

quest we have submitted. They have peremptorily refused to make any concessions whatever as to the scale adopted by the Shamokin convention or to make any change whatever in the hours of labor.

One more effort for arbitration was made by the miners. At the decisive meeting at Scranton of the executive boards of the anthracite districts, in whom the power to call a strike had been vested by the convention in March, a proposition was made on the 8th of May, and that day wired to the operators, that all questions at issue between the anthracite miners and the anthracite operators—

be submitted to an impartial board of arbitration, such board to be selected by the industrial branch of the National Civic Federation.

This proposition was declined by President Baer, of the Philadelphia & Reading company; Chairman Thomas, of the Erie company; President Truesdale, of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western, and President Olyphant, of the Delaware & Hudson. Other operators made no response.

On the 9th of May, therefore, President Mitchell issued a temporary strike order, at the same time reconvening another delegate convention of the anthracite districts, to meet at Hazleton, Pa., on the 14th, for the purpose of determining upon the advisability of making this temporary order permanent. The order opens with a report of the exhaustion of all conciliatory means at the command of the union officers and the failure to obtain any tangible concessions from the operators; and, after reciting the authority conferred by the Shamokin convention, it states that nevertheless the committees feel that the local unions should express themselves in delegate convention directly upon the question before a decisive general strike is ordered. The order then proceeds:

In the meantime all persons employed in or around the collieries, stripings, washeries and breakers are instructed to abstain temporarily from working, beginning with Monday, May 12, and continuing thereafter until a final decision is reached by a delegate convention, which will meet on Wednesday morning, May 14, at Hazleton, Pa. The basis of representation in this convention shall be one vote for each 100 members and one vote for each additional 100 members or majority fraction thereof. The executive committees recommend that special meetings

of all local unions be held on Monday afternoon, May 12, for the purpose of selecting delegates and considering the question involved, and it is especially recommended that specific instructions be given to delegates as to how they shall vote on the proposition to inaugurate a strike or continue work under present conditions. The instruction for all men to suspend work on Monday does not include firemen, engineers, pumpmen and other labor necessary to preserve the properties of the operators.

In obedience to this order approximately 140,000 men and boys quit work in the anthracite region on the 12th, and the delegate convention assembled at Hazleton on the 14th.

Before the strike order went into effect, but after it was issued, two lockouts were ordered by operators. One was ordered on the 11th by Coxe Bros. & Co., of the Beaver Meadow colliery, and the other on the same day by Calvin Pardee, Sons & Co., of the Latimer mines, both in the Hazleton region. But an unnamed official of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad, gave out on the 12th a statement in which he declared that his road would not declare a lockout. He said:

We do not intend to irritate the men, and the other companies are of the same mind. Nothing will be done before Wednesday. The situation is in the hands of the miners. After Wednesday it will be in our hands. We appreciate the fact that John Mitchell does not want a strike. Neither do the companies, despite what has been said to the contrary. While we do not want a fight, we will give the men all the fight they desire if they decide that there is to be one.

Next in interest, if not in importance, to the anthracite coal strike, is the prosecution of the Chicago meat packers by the Federal government, for violation of the Sherman anti-trust law. Owing to the high prices of meats there has been an outcry especially against the packers' combination, and for several weeks the attorney general has been reported as making preparations for legal proceedings. He caused such proceedings to be formally begun at Chicago, in the circuit court of the United States for the Northern district of Illinois on the 10th. A bill was then filed by the United States attorney for an injunction. The bill charges that the packers are engaged in interstate and foreign commerce; that they represent 60 per cent. of the fresh meat trade; that in order

to restrain competition among themselves as to the purchase of live stock they have formed a combination to refrain from bidding against each other in good faith, and also to manipulate prices by making them high so as to induce large shipments and then low so as to obtain these shipments at unfair prices; that in order to restrain competition among themselves as to their products they have combined to raise and lower prices arbitrarily; and that for like purposes they have combined to make secret agreements with railroad companies for reduced rates of transportation not allowed to others. Notice of a motion for a preliminary injunction has been given by the United States, in which the hearing is set for the 20th.

In American politics the only event of the week of possible interest is the meeting of the Republican state convention of Illinois. After a complex and bitter fight at the delegate primaries the convention met at Springfield on the 8th. It fell completely and undisguisedly under the dictation of the faction organized by William Lorimer, the Republican "boss" of Chicago, whose prominent object was to nominate Congressman A. J. Hopkins for U. S. Senator to succeed Wm. E. Mason. The test vote, brought out by a parliamentary question, was 937½ to 561½. It was around the issue of the senatorship that the faction fight had raged; and, so far as a party convention can decide such a question, it was decided in favor of Mr. Hopkins, who was named by the convention as the party's choice for that office by a vote of 1,015½ to 492½. But Senator Mason publicly declares that Mr. Hopkins must fight for the seat to the end. Referring to Gov. Yates, who has cooperated with Lorimer, Mr. Mason said, as reported in the Chicago Tribune of the 10th:

Yates and his henchmen descended even to the corrupt tactics of South Carolina politics to secure representation at the so-called Republican state convention. I will prove this, too, and then let citizens of Illinois decide whether they will countenance the methods of this crowd of political highwaymen. That the convention was not a representative Republican convention I propose to show by giving in detail the counties that were controlled by the ballot box stuffing, and to show, also, the counties where boodle was used to secure the procuring of instructions.