

of such laws as will enable municipalities to acquire, control and operate any or all of the public utilities therein in case they decide so to do.

Then comes a demand in the platform for jury trial in cases of "contempt of court committed out of its presence," which is its way of opposing "government by injunction." This is followed by demands for merit laws in the civil service, for the abolition of convict labor, and for liberal pensions. After congratulating the Republic of Cuba, expressing admiration for "all our brave soldiers and sailors," referring with "horror and deep regret" to "the monstrous crime which removed from the nation its much-loved and mourned president, William McKinley," the platform closes with the following tribute to the late Gov. Altgeld:

We deplore the untimely death of the late John P. Altgeld. An exemplary citizen, a sterling Democrat, a great governor, a firm friend of the oppressed, an uncompromising foe of shams and pretenses, an unyielding opponent of special privileges, he died as he lived, fighting for human freedom and liberty and the uplifting of earth's races.

The candidates named by the convention were George W. Duddleston, of Chicago, for state treasurer; John L. Pickering, of Springfield, for clerk of the supreme court; Anson L. Bliss, of Mount Vernon, for state superintendent of public instruction, and Dr. Julia Holmes Smith, of Chicago, Dr. J. E. White, of Champaign, and S. S. Maxwell, of Monmouth, for trustees of the state university.

Republican politics now oscillates about the question of reducing the tariff on Cuban sugar (vol. iv, pp. 673, 792, 822), the party in Congress being divided on that question and the President having now become involved in the controversy. It seems that when the Cuban delegates came to this country (vol. iv, p. 56) to consult President McKinley with reference to the Cuban constitution, Mr. McKinley promised that if Cuba would accept the Platt amendment, "he would use his influence"—we are quoting from Walter Wellman, in the Chicago Record-Herald—"to secure commercial concessions from Congress." To that promise, says Mr. Wellman, "there are plenty of living witnesses," and "the Cubans accepted it at par value." President Roosevelt has undertaken to redeem it. Accordingly, on the 13th, he sent

a message to Congress, in which he called attention to the recommendations in his annual message for a reduction of duties on imports from Cuba, and embodied a cable dispatch sent through the American minister to Cuba by President Palma asking for legislative relief before Cuba is financially ruined. President Roosevelt then discusses in his special message the object of the tariff law, and objecting to the proposition to relieve Cuba by collecting full duties and paying a bounty in the nature of a rebate over to Cuban exporters, asks for "that open-handed help, of a kind which a self-respecting people can accept." Although not specific, his message is evidently intended to further the plan of making a 20 per cent. reduction of the tariff on imports from Cuba.

The conflict in the Republican party which has called out this message, is one between the beet sugar interests, which do not want their protection interfered with, and the refined sugar trust, which wishes to weaken the beet sugar interests by lowering the duty on raw sugar from Cuba. The trust is accidentally supported by tariff adversaries and by Cuban sympathizers, because what they believe in the trust happens to want. When the House bill came before the Republican caucus on the 13th of March the beet sugar interests were defeated by a vote of 85 to 31 (vol. iv, p. 793), the caucus agreeing to introduce a bill, such as the President now indicates his desire for, reducing tariff rates on Cuban sugar 20 per cent. That bill was introduced March 19. The committee on ways and means of the House agreed (vol. iv, p. 822) to report it favorably, the vote being 9 Republicans and 3 Democrats in the affirmative, and 2 Republicans and 3 Democrats in the negative. On the 18th of April this bill came to a vote in the House, but by a union of Republican protectionists who oppose reduction on Cuban sugar, with Democrats who oppose protective tariffs, an amendment prejudicial to the sugar trust, reducing the tariff on refined sugars no matter whence imported, was first adopted, against the Republican majority (p. 44), by a vote of 199 to 105. The bill as so amended was then passed by 247 to 52. But the Senate committee refuses to recommend this House bill, the Republican majority having agreed upon the Spooner compromise bill which proposes a 20 per cent. re-

duction for five years. That was the situation when the President sent in his special message noted above.

It was hoped that the message would secure favorable action on the Spooner compromise, but that hope appears now to have been abandoned. Senator James K. Jones states the Democratic position when he says:

In my judgment there will be a solid Democratic vote against the Spooner bill as agreed to by the Republican members of the committee. If the Senate were given the chance to vote on the measure as it passed the House, including the striking off of the differential duty on refined sugar, then, I am sure, every Democrat would have been glad to vote for the bill. But that proposition has been eliminated by the action of the Republican managers.

As to the possibility of getting a majority from the Republican vote alone, the administration senators are reported as admitting that agreement is impossible. Mr. Wellman, the correspondent already quoted, who is friendly to the administration, writes in the same issue of the Chicago Record-Herald, June 18:

President Roosevelt has met with his first serious defeat. Cuban reciprocity is beaten. . . . Defeat for the President. That is what it is. An unmistakable defeat. He has failed to carry his party with him on the most important issue of his administration up to date. He has been slaughtered in the house of his friends. But it is a defeat for the party, too. It is a confession that the Republican party is so wedded to high protectionism that it can do nothing in the way of a revision or a reformation, however slight. Confronted by the conflicting demands of two greedy trusts—a sugar refining trust on one side and a sugar growing trust on the other—it could not choose between them. So it does nothing and "lets well enough alone." With a large majority in the House, and nearly two-thirds of the whole membership of the Senate, it is forced to admit its impotency.

This prediction was partly verified on the 18th, when at a Republican Senatorial caucus, 18 senators, under the lead of Senator Elkins, declared that they would not support the President's policy. Decisive action, however, was not taken, and the caucus adjourned until the 20th.

Nothing very definite in connection with the anthracite coal strike has transpired since our last report (p. 138), though the condition is evidently becoming more tense. As a

body the strikers are maintaining order and giving no occasion for police or military interference. The only aggressive movement on their part is a boycott, centering in Wilkesbarre, and directed at retail merchants, wholesalers and employees who lend their influence to the coal operators' interests. One factory, for instance, has closed down because the great majority of the employees refused to work with five who were relatives of non-union employees of the coal mines. A "citizens' union" has been formed in Wilkesbarre to prosecute the boycotters. But while the body of the strikers are keeping the peace, there are instances here and there of rioting. This is attributed to the "coal and iron police," a private police force employed and paid by the coal owners and under their orders, pursuant to a special law of the state. The companies began to recruit and arm this private force in May, before there were any indications of disorder. As early as May 29, over 1,600 had been commissioned, and within three days the number was doubled. Speaking of this force, President Mitchell, of the Mine Workers' union, was reported on the 4th as saying:

It is queer to see a lot of men, the majority of whom are absolutely irresponsible persons, garbed in the blue and brass of coal and iron police, stalking about the mines with guns on their arms, while the strikers have no thought of damaging the property of their employers. The power vested in the coal and iron police is not generally known. They are as much the private standing army of the operators as were the serfs of feudal barons. A ridiculous state law has made it possible for them, at such a time as this, to arm a mob of disreputable men, who will incite more trouble than they will prevent. In the strike two years ago these men actually visited the homes of strikers and compelled the poor, ignorant fellows by a show of authority and brass buttons to report to work at collieries against their will. The state fosters this system that might well shame the most tyrannical Russian laws.

Whether from irritation by this private police or other cause, some of the strikers appear from the reports to have become disorderly and riotous. Numerous instances are telegraphed of stoning nonunion workmen and shooting at "iron and coal" policemen by strikers or their sympathizers. In one case of shooting at Wilkesbarre the chief of the Wilkesbarre police made an investi-

gation and placed the blame on four of the guards employed by one of the collieries. On the 13th it was reported that peace then reigned throughout the anthracite region, and but little contrary to this has been reported since. The fifth week of the strike closed on the 14th, with 165,000 men and boys out. Some of the companies have begun eviction proceedings against their tenants who are on strike.

With a view to bringing the strike to a close, the New York Board of Trade requested President Roosevelt to appoint an arbitration committee to act under a law of Congress of 1888. The subject was discussed at a cabinet meeting on the 6th, when it was decided that the President could take no such action because the law in question had been repealed in 1898. But he directed the labor commissioner, Carroll D. Wright, to investigate the strike. Mr. Wright proceeded at once to make the investigation, and on the 12th delivered his report to the President. The nature of the report has not yet been disclosed.

Instead of coming to an early close, this strike now bids fair to extend so as to embrace all the coal mining interests of the country, bituminous as well as anthracite. As stated at page 119, enough organizations had united several weeks ago to compel President Mitchell to call a national conference of the United Mine Workers' Union of America to consider the question of a general strike. He has at length issued the call. The conference will meet at Indianapolis on the 17th of July. From present appearances the conference will have a majority of delegates in favor of striking.

Another strike, and one in which serious trouble has been reported, is that of the street car employees of Rhode Island (p. 140), which they are making against the companies to compel the latter to obey the 10-hour law of the state. The first acts of violence occurred on the 11th at Pawtucket, when a crowd attacked and demolished a car guarded by special deputy sheriffs. The governor thereupon sent a detachment of militia to Pawtucket, and on the 12th a car escorted by militia and guarded by special deputy sheriffs was bombarded by a mob with stones. The special deputies fired a volley in reply and

killed a boy of 12, who was in the crowd. It appears that the rioting was due primarily to the use of deputies. The mayor, following the successful example of the mayor of San Francisco (p. 56), had refused to man the cars with police, but the sheriff swore in employees of the company as special deputies and the governor supported them with militia. After the rioting of the 12th representations were made to the sheriff by citizens that the deputies accomplished no good purpose but only incited the crowds to violence, and on the 13th he withdrew them. The city became quiet immediately. But the militia remained, and disorder broke out anew on the 15th. In the course of the day the militia inadvertently invaded the neighboring city of Central Falls and threatened the inhabitants there, but withdrew upon the protest of the mayor who objected that he had not requested their services.

One of the great strikes has been settled, the victory being with the strikers. It is that of the International machinists in the Allis-Chalmers shop of Chicago, which was last referred to in these columns in vol. iv, at page 458. This strike was begun May 20, 1901, by the machinists of the United States and Canada. They demanded a nine-hour day with an increase of wages, 12½ per cent. (vol. iv, pp. 90, 105, etc.), sufficient to make the wages for nine hours the same as they had been for ten. In many shops settlements substantially on this basis were soon effected, but the Allis-Chalmers establishment held out. They had already conceded the nine-hour day, but were willing to increase wages only five per cent. So the strike dragged on for 13 months, with its long record of picketing, injunctions, assaults, etc., two persons having been killed, and was not settled until the 11th. In the settlement the employers have allowed a 55-hour week instead of a nine-hour day, have increased wages 11 per cent., and have recognized the union.

Once more it becomes necessary to report operations of the Mexican army against the Yaqui Indians. This Indian war, which began in the summer of 1899 (Vol. ii., No. 71 p. 8), is likely to culminate in the complete extermination of the Yaquis. The Yaquis are a remnant of the Aztec race. They live in the Mexican state