

classes belonging to the state, emancipation of the executive power from the senate, his monarchy was so little at variance with democracy, that democracy on the contrary only attained its completion and fulfillment by means of that monarchy.

Whenever, therefore, "Caesarism" be spoken as reproach, let not the reproach rest upon the great name which fate and future events caused to be taken in vain.

JAMES H. DILLARD.

NEWS

The steel strike is not yet settled. Neither is it more aggressive. Judged from the press reports, it hovers over the commercial world like a cloud, which may dissipate without commotion or may burst into a terrific storm.

At our last report (p. 249) J. Pierpont Morgan, the head center of the trust, had given out a newspaper interview declaring that he would make no compromise; and Mr. Shaffer, the strike leader (p. 242), had threatened to hold the republican party responsible to the labor vote of the country for the consequences of the conflict. After that, Mr. Joseph Bishop, secretary of the Ohio board of arbitration, was authorized by the strikers to request Senator Hanna to present their case to Mr. Morgan. This was not done, however, until M. M. Garland, a former president of the Amalgamated association, who now holds a federal office at Pittsburgh, had tried to effect a settlement and failed. Whether in consequence of the appeal to Mr. Hanna or not, but certainly upon overtures from Mr. Morgan, through Col. Harvey, Morgan's manager of the Harper publications, a secret meeting took place in New York on the 27th between President Shaffer and Secretary Williams, of the strikers, and high officials of the steel trust, supposed to include Morgan, Schwab and Garv. The press thereupon reported circumstantial rumors of a settlement. One paper specified the terms, with probable accuracy, as follows:

(1) Mills that were nonunion on July 1 to continue so; (2) the trust not to sign the union scale for nonunion mills; (3) the trust, however, to pay the union scale in nonunion mills; (4) all mills to be open to union and nonunion men alike; (5)

the trust not to interfere with individuals wishing to join the union.

Two days after the conference a telegraphic notice summoning the national committee to meet at Pittsburgh on the 30th was sent out from headquarters. The object of this meeting was to determine whether the terms outlined at the New York conference should be accepted or the strike be continued. When the committee assembled on the 30th strong opposition to the terms formulated at New York developed. By way of compromise it was agreed to propose the elimination of five plants, which were nonunion on July 1 but have since been organized, from the nonunion category. Morgan replied on the 31st rejecting this proposal.

For the purpose of meeting the strike, steps have been taken by the steel trust to import southern negroes to take the strikers' places, and 300 were brought to a Chicago suburb on the 25th under employment by the Latrobe Steel and Coupler works. Residents of the suburb made vehement protests against this move, and the negroes were returned. They themselves participated by representatives in the local indignation meeting. One of the representatives, Henry Taylor, made the following statement to the meeting:

There is not a man in our party who will work at Melrose Park under a gun or in another man's place. We don't want to fill strikers' places and we won't work under guard. We were hired at Birmingham by a colored man named H. R. Bell, from Melrose Park. He told us there was no trouble at the works and no strike threatened, but that there was a scarcity of workmen. We were getting from \$1.25 to \$1.50 a day there, and he told us the least paid laborers here was two dollars a day. We were all to get that.

The objections to the importation of these negroes appears to have been wholly industrial, and not racial.

At one time the garment makers' strike in New York, mentioned last week (p. 249), was reported as settled. It had been, so far as two of the parties to the conflict were concerned. The manufacturers had agreed with the strikers upon their demand for union conditions and higher wages, but the contractors, or "sweaters," refused to unite in the agreement unless the manufacturers would bear the burden of the higher wages, and this the

manufacturers refused to do. The strike is consequently still unsettled.

Labor difficulties are reflected in party politics through the meeting at Indianapolis, on the 29th, of the two factions of the Social Democratic party. This convention was called (vol. iii, p. 665) for the purpose of harmonizing all branches of socialism in American politics. There are three: the Socialist Labor party, which is the original political organization; the Springfield branch of the social democracy, so called because its headquarters are at Springfield, Mass., and the Chicago branch of the social democracy, so called because its headquarters are at Chicago. The first branch refuses to harmonize, and is not represented at the Indianapolis convention. The third, under the leadership of Mr. Debs, clings to the primary object in forming the social democracy, namely, the principle of opportunism or of taking advantage of opportunities as they arise to give socialism a foothold in legislation. The Springfield branch is not opportunist. It tends toward the policy of eliminating from the party demands all half-way measures and concentrating its energies upon the complete revolutionary programme of socialism. Upon the assembling of the convention George D. Herron was chairman of the day on the 29th, and J. F. Carey, of Massachusetts, on the 30th. Owing to press statements that Eugene V. Debs had been "turned down" by the convention in its vote on a question of order on the 29th, a vote of confidence in him was adopted on the 30th. Max Hayes, of Cleveland, was chairman of the day on the 31st, when the really vital question of the conference came up for decision—the question eliminating from the platform of last year its opportunist demands. The convention decided against doing so. It also added to the platform a series of demands proposed by Dr. Herron, the principal clauses of which as reported by the press are as follows:

(1) The public ownership of all means of transportation and communication and all other public utilities, as well as of all industries controlled by monopolies, trusts and combines. No part of the revenue of such industries to be applied to the reduction of taxes on property of the capitalist class, but to be applied wholly to the increase of wages and shortening of the hours of labor of the employes, to the improvement of