

total Socialist vote at this election was 1,558, the Republican candidate for mayor being elected over the Socialist by a plurality of 706.

In the Netherlands a great strike, the organization of which is promoted by Socialists as part of the evolutionary programme of socialism, has broken out. It began on the 6th, and is now reported to be a menace to the peace not only of Holland but even of Europe. For this reason it attracts more attention in Europe than does the advancing shadow of the Macedonian question.

This strike is the supplementary event to a 48-hour dockers' strike in Amsterdam last January, which in that brief time spread to the railways and resulted in cutting off Amsterdam from the rest of the world. The railway company was consequently compelled to concede the demands of the striking workmen. But as a result of the public inconvenience caused by the strike, a demand for legislation against all railway strikes was made, and in February the Kuyper ministry (Conservative) introduced three bills in the states general prohibiting such strikes. Bill number one provided for the organization of a railway brigade to run the railways in case of need; bill number two appointed a royal commission to settle railway grievances; bill number three forbade "public servants" to strike. The importance of the bill with regard to "public servants" will be appreciated when it is observed that of the 1,730 miles of railway in Holland 968 belong to the government. Even the independent roads, moreover, are said by the London Times to have such contracts with the government as to make them quasi-governmental enterprises. Upon the introduction of these bills into the states general the representatives of 50 labor organizations held a convention and appointed a "defense committee" composed of two representatives of the railroad employes, two of the boatmen's union, one of the national labor office, one of the Independent Socialist party, and one of the Social Democratic party. Pledges are said to have been made to this committee by all the labor unions that they would strike when the committee should so order.

According to Mr. Melchers, a well known Socialist member of the sec-

ond chamber of the states general, the ministry promised the Socialists that the antistrike bills should not be "rushed" through arbitrarily, but would be made a subject of constitutional deliberation in regular form; in consideration whereof, the labor "defense committee" promised to call no strike. But, says Mr. Melchers, "the ministry paid no heed to its promises, but essayed to place the workers under the heels of the soldiery and then to carry things in the chamber with a high hand." The irritation and doubt so caused seems to have been aggravated by an anti-workingman speech of Kuyper's in the chamber. For this reason a general strike on all land and water transportation systems in Holland was proclaimed on the 6th by the "defense committee," partly for better wages and partly to coerce the states general with reference to the anti-strike bills. The president of this committee explained on that day that the strike proclamation involves the entire railroad system and other land transport of Holland, and the water transport of the important ports—Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Dordrecht and Zaandam. The strike, he added, was intended as a protest against the anti-strike bills, as well as to support the demand of the railroad men for an increase of wages.

The strike proclamation was promptly obeyed. With the exception of a few through express trains, transportation was practically suspended on the 7th and the centers of population were threatened with famine. The government was striving to counteract the effects of the strike by the wholesale use of the military and of nonunion laborers, but thus far had accomplished little. Seventy per cent. of the total number of railway men were on strike, in addition to 3,000 men from the railway repair shops of the companies and other workmen who had struck in sympathy. The Dutch authorities had notified the Belgian government that they would not guarantee an international train service. Passengers on their way to Holland were turned back at Roosendaal and no mails were sent out of Holland. That country was practically cut off from the business world. The stress of this situation was increased on the 8th when the "defense committee" proclaimed a universal strike of all trades throughout Holland to go into effect on the 9th. Many workers did

not wait for the appointed hour, but struck at once.

At The Hague the states general resumed the discussion of the anti-strike bills on the 7th with a crowded chamber and the Socialist members all in their seats. The streets in the vicinity were occupied by dense crowds, but there were no disorders. Some headway in legislation had been made on the 8th, but amid a tumult of opposition from the Socialist members.

International complications are feared because Germany has offered to send troops into Holland to preserve order and protect the railways. The Emperor's excuse for this offer is the great business interests of Germany which the strike jeopardizes. This would be regarded by other European nations as an invasion, though invited by the Dutch government; and it is not probable that Holland and Germany would be quietly allowed to make an arrangement for such protection on their own account or without concert of action even if the Holland government were willing. The conviction is general that if the German Emperor ever got German troops into Holland they would never be withdrawn.

NEWS NOTES.

—The Cuban Congress assembled at Havana on the 6th. In his message President Palma reported \$2,638,000 in the treasury.

—Jefferson's birthday was celebrated at Des Moines on the 2d with a banquet, at which William J. Bryan and Adlai Stevenson were the principal speakers.

—Secretary Root and Senator Lodge spoke on the 2d at the annual dinner of the Home Market club, Boston, in opposition to revision of the protective tariff.

—Edward VII. of England arrived at Lisbon on the 2d on a five months' tour of the continent. He replied to addresses of welcome of the Portuguese parliament on the 3d.

—Col. Julian Santos, former aid-de-camp of the late Gen. San Miguel, the Filipino commander, and who participated in San Miguel's operations and was captured over a month ago by the Americans, was found guilty at Pasig on the 4th of brigandage, abduction and disarming the police at Novaliches. He has been sentenced to death upon this conviction.

—The monthly statement of the United States treasury department