

der; but the rate of compensation shall in no case be less than that fixed in the award. That is, when the price of coal reaches \$4.55 a ton the compensation will be increased 1 per cent., to continue until the price falls below \$4.50 a ton, when the 1 per cent. increase will cease, or until the price reaches \$4.60 a ton, when an additional 1 per cent. will be added, and so on.

These average prices shall be computed monthly by an accountant or commission named by one of the circuit judges of the third judicial district of the United States and paid by the coal operators such compensation as the appointing judge may fix, which compensation shall be distributed among the operators in proportion to the tonnage of each mine.

In order that the basis may be laid for the successful working of the sliding scale provided herein it is also adjudged and awarded: That all coal operating companies file at once with the United States commissioner of labor a certified statement of the rates of compensation paid in each occupation known in their companies, as they existed April 1, 1902.

9. No person shall be refused employment or in any way discriminated against because of membership or non-membership in any labor organization, and there shall be no discrimination against or interference with any employe who is not a member of any labor organization by members of such organization.

10. All contract miners shall be required to furnish within a reasonable time before each pay day a statement of the amount of money due from them to their laborers, and such sums shall be deducted from the amount due the contract miner and paid directly to each laborer by the company. All employes when paid shall be furnished with an itemized statement of account.

11. The awards herein made shall continue in force until March 31, 1906; and any employe, or group of employes, violating any of the provisions thereof shall be subject to reasonable discipline by the employer; and further, the violation of any provision of these awards, either by employer or employes, shall not invalidate any of the provisions thereof.

It is generally conceded that the award is a victory for the strikers. All the employes get an increase of wages, or a reduction of hours, or both; and the conciliation plan is substantially what Mitchell proposed to the operators, and they rejected. Comparing the demands with the award, Walter Wellman, the Washington correspondent whose observations are usually acute and his reports exceptionally accurate, writes

in the Chicago Record-Herald as follows:

Though the men demanded a 20 per cent. increase of wages, it is well known they never expected a greater increase than 10 per cent. or a corresponding reduction of hours. During the efforts to settle the strike last summer Mr. Mitchell more than once proposed to accept a 10 per cent. increase. It is known beyond peradventure that if the railway companies had been willing to make a settlement last Spring, before the strike was ended or had been long under way, they could have secured peace with a 5 per cent. advance and recognition of the union. They were not willing to make any concessions, no matter how small, and refused to arbitrate. The terms which they now secure after all the losses of the battle are less favorable than they could have secured had they taken up the question of a settlement in a businesslike way nearly a year ago. All the mine workers asked was an agreement for a year. Under the terms of the award the companies are bound for three years from the end of this month, and must pay out a very large sum of money in a lump to give the miners the 10 per cent. increase dating from Nov. 1 last.

Another industrial decision of general interest and importance is embraced in the news of the week. It relates to the meat packing trust and was rendered on the 20th by the Supreme Court of Missouri. This decision is made against five of the largest packing houses in the world—The Armour Packing company, Cudahy Packing company, Hammond Packing company, Swift & Co., and Schwarzhild and Sulzberger, all having branch establishments in Missouri. Proceedings against these establishments were begun in Missouri about a year ago upon charges of conspiring to maintain prices, and thereby violating the anti-trust laws of that State. The charges are now sustained by the Supreme Court, and each of the defendants is fined \$5,000, to be paid within 30 days. In case of failure to pay, the defaulting concern will be forbidden to do business any longer in Missouri. The decision was made by a unanimous court.

Along with the news of the Missouri decision against the meat packing trust, come reports of the organization of the National Packing company, under the incorporation laws of New Jersey. It was incorporated on the 18th (pp. 52, 231), with a cap-

ital stock of \$15,000,000, for the purpose of doing business in Chicago, where the principal office is to be. This corporation has acquired control of the following subsidiary companies: Omaha Packing company, Omaha; Hammond Packing company, St. Joseph and Omaha; G. H. Hammond company, Chicago; Hutchinson Packing company, Hutchinson, Kan.; Anglo-American Provision company, Chicago; United Dressed Beef company, New York; Fowler Packing company, Kansas City. The directors of the blanket company are: J. Ogden Armour, P. A. Valentine, G. F. Swift, L. F. Swift, E. F. Swift, Edward Morris, Ira N. Morris, Arthur Meeker and Kenneth K. McLaren. According to a Chicago report, this new company will centralize the management of its scattered plants, which will be operated in thorough harmony with the larger concerns that have long dominated the meat trade; and when the time comes for a combination of these houses, it will be found that the formation of the National will have cleared the way materially for the accomplishment of that end.

As agreed (p. 792), the Senate came to a vote on the 19th upon the question of ratifying the Cuban reciprocity treaty; and, as amended, the treaty was ratified by a vote of 50 to 16, whereupon the Senate adjourned sine die.

Under this treaty manufactures of iron and steel, cotton goods, whiskies, fish, pottery, and all articles of glass except window glass, would be admitted into Cuba at a reduction of 25 per cent. from the established tariff rates there. Butter, window glass, malt liquors in bottles, musical instruments, tobacco wrappers, cutlery, pasteboard, boots and shoes, common soap, and nearly all wines would get a reduction of 30 per cent. Knit goods and other manufactures of cotton, cheese, woolen goods, fruit, glucose, watches, silk manufactures and rice, would be entitled to a reduction of 40 per cent. On the other side, Cuban sugar, tobacco, and some other products would be admitted into the United States at a reduction of 20 per cent. from the Dingley tariff rates. But, as stated last week, in consequence of the Bacon amendment, intended to recognize the right of the lower house of Congress to participate in revenue measures.

the treaty cannot take effect until approved by a joint resolution of both Houses. Another amendment provides for a reduction of 40 per cent. from Cuban rates upon American cattle. A third amendment has reference to the 20 per cent. reduction from the Dingley rates upon Cuban sugar imported into the United States. It requires that no change be made in the American tariff on sugar from other countries so long as the Cuban treaty is in force. The latter amendment is supposed to have been injected by beet sugar interests.

As a consequence of these amendments, the treaty must be again ratified (p. 776) by the Cuban Senate; and on the 21st President Palma called it to meet in extra session for that purpose on the 24th. Upon convening, the Senate listened to a message from President Palma, in which he explained that he considered the treaty advantageous to Cuba, and that as the time for ratification would expire on March 31, he had felt obliged to call the special session in order to submit the amendments adopted by the American Senate. After discussion it was unanimously decided to submit the treaty to the committee on foreign relations, which will report on the 27th.

Over in Santo Domingo, the revolution that was suppressed last Fall (p. 472) has again broken out. Or, maybe it is a new one; for the news records are not very precise. At any rate reports of successful revolutionary operations under Gen. Zeno began to reach this country in February. These reports told of Zeno's capture of Guayubin, in the northwest, and of his advance upon Puerto Plata. A month having elapsed, the rebels were reported on the 23d to be in possession of San Domingo, the capital city, having gained this advantage after furious fighting. On the 24th quiet had been restored in the city and the rebels were in control of the government offices. Vague news of fighting at San Carlos was reported on the 24th.

Venezuela has been in the midst of another crisis. President Castro delivered his resignation to the president of the Venezuelan congress on the 21st. On the 22d the resignation came before that body, which by a unanimous vote refused to accept it

and requested Castro to reconsider it and remain in office. This he refused to do, but at the earnest solicitation of his political supporters he consented to deliver one more presidential message to the congress. His motives for resigning are not known and are the subject of many conjectures. In his message, however, delivered on the 23d, he seemed to intimate that he wished to deprive the revolutionists of their excuse for fighting, namely, that they objected to him as president. These are his words:

I now deliver my abdication in order that you may proceed legally to call on him who should take my place so that there may remain to no Venezuelan the slightest pretext for hostility to his country or for connivance with foreigners who, without any other right than their might, fell upon unfortunate Venezuela.

The revolutionary leader, Gen. Matos, lent color to this interpretation of Castro's resignation by cabling from Willemstad to the vice president of Venezuela as follows:

Gen. Castro has resigned the presidency. Considering that his being in power renders impossible all peace and prosperity in Venezuela, if Congress will accept his abdication I will promise you to use all my influence with the commanders of the revolutionary arms to put an immediate end to the war.

The matter was temporarily settled on the 25th. Congress having again refused to accept Castro's resignation, he addressed to that body a second message in which, after reciting the circumstances and stating his conviction that his resignation was necessary he withdrew it with this explanation:

I bow before the desire of Congress and resign myself to the new obligations imposed by my country, but only until the work of pacifying the nation shall be complete and order reestablished in the public administration. Remember it well, senators and deputies, I believe my separation necessary; you think otherwise. I hope the future will prove you right. Accept an expression of my supreme thanks for the generous demonstration of which you have made me the object.

The news of the withdrawal of the resignation was hailed with enthusiasm in Caracas.

Regarding the rebellion (p. 695) mentioned by Gen. Matos and alluded to by President Castro in his message, there has been no news since about the middle of the month, when two fragmentary reports were

received. One of these told of the defeat of a body of revolutionists under Gen. Riera at Coro prior to the 13th. The other told of another revolutionary defeat, this time at Carupano.

A remarkable address from American Negroes to the emperors and kings of the old world was made public at Cleveland on the 21st. It had been adopted at a secret session of the Equal Rights association at Cleveland on the 9th of February. This address is an appeal for foreign intervention in behalf of Afro-Americans in the United States, who are described in it as being—

brutally and barbarously maltreated and basely compelled, for no crime or misdemeanor, to suffer every indignity, cruelty and murder that inhuman, fiendish nature can invent, by some of those who once held the Afro-Americans in bondage and slavery, or the descendants of those who once held the Afro-Americans in slavery and bondage in the United States, and who still without cause harbor in their hearts a deadly hatred against the Afro-American race.

Becoming specific, the address asserts of Afro-Americans that from— one to five or more are either tortured, hung, shot or butchered and driven from their homes daily, while others are burnt to death at the stake. . . . And while the victims are writhing in pain in the fire, their ears, eyes and fingers are cut out and off for souvenirs, and pieces of their sizzling, frying and burning flesh are slashed from their burning bodies and are auctioned off to the highest bidder after this fashion, holding it up: 'Who wants a piece of nigger meat? Who wants a piece of nigger meat?' 'It is sold at 10 cents.' The heart is divided into quarters and is sold at 25 cents each.

For these atrocities the address asserts that there is no redress in their own country:

We have time and again pleaded and appealed to Presidents, to Congresses of the United States, to enforce the laws and to stop that inhuman wholesale murder, that discrimination and slaughter of an innocent people, but every plea and appeal has been ignored. Then comes the appeal to Europe for intervention:

We, therefore, now, in the name of God Almighty, do hereby appeal to the Powers of Europe and to every civilized nation of the old world, through their representatives at Washington, D. C., to interfere in some way in behalf of the poor, downtrodden, outraged Afro-