

agreements from time to time, are sent to the officers of the national lodge and placed on file there for their inspection and approval. These contracts are signed by a committee representing the lodge on behalf of the members, and the general superintendent on behalf of the company. After taking legal advice we feel certain that President Shaffer's claim that our contracts are void because the Illinois Steel company, with whom our agreement was made, had been absorbed by the United States Steel company, is without foundation.

This address concludes with the assertion that Mr. Davis, the district vice president, who is now trying to induce the lodges to reverse their insubordinate action, originally supported them in it.

Whether or not Mr. Davis did originally advise the South Chicago lodges not to join the strike, it is certain that he himself joined it when the lodges refused, and has been active ever since in urging others—both individuals and lodges—to follow him. More through his assistance, doubtless, than from any other cause, Mr. Tighe was able to induce the lodges at Joliet and Milwaukee, which have similar contractual obligations to those of the South Chicago lodges, and which had decided to follow the Chicago example, to reverse that decision and join the strike. The question came first before the Joliet men. They met on the 15th, and were addressed by Mr. Tighe, who was accompanied by Mr. Davis. Four days previously they had voted not to strike; but at this meeting of the 15th, after a discussion lasting several hours, a secret ballot resulted in the necessary two-thirds majority for the strike, and a successful motion making it unanimous. There are three lodges in Joliet, and the number of men now out in consequence of the strike there approximates 6,000. From Joliet, Mr. Tighe and Mr. Davis went to Milwaukee, where they addressed a meeting of the Bay View mills workmen on the 17th. These men also had decided on the 11th against joining the strike. But after discussing the subject five hours on the 17th they reversed that decision and decided to go out by a vote of three-fourths, afterwards made unanimous. The vote was secret. This adds about 1,500 men to the men who are out.

A news dispatch of the 17th from Pittsburg asserts that not more than

half of all the strikers are out of work. This is its explanation:

The closing down of the United States Steel corporation's mills caused a boom in the business of all the independent concerns, and moreover furnaces that have stood idle for years have fired up, and every man who could be put to work has been engaged.

The dispatch names more than a dozen independent plants that have started up since the beginning of the strike, and which are employing strikers, besides several other independent plants that are nearly ready to start up.

The war in South America comes next to the strike in importance as a news event. Ecuador has now joined in this complex warfare, in which only Colombia and Venezuela, each with an insurgent party, were previously engaged. The dispatches do not make the situation very clear. Judging by them exclusively, the war is nothing more than a very much mixed factional fight. But read in the light of the larger history of Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela, these dispatches indicate that a great question is at stake. Originally the three nations were Spanish provinces—New Granada and Venezuela—united in one viceroyalty. In 1810 they rebelled and set up a republic under the presidency of the great South American liberator—Simon Bolivar. It was called the Republic of Colombia. When the republic achieved independence, after a long struggle, the external dangers that had held it together were succeeded by internal dissensions that forced it apart, and the republic was divided into three independent nations. One of these was Colombia as it now appears upon the map. It took the name at first of the Republic of New Granada. The other was Venezuela and the third was Ecuador. That was in 1831. Various changes have since taken place in all three, including the change of name from New Granada to Colombia in 1861; but the old union sentiment would appear never to have wholly died out. It seems now to have become vital and to be dominant with the liberals in all three countries.

President Castro, of Venezuela, is the leading spirit in this movement for reunion. He came to the presidency through a revolution in 1899 (p. 280), and is being fought by

reactionary insurgents. In Colombia the government is conservative, and is accused of giving aid and comfort to the reactionary insurgents of Venezuela; while within its own borders an insurrection is in progress under Gen. Uribe-Urbe, who represents the reunion sentiment in Colombia and is aided by Castro, of Venezuela. Now comes Ecuador into the conflict, apparently in support of the reunion policy. Ecuador had been neutral as between Colombia and Venezuela until her recent presidential election, at which the liberals ousted the conservative government. But on the 18th and immediately after this change a dispatch from Quito, the capital of Ecuador, told of the advance of Ecuadorian troops across the Colombian border.

Another dispatch, received at Washington on the 17th, from the American consul at Maracaibo, Venezuela, reports an invasion of Venezuela by Colombian troops near Cucuta, where a battle took place and the invaders were driven back. The report of last week that the Colombian insurgent, Gen. Uribe-Urbe, had been killed in battle is now denied. He is reported to be moving on Bogota, the Colombian capital.

The war in South Africa is evidently not yet ended, despite the Kitchenier proclamation described last week; for reports of deadly conflicts still come to London, not all of which are favorable to British arms.

In the Philippines (referred to last at page 250), though the war is understood to have been ended long ago, a five hours' fight took place in Batangas province on the 7th; and on the 15th the Americans captured Col. Cabrera, which is described as the most important capture since that of Aguinaldo. Cabrera is said to have controlled all the insurgents in southern Batangas and also those west of the city of Bantangas. It was announced on the 16th that Archbishop Chapelle is about to return to the United States. He went to Manila last year in behalf of the Catholic church as apostolic delegate. It is understood that his mission was not successful.

The Chinese settlement, last mentioned at page 249, is still under advisement, the protocol not yet having