parker is chief statistician of the coal division of the United States geological survey and the editor of the *Engineering and Mining Journal of New York*.

Hon. George Gray, Wilmington, Del., as a judge of a United States court.

Mr. E. E. Clark, Cedar Rapids, Ia., grand chief of the Order of Railway Conductors, as a sociologist, the President assuming that for the purposes of such a commission the term sociologist means a man who has thought and studied deeply on social questions, and has practically applied his knowledge.

Mr. Thomas H. Watkins, Scranton, Pa., as a man practically acquainted with the mining and selling of coal.

Bishop John L. Spalding, of Peoria, Ill. The president has added Bishop Spalding's name to the commission.

Hon. Carroll D. Wright has been appointed recorder of the commission.

The compromise consisted in the appointment of Bishop Spalding as the special representative of the miners. Both sides are understood to have accepted the commission as appointed.

The Detroit conference over the coal strike, which was assembling as our last report (p. 422) was written, adjourned on the 9th after a long one-day's session. Its work consisted in the adoption of an address and the appointment of a committee to transmit the address to President Roosevelt and to call another meeting of the conference in its discretion. The address urges the President to instruct the attorney general to institute civil and criminal proceedings against the coal trust under the inter-state commerce act; to direct the inter-state commerce commission to investigate; and to advise Congress to empower the inter-state commerce commission to fix rates of transportation. It requests the governor of Pennsylvania to call a special session of the legislature and advise it to provide for the condemnation of coal mines and coal carrying roads under the principle of eminent domain. It requests the President to call a special session of the lower house of Congress and recommend to it the appointment of a committee of investigation. It censures the representatives of the

roads and mines, and expresses sympathy with the miners. It condemns the bituminous operators for taking advantage of the situation to raise the price of bituminous coal. Finally, it compliments President Roosevelt. Senator Mason, of Illinois, was permanent chairman of the conference.

The New Orleans street car strike (p. 424) came to an end on the 12th, through mutual agreement. Both the militia and the police were largely in sympathy with the strikers in their riotous demonstrations against imported "strike breakers," and at one time the city was reported to be under the control of a mob. On the 11th Gov. Heard issued a peace proclamation, and on the following day the strikers accepted the proposal which he had exacted from the companies. The basis of settlement is 20 cents an hour for a minimum day of seven hours and a half and a maximum of ten, no discrimination to be made against strikers. On the 13th, accordingly, the cars resumed operations after an interval of two weeks.

In American politics the period for nominating conventions has about drawn to a close. The latest convention to meet is that of the Republicans of Rhode Island, which assembled at Providence on the 9th and nominated Charles Dean Kemble for governor.

In the Ohio campaign Senator Hanna's party proceeded on the 7th from Barnesville (p. 423) to Bridgeport, the center of a tin plate industry, where they had an audience of between 4,000 and 5,000. They were at Marietta on the 8th, where a small opera house was packed to hear them. The Republican candidate for secretary of state, Mr. Laylin, takes the part of attacking Mayor Johnson at these meetings, though Senator Hanna contributes to that part of the discussion. It was authoritatively announced at Athens on the 9th that the Republican speakers would not accept invitations to discuss the issues from Democratic platforms. This was in answer to invitations to debate. At Logan on the 9th the party spoke in a circus tent. On the 10th Senator Hanna's future engagements were cancelled, owing to his illness, though he filled that date at Columbus before an audience of 4,000 or more.