

settled a few weeks ago (p. 171), was renewed on the 5th, when 250 men walked out because six union men had been discharged by the management in apparent hostility to the union. From Ironton, O., comes news of the stoppage by a strike of cars on the Ironton division of the Camden Interstate Electric railway; and from Catlettsburg, Ky., there are advices to the effect that Gov. Beckham has been appealed to for troops to preserve the property of the line on the Kentucky side, and has refused to act until he can send a representative to investigate.

The agricultural strikes in Austria-Hungary (p. 263), were reported on the 5th to have produced no less than 230 encounters between strikers and troops. In one case 13 persons were killed and 118 were wounded; in another 200 were killed or wounded. In an attack by a detachment of Uhlans on 500 peasants at Pothering, many of the peasants were wounded and the soldiers made 173 arrests.

Over the border in Germany the reichstag is struggling with a protective tariff bill, which provides among other things for protection on steel rails to the amount of a tax of \$2.50 a ton. Its object is to prevent the inundation of Germany with cheap American steel by the steel trust. At a hearing before the tariff committee on the 2d, the new member, Bernstein, leader of the opportunist faction of the Socialist party, resisted this tax. In the course of his speech he predicted a breakdown of the steel trust from overcapitalization and overconfidence of its managers. But if it did not go to pieces, he said, but came to a point where it had to sell steel at any price, it would so disorganize international markets that \$2.50 a ton would not protect German makers. He believed that nothing short of prohibition would do that. The committee is composed in a peculiar manner. Each of the nine political parties is allowed a fixed representation upon it, but is at liberty to name its own representatives and to change them at will. Consequently the personnel of the committee constantly alters, and as each new member makes a speech, the work of the committee proceeds but slowly.

In Russia this question of underselling foreign goods to the injury

of domestic sellers, which has inspired the calling of an international conference by the czar (p. 251), has led on to a public official explanation of that call by the Russian minister of finance, in which he says:

In view of the erroneous interpretation by many organs of the American press of the object and meaning of the recent note of the Russian minister of finance sent to various governments whose representatives have signed the Brussels convention on suppression of bounties on sugar, M. Routkowsky, financial agent of the Russian government in the United States, has been instructed to communicate to the American press that in case of the negative answer of powers to the above-mentioned note and the establishment of a countervailing duty on Russian sugar the imperial Russian government shall consider the establishment of such a duty as an infraction of its commercial treaties with powers so doing, and, therefore, free from obligations imposed by them and at liberty to comply with their stipulations whenever it will be to the advantage of Russia.

The Russian censorship of the press is being conducted more strictly than ever. The only paper of liberal tendencies it has left in St. Petersburg is the Viedomosti, which is leased from the government by Prince Oukhtomsky and conducted by him. The prince is an old friend of the czar, and has long been able to keep his readers supplied to a degree with news from the Russian provinces, something the other papers could not or did not do. But delayed correspondence from St. Petersburg tells of the summoning of Prince Oukhtomsky on the 12th before the new minister of the interior, H. von Plehve, successor to Sepuaguin, who was assassinated last April (p. 40, 56), when he was admonished. Minister von Plehve told him that the paper had become the organ of liberals and revolutionists, especially in its provincial departments, demanded the immediate dismissal of its editor, and threatened to cancel the lease of the paper, which has several years yet to run.

It is believed now that the Catholic troubles in France, which were so threatening last week (p. 264), are over. The prime minister explains that out of 6,000 congregations affected by the new law, about one-half have complied in good faith with its terms, and that the rest, excepting only about 400, have expressed their

willingness to submit, and were only awaiting the signature of President Loubet to a decree of closure. As he signed this on the 1st the prime minister regards the affair as closed. But reports from Rome are to the effect that there is a possibility of the Vatican's assuming a hostile attitude toward France in this connection, to prevent the passage of further anti-clerical laws.

Great Britain has received President Steyn, of the late Orange Free State republic. He landed at Southampton on the 2d, with his family, but in a broken down condition physically and unable to go to London, though the government had sent a luxurious saloon car to Southampton to bring him. Being carried on a stretcher to a Dutch steamer in the harbor, he sailed for Holland, where President Kruger met him on the 4th. That he would have been cordially welcomed had he gone to London as the British ministry evidently desired, is indicated, not only by the official attention shown him, by sending the car to meet him, but by the extraordinarily friendly treatment Gen. Lucas Meyer and his wife have received at the hands of titled and fashionable British society, as well as by an offer made by the king to receive Gens. Botha Delarey and DeWet as his guests.

There is apparently a feeling among some of the Boer leaders that the surrender (p. 264) was improvidently and perhaps inexcusably made. The secretary of Mr. Leyds is reported from Paris as saying that a copy of the letter of Kitchener, which has not appeared in the British blue book, is in the hands of a trusted Boer leader, and indicates a sinister part played by certain leaders in procuring peace. When Mr. Leyds was interviewed about this remark of his secretary he said, according to the same report:

I can't affirm or deny anything until I see De Wet, Botha, Delarey and Meyer themselves. You may say, however, that President Steyn is the noblest man of the century. Advantage was taken of his physical breakdown to compass peace. Many hold that in ten years' time England will have lost South Africa. Hatred and an element hitherto unknown has been established there and the English government is now embarked on a shifting policy. Wessels, Wolmarans and Fischer, the Boer delegates who went to the United States, have been