

book trusts to the prejudice of the schools, no more grafting with school-land leases or shielding of tax-dodgers to the prejudice of school funds, and no more arbitrary and irresponsible governing of schools along despotic lines. With a representative advisory council of teachers, the public-school system would cease to be a form of military organization, department store or factory, and become a democratic institution for the education of the citizens of a democratic republic.

An objection to this innovation is that it would turn the teaching body into a public-school boss. In response we quote the apt words of The Elementary School Teacher for January last, regarding a similar objection to a somewhat more elaborate plan along the same general lines proposed by Dr. Cornelia De Bey, who is a member of the Chicago school board, a trained and experienced teacher, and an eminent student of educational subjects. "The chief difficulty in the way of such a plan," said The Elementary School Teacher, "is that most people have no conception of public life except that under the administration of a boss. The press and public, generally, regard our common-school system as now administered in this country as being of necessity under the control of a boss, though whether this function resides in the superintendent or board of education is, in most places, still an unsettled question. The idea of the boss being uppermost, people jumped to the conclusion, therefore, that Dr. De Bey's plan means that the teachers shall be the boss, and that the collar now worn by themselves shall be placed upon the necks of the superintendent and board. It has not dawned upon the average mind that there yet may be a plan evolved which will eliminate the boss, and under which all will have the opportunity and the privilege of co-operating and contributing to the common good up to the limits of their power to help. That is the spirit of Dr. De Bey's plan, and that is all there is to it." It is also the spirit of the proposed advisory council of teachers, and all there is to that.

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In some such way, and only in some such way, can those despotic tendencies in education be checked, which now curse our public-school system and add to the corruption of our civic life. We are in the midst in our country of a conflict between the despotic and the democratic spirit in education, and of that general conflict the instances here described are phases.

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My papa owns a newspaper!
Dat's nuthin'; I buy and sell sixty of 'em every day.—New York Times.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

NEW ZEALAND.

Auckland, N. Z., March 22.—At the coming session of Parliament it is probable that a bill largely reducing customs duties will be passed. This will doubtless interest you, especially when considered in connection with the action of the government regarding the land value tax. Land speculators are ferocious about it. The site valuation has been brought up to date, and the tax has risen accordingly. But worse than that for the land speculators, the boroughs that have adopted land value taxation for local purposes are required to levy their rates on the basis of the government's valuation. In some of the boroughs the rate is 3 3-4 pence in the pound of capital value; that is, a section valued at £100 (say \$500) pays £1 11s 3d (say \$7.50) per annum local taxes. But on land worth over £500 the general land tax of a penny in the pound is levied in addition to the local rate, thus making the total land value tax in such cases 4 3-4 pence in the pound. Adding special rates to this, generally a quarter of a penny in the pound, and we have a total of 5d in the pound. If, then, the full single tax were 4 per cent. per annum of the capital value of land irrespective of its improvements, we have got in some parts of New Zealand about half way to the single tax.

GEORGE STEVENSON.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Wednesday, May 2.

Labor Conflict in France.

The European "labor day," May 1st, was the occasion of serious military and police violence in Paris. There had been striking of an alleged violent character in the French mining regions during April; several trades were also on strike in Paris, but peaceably; and more extended striking for the eight-hour workday throughout France was set for the 1st. Meanwhile rumors became rife that the royalists were encouraging these labor demonstrations in the expectation of consequent disorders of sufficient magnitude to overthrow the republic and make a restoration of royalty possible. The fact that the parliamentary elections are to take place on the 6th, doubtless had much to do with fomenting the excitement. At any rate the government appears to have been sufficiently alarmed, apparently by fears of the royalists more than of the strikers per se, to cause it to forbid all labor demonstrations on May 1st, and troops were massed at important points. In addition to this,

wholesale searches of the houses and offices of royalists, Bonapartists, anarchists, the Federation of Labor and labor leaders were made for incriminating proof.

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When the first of May came the troops and the police took possession of Paris. Workmen were confined to their home districts, and many of their leaders were arrested. No parading was allowed, and whenever crowds gathered they were dispersed. Hundreds were cut down with sabers, prodded with bayonets, trampled on by cavalry and clubbed by the police.

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Labor Demonstrations in the United States.

Celebrations of the European "labor day" were undertaken in the United States on the 1st by socialist organizations. In New York a large meeting, held at the Grand Central Palace, was presided over by John Spargo, under the supervision of a detail of 75 policemen. It was held for the purpose of protesting against an unfair prosecution of the officers of the Western Federation of Miners (p. 28), now awaiting trial in Idaho on charges of murdering ex-Governor Steunenberg. The meeting is reported in the dispatches to have been "as orderly as a church convention," the "only suggestion of the spirit of revolt" being "the sale of little red flags" and the display of red flags having "a gold emblem of an arm and torch on them." In Newark, N. J., a socialist parade was stopped by the police because the paraders displayed a red flag. In Chicago the parade, numbering more than 3,000, was permitted; but the police forbade the carrying of red flags, and one of the flag bearers was arrested.

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Status of the Coal Strike.

Since the decision of the bituminous coal miners early in April to allow special agreements with employers willing to restore the old wage scale (p. 10), negotiations have been in progress with both bituminous and anthracite operators.

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Many of the bituminous operators have agreed to this scale, and their competitors proposed arbitration to the miners on the 20th. This was refused by the miners on the grounds, first, that "no arbitration scheme would be fair that did not take into consideration the earnings of company stores, company houses or railroad companies operating mines and docks, and other subsidiary companies connected with or incident to the production of coal," and second, that when so many operators in the same fields have restored the old scale of wages it would be unjust to arbitrate with their competitors who reject the scale. In concluding his reply for the miners, Mr. Mitchell said: "We are willing to meet you at any time to consider the signing of a scale on the same basis as your competitors have already signed, but we cannot be a party to any such unfair and partial arbitration scheme as you propose." The operators whose arbitration overtures were thus rejected, claim to represent 90 per cent of the total coal tonnage of Ohio, 75 per cent. of that of the

Hocking Valley district, 90 per cent. of that of Indiana, and 90 per cent of that in Illinois. Against these operators the strike is now in force.

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The anthracite negotiations have come to a deadlock over the refusal of the operators to consider any modification of their own terms, which are that the award of the anthracite strike commission of 1902 be renewed for three years, or that there be an arbitration only as to the question of "what changes, if any, shall be made in the scale of wages fixed by the commission in its original award." The miners stand for a revival of the award, subject to certain specified increases in wages ranging from 15 per cent. for dollar-a-day men down to 5 per cent. for those getting more than \$1.75 a day.

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Pending these negotiations the men in the anthracite mines have suspended work, and collisions with State police have occurred. The most serious was at Mount Carmel, Pa., on the 30th, when four of the police were injured with stones and seventeen men and boys were wounded. Four of the latter were reported as in a dying condition. One of the men who were shot, Paul Pulaski, vice president of district No. 9 of the miners, being interviewed on the 1st, said:

All has been quiet to-day. There has been no act of violence. This proves that there would not be trouble if the State troopers did not come and excite the people. The mine workers have been and will continue to be quiet and orderly.

The Sheriff, J. R. Sharpless, in a concurrent interview, said:

I ordered the State troopers to remain behind the stockade at the Sayre colliery to-day. They wanted me to permit them to march through the town. Had I done so they would have excited the people, and there would have been more trouble. As long as the State troopers keep out of town I expect that there will be no trouble.

The peace was not disturbed at Mount Carmel on the 1st. The troopers who engaged in the fight and the re-enforcements which reached them on the 1st, did not attempt to enter the town, but remained in the Sayre colliery. "Some of the troopers wished to ride into town to show," say the despatches, "that they had not been intimidated by the attack of the 30th, but more pacific advice prevailed and further trouble was avoided."

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Strike on the Great Lakes.

One of the largest of the May day strikes is that of the Lake Pilots' Protective Association, which began at midnight of the 30th and may paralyze the commerce of the Great Lakes. It is understood that the handlers of ore, coal, grain and package freight will support the striking pilots should non-union pilots be employed. The strike is not for higher wages, but for recognition by the Lake Carriers' Association, the employers' union, of the Lake Pilots' Protective Association, the pilots' union. It is therefore made against the Carriers' Association only, lumber-carrying and passenger vessels being exempt. The Lake Carriers' Association controls 80 per cent. of the lake tonnage.