

President Mitchell has meanwhile issued a full statement, dated the 29th, which is intended especially as a reply to the criticisms of Mr. Baer, president of the Reading railroad, and ex-Mayor Hewitt of New York. Charging these men with attempting to confuse and befog the issue, he restates the demands of the strikers as follows:

(1) An increase in wages for men employed on piece work; (2) a reduction in the hours of labor for men employed by the day; (3) payment for a legal ton of coal; (4) that the coal we mine shall be honestly weighed and correctly recorded; (5) we favor incorporating in the form of an agreement the wages that shall be paid and the conditions of employment that shall obtain for a specific period. As to the reasonableness of these demands we have proposed to submit to and abide the award of an impartial board of arbitration.

By way of refuting Mr. Baer's assertion that anthracite wages are "fair and just," Mr. Mitchell compares them with the wages in bituminous coal mining, showing that wages at the latter work, where hours are shorter and danger less, are from 20 to 40 per cent. higher than in the anthracite fields. In this connection he asserts that—

the minimum wage received by any class of adult mine workers in the soft coal mines is 26½ cents an hour, while the minimum wage paid to boys is 12½ cents an hour; in the anthracite coal mines men performing precisely the same labor receive from 13 to 20 cents an hour, while boys are paid as low as five cents an hour and rarely receive to exceed eight cents an hour.

Disorder and violence in connection with the strike are also considered by Mr. Mitchell. On this point he says:

Despite all our precautions we regret that occasional violence has resulted, but it would be as logical to charge any one of the religious, social or political organizations or even the United States government with being an unlawful organization because some of its members violate the law. The officers of the union are as severe as the operators in their earnest condemnation of any and every act of violence on the part of a striker, and no attempt has been made or will be made to condone any offense of this sort. The public should be made aware, however, that the operators and a certain section

of the press are by no means discriminating in the fixing of responsibility, and that crimes of violence are laid at the doors of strikers when the imported guardians of law and order, the armed coal and iron police, are clearly and unmistakably at fault; and I challenge the operators or their friends to point to one single utterance on their part in disapproval of the lawless actions of their hired guards.

Still another part of Mr. Mitchell's address is of special public interest. It relates to Mr. Baer's reference to the increase of wages in 1900 and his assertion that 40 per cent of the coal produced is sold in the market below the cost of mining. To this Mr. Mitchell replies that Mr. Baer—fails to say that the larger portion of this 40 per cent. is made up of grades of coal for which the miners received no compensation whatever. Indeed, up to a few years ago, or before the installation of washeries, the miners were docked for loading this very coal which brings small prices now in the market; and according to Mr. Baer's process of reasoning the miners would receive less wages for the larger grades because they mine the small sizes gratuitously. I shall not enter elaborately into the question of cost, but shall merely say that Mr. Baer's statements are utterly misleading. The rise in wages in 1900 was more than counterbalanced by an increase in the cost of living, which left the miners worse off than before. Mr. Baer claims that this advance of ten per cent. which was paid the miners in 1900 cost the companies more than ten cents a ton; but this is at least problematical. In March, 1902, the Engineering and Mining Journal (see issue of March 29) made a careful calculation in order "to show what effect the increase in wages last year had upon the cost of coal." As a result of this computation, based upon the figures of the Delaware & Hudson, the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western and the Lehigh Valley Coal & Navigation company, the Engineering and Mining Journal, which cannot be accused of being either friendly or fair to us, states that "the conclusion to be drawn is that the resulting increase in cost was not large; in all probability not over five cents a ton at the outside." Mr. Baer claims that the average pay per working day in his mines is \$1.89. Admitting, for the sake of argument, the correctness of his figures, this would make upon the average number of days in 1901 a grand total of \$368 per employe, or an average of \$7.05 per week; thus, as a result of the strenuously opposed and bitterly

regretted advance wrung from the operators by the strike of 1900, the average adult employe of the Reading Coal & Iron company is permitted to spend upon himself, his wife and his children the munificent sum of \$1.01 per day.

Reports of disorder in the field of the strike continue, and on the 28th Gov. Stone ordered out an additional troop of horse—the Sheridan troop of Tyrone—to reinforce the 13th regiment. But upon good authority it is denied that there is any serious violence. Bishop Fallows, of Chicago, who has been investigating the situation in person reported on the 30th that although he had "visited every important town and spent much time at Mahonoy City, the storm center of the strike," he had not seen "a single act of violence or disorder" nor met a striker who was "disposed toward any unlawful act."

Wall street conditions, which were unsteady last week (p. 392), have since experienced a further and more disturbing shock, which the Secretary of the Treasury has relieved. Money had been very high, when, on the 25th, the Secretary published a statement which quickly reduced the rate. The statement explained that while money once paid into the treasury or any subtreasury cannot lawfully be withdrawn and deposited in banks, yet internal revenue and miscellaneous receipts, amounting to about half a million a day, are available for bank deposits before they actually get into the treasury, and have been steadfastly deposited to their fullest extent since the stringency arose. Then followed an assurance that—this policy will be continued for 30 or 60 days if needed, and longer if necessary.

The statement made also the further assurance that the national bank circulation had been increased about \$7,000,000 and would certainly be increased \$8,000,000 more, and promised that—

"the treasury department, to the extent of its ability will stand by the banks, east and west, north and south, and it is hoped also that the banks will stand by every business and every interest that is worth protecting.

Finally it pledged the department to the following offer:

It now offers to anticipate all interest maturing between October 1 and the end of the fiscal year, if present-

ed within 60 days, at a rebate of two-tenths of one per cent a month, which is at the rate of 2.4 per cent. per annum. In other words, these obligations will be prepaid at such a rate as to allow the government to profit thereby at 2.4 per cent. per annum. The amount maturing before June 30, 1903, is, in round figures, \$20,650,000. The profit to the government if this offer shall be accepted will be in round figures \$220,000.

This offer was formally made on the following day, the 26th, when the Secretary also made the following additional offer:

By virtue of the authority contained in section 3,694 of the revised statutes, notice is hereby given that this department will purchase any of the United States five per cent. bonds of the loan of 1904, if presented for that purpose on or before October 15 next, and will pay for them at the rate of 105 flat.

The amount of these bonds then outstanding was \$19,410,350; they are due in February, 1904, and their market value on the 26th was 105½.

Notwithstanding the Secretary's offer, however, and its first effects, the money stringency recurred. On the 29th loans on call commanded as much as 45 per cent., 35 being paid for millions. Prices of stocks fell rapidly, some of them as much as 10 points, and the Wall street market closed in wild confusion, with the money rate at 20 per cent. But instead of continuing on the 30th as was expected, this panic turned to a boom when the stock exchange opened on that day. The reaction had been caused by the public announcement of the Secretary of the Treasury, that he would no longer require the national banks to hold a reserve of 25 per cent. against government deposits, but would regard their deposits of bonds as sufficient security, and would accept State and municipal bonds as well as government bonds for that purpose. That action on his part, which set free something like \$130,000,000, heretofore held as reserves for the protection of government accounts with the banks, is unprecedented. He explains that the law allows deposits of government funds in national banks provided the banks secure the deposits with government bonds "and otherwise." He decides, therefore, that he may require security partly resting on government bonds and partly on some other form of security to be approved by him.

Those who differ with his policy argue that if the law read "or otherwise" Mr. Shaw would be right, but that the use of the word "and" instead of the word "or" makes it absolutely clear that there is no discretion vested in the Secretary.

New York State leads this week in American politics. The Democratic State convention met at Saratoga on the 30th. According to the forecasts in the dispatches David B. Hill was in complete control, and Bird S. Coler was slated for the governorship, Mr. Hill's chosen candidate, Judge Parker of the Court of Appeals of the State, having positively refused to be the candidate. The forecast as to Coler proved to be correct. He was nominated on the 1st by the first ballot and without opposition. The platform ignores the Kansas City platform, declares for tariffs for revenue only, denounces protection as a trust-breeder, and adopts the following clause with reference to government ownership of coal mines:

We advocate the national ownership and operation of the anthracite coal mines by the exercise of the right of eminent domain, with just compensation to owners. Ninety per cent. of the anthracite coal deposits of the world being in the state of Pennsylvania, national ownership can but be in the interest of the whole people. Fuel, like water, being a public necessity, we advocate national ownership and operation of the mines as a solution of the problem which will relieve the country from the sufferings which follow differences between labor and capital in the anthracite mines. This course will insure peace in the mining regions and remove the cause for differences, leading not only to suffering but oftentimes to bloodshed and insurrection. It will relieve the consumers of coal, not only in this State but throughout the whole country; insure steady employment and ample compensation to labor; transfer children from the mines to the schools; insure, strengthen and preserve the stability of the business interests and popular institutions of our country. Whatever differences of opinion may exist over other propositions of public ownership, the propriety of that policy as applied to anthracite coal mines must be apparent to every citizen.

The Connecticut convention of the Democratic party, which met on the 25th, ignored the Kansas City platform. A contest for its recognition was made in the committee on

resolutions, but none in the convention.

On the 25th the Republicans of the Third Congressional district of Iowa nominated Judge Benjamin P. Birdsall in place of Speaker Henson, who declines (pp. 369, 374), as their candidate for Congress. Birdsall belongs to the Cummins, or "Iowa Idea," faction of the party. But the Congressional convention adopted a platform which repudiates the "Iowa Idea." While endorsing the State platform, it reads:

We deny that the Dingley tariff breeds and shelters trusts. We interpret the tariff plank in the Des Moines platform of 1902 to be merely a reiteration of and to mean no more than the St. Louis plank of 1896, which recites: "We are not pledged to any particular schedules. The question of rates is a practical question to be governed by the conditions of the time and of production; the ruling and uncompromising principle is the protection and development of American labor and industry."

Mr. Birdsall's speech of acceptance, however, was not in harmony with this interpretation.

To replace George H. Durand, as Democratic candidate for Governor of Michigan, whose ill-health has forced him to resign (p. 391), the State committee, on the 30th, named his brother, L. T. Durand, of Saginaw.

At the State election in Georgia on the 1st, the Democratic ticket was elected without organized opposition.

L. F. C. Garvin was nominated on the 1st by the Democratic convention of Rhode Island, for governor, upon a platform declaring for the initiative and referendum, home rule for cities and towns, municipal ownership of public utilities, and election of United States Senators by direct popular vote.

The gubernatorial election of Vermont, at which no choice was made, every candidate falling below a majority (p. 345), has been settled by the legislature. On the 1st it named the regular Republican candidate, whose popular vote was somewhat larger than that of the contesting Republican.

The opening meeting of the Republican campaign in Ohio was held