

that the executive committee order a strike, the conditions being, as they claimed, intolerable.

The peculiar bitterness shown by the mine owners toward the miners' union is due, probably, to two causes:

First, an arbitrary, dictatorial spirit, not uncommon in men who have come suddenly into possession of wealth, and, with no previous training in the employment of labor, are placed in the position of employers of labor. These are the conditions surrounding the mine owners, as a rule. They have passed quickly from poverty to affluence, and now regard the world as theirs. They have given no study to the rights of man, and have but one idea on that subject, to-wit: that those rights inhere solely in the owners of property.

Second, in ordinary industrial communities employers understand that a uniform wage scale tends to uniformity in prices; that if all in the same line of production pay the same wages, any advance in wages will be compensated by an advance in the selling price of the product. In the mining of precious metals, however, the case is entirely different. There is always a market for the product, and at a fixed price, which bears no immediate relation to the cost of production. The lower the cost of production, the greater the profit; hence labor's demands are directly upon the pocket of the mine owners.

It is asserted, and apparently not without reason, that the strike was encouraged, if not actually brought about, by the mine owners, with a view to a disruption of the unions. With a vain, weak man in the executive chair, whether pledged to them in consideration of liberal campaign contributions or not, they might well deem themselves in a position to accomplish the long cherished purpose of driving out organized labor. Events have proved that the Governor is willing to go to any lengths in support of the mine owners' criminal acts and purposes, and they have shown themselves utterly lacking in regard for law, and without the slightest feelings of humanity. It is they and not the miners who have brought disgrace upon the State.

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NEWS

Week ending Thursday, August 11.

Judge Parker's long silence on all public questions except the money question, makes his speech of the 10th, accepting the Democratic nomination for President (p. 247), the most important political event since the St. Louis con-

vention. The meeting was at his home. Champ Clark, of Missouri, chairman of the convention, made the address and delivered the letter conveying formal notice to Judge Parker of his nomination. In beginning his response—

the candidate expressed himself as especially gratified with the confidence shown by the convention in reiterating its determination to make him its standard bearer after his telegram declaring that he regarded the gold standard as firmly and irrevocably established. He then approved the platform in general terms, and after enumerating several of its promises of reform he observed that its spirit nevertheless "assures conservative instead of rash action." The labor question he discussed with evident reference to the difficulties in Colorado, the lawlessness of both sides being condemned. "The essence of good government lies," said the speaker in this connection, "in strict observance of constitutional limitations, enforcement of law and order, and rugged opposition to all encroachment upon the sovereignty of the people." On the tariff question he remarked that as the Republicans will control the Senate for four years no modification of duties will be possible without Republican consent; but he declared "our position" to favor "a reasonable reduction of the tariff," and his belief that "a wise and beneficent revision of the tariff can be accomplished as soon as both houses of Congress and an Executive in favor of it are elected, without "creating a sense of uncertainty and instability, simply by providing that "such a reasonable period shall intervene between the date of the enactment of the statute making a revision and the date of its enforcement as shall be deemed sufficient for the industry or business affected by such revision to adjust itself to the changes and new conditions imposed." He charged encouragement of trusts to the tariff, and declared that the prevalence of monopolies is due to failure of administrative officials to call upon the courts to enforce the existing laws. A discussion of the Philippine question, favoring independence, closes with the recommendation that we prepare the Filipinos "as rapidly as possible for self government," and give to them "the assurance that it will come as soon as they are reasonably prepared for it." Militarism came in for a share of Judge Parker's attention. He denounced conquest; described our people as loving peace not only for ourselves but for all the nations of the earth; and declared that "the most efficient work we can do in uplifting the people of other countries is by the presentation of a happy, prosperous, self-governing nation as an ideal to be emulated, a model to be followed." In closing he pledged himself to retire to private life after his first term, saying: "I shall not be a can-

didate for, nor shall I accept a renomination."

Judge Parker did not attempt to cover all the questions suggested in the platform. He reserved its full consideration, he said, for his letter of acceptance.

In connection with the faction contest in the Republican party in Wisconsin (p. 182), the Supreme Court of the State issued a process on the 9th restraining the secretary of state from certifying the names of the nominees of the La Follette faction as Republican candidates, and authorizing proceedings to compel him to so certify the names of the Spooner faction. The hearing is set for September 6th.

At the Democratic convention of West Virginia on the 4th, John Cornwell was nominated for governor. The Democratic and the Populist conventions of Nebraska met on the 10th at Lincoln, but the Populists refused to unite with the Democrats upon an electoral ticket. They did agree upon a fusion State ticket.

The strike against the beef trust packing houses of the country (p. 262) is still in force, though nothing notable in connection with it has occurred apart from two or three disturbances which were soon quieted by the police.

A lockout in the building trades within a radius of 25 miles from the New York city hall, began on the 8th. The reason given for it by the Building Trades Employers' Association is that some of the trades unions have begun sympathetic strikes inconsistent with an unexpired arbitration agreement for continuous work.

Foreign news relates almost exclusively to the Russian-Japanese war, and this is meager. Since the capture of Hajeibeng by the Japanese on the 3d (p. 278) it has turned again to mere rumor, gossip and speculation, interspersed with reports of unimportant events. Among the latter is a naval action outside of Port Arthur. Russian vessels came out on the 10th and were driven back.

The Russian prize court at Vladivostok decided on the 4th, in the