

patches, "the members of the majority and the newspapers show much apprehension regarding the political capital that the Socialists are making out of these wrangles. The royalists have evidently been impressed, for on the 5th the emperor, addressing a deputation of workmen which had waited upon him without any reported reason, bitterly denounced the Socialists.

In the French parliament a riot occurred on the 6th, growing out of a verbal attack on the ministry. After a recess, two members were called upon to apologize for unparliamentary conduct, and refusing to do so were suspended and removed from the chamber. One was a Nationalist and the other a Socialist.

The French maritime strike at Marseilles (p. 552) has not weakened, but has rather grown stronger. Its object is an eight-hour day with increased wages. Among the strikers are men on the "maritime registers," who are subject to the order of the minister of commerce until at a given age they are discharged upon a government pension.

Following the resignation from the Spanish cabinet (p. 553) of the prime minister, Sagasta, the whole cabinet resigned on the 3d; and on the 6th King Alfonso called upon Senor Silvela to form a new one. No report of his success has yet been published.

One great fact in the news of the week relates to the industrial arts. The huge dam in Egypt, across the Nile at Assouan, 600 miles above Cairo, has been completed. It was built by Sir John Aird according to plans furnished by Sir Benjamin Baker, at a cost of \$125,000,000. The first stone was laid in February, 1899. The object of this enterprise is to collect water for distribution in the irrigation of the Nile valley during the season when the regular flow of the river is low. The capacity of the reserve reservoir is considerably more than 1,300,000,000 cubic yards of water, enough to irrigate a tract along the banks of the river 50 miles wide during the whole annual period of low water.

But industrial news of every kind is hardly so pleasant to read, as one may see by a glance at the reports of testimony before the arbitration

commission, in the matter of the Pennsylvania coal strike. The hearing has been in progress since the 3d (p. 553), with the effect of disclosing most oppressive conditions in connection with the anthracite mining industry. An employe of the Markle mines testified that he had been paid his wages in money only once in 17 years, all his earnings with that exception having been exhausted in advance by the company's store. A boy of 12 employed in the same mines, whose father had been killed in them, proved that his wages were four cents an hour and that even this pittance was withheld on account of an old debt of his father's. His mother kept nine boarders in a four-room house. Two women told how the Markle company deducted house rent from the last wages of their husbands, who were killed in the mines, and said that children had to work out the debts of their dead fathers. One witness explained that the ten per cent. wages increase of 1900 was not in fact an increase, because it was charged off against reduced rates charged by the operators for powder, which were still higher than powder could be bought for of outside dealers. A grocer testified that the prices for groceries had increased from 15 to 78 per cent. in the past two years, and that the average was about 30 per cent. He said that the cost for necessities for a family was \$17.61 a month two years ago, whereas it is \$22.94 for the same articles now. Notwithstanding the increase in wages, therefore, the ability of the miners to pay their grocery bills has not increased. A woman testified on the 9th that her husband had been killed in the Markle mines 14 years ago, and that since then neither she nor her children had received any cash for their work for the company. Their earnings were credited to an old debt of her husband's, and it took 13 years to pay it off with the work of herself and children. A miner who had worked in the Markle mines for 19 years, living in one of the company houses, and whose skull had been fractured, one of his eyes put out and one of his legs broken while at his work, told of his recent eviction by the company. Collections that had been taken up for him were appropriated by the company and credited to his account. He got none of the money. When the company evicted him, his family were put out in the rain, and from the effects of her rough treatment his wife has since died. Other testimony of the same

general character was given, and several witnesses have testified to being blacklisted. Two testified to an attempt to break the strike by means of bribing labor leaders.

The movement for municipal ownership and operation of municipal monopolies in Chicago (p. 487) has reached the stage of a bill prepared by the committee of aldermen and citizens appointed by Mayor Harrison several months ago. This committee consists of Aldermen Finn, Herrman, Dunn and Dougherty, and Gen. Lieb, A. M. Lawrence, D. L. Cruice, E. O. Brown and Judge Dunne. The bill they propose would authorize any city in the State to own, construct, acquire, lease, license, maintain and operate street railways, or to own the same without operating; and would permit the ownership and operation of street railways in contiguous territory outside the city limits, but within the county, provided the consent of the corporate authorities in such contiguous territory has been obtained. Before attempting to exercise the proposed power, however, any city desiring to avail itself of the provisions of the act must first pass an ordinance directing that the proposition be submitted to the people at a special or municipal election not less than 30 days after the passage of the ordinance. The council would not be compelled to pass such an ordinance unless ten per cent. of the legal voters of the city petitioned for it. In that event the council must act not later than the fourth meeting after the petition has been filed with the city clerk. The bill provides for the publication of the ordinance, and the submission of the question of its adoption on a separate ballot. If a majority of the voters favor the ordinance the judge of the county court is required to proclaim the adoption of the act. After the adoption of the act a petition of ten per cent. of the legal voters of the city, asking that the necessary steps be taken to own or operate a street railway system, makes it the duty of the city council to call an election at which shall be submitted the proposition of the ownership or operation of that street railway system. If this is voted on affirmatively the city council must then proceed to acquire the street railway. In order to pay for it the bill authorizes the city to issue certificates or bonds, limited in their payment solely to the street railway fund provided for. The bonds must

be made payable in not to exceed 30 years and bear interest not exceeding six per cent. Provision is made that when the bonds are issued a sum of money shall annually be set aside out of the revenues of the street railway sufficient to pay the interest and the bonds when they become due; that this money shall be a separate fund to be used solely for the payment of interest and principal of the bonds; and that the entire proceeds of the street railway system shall be paid into a "street railway fund," to be used for maintenance, operation, construction and improvement, and for the payment of interest and principal of the bonds. When the bonds have been paid any surplus shall be used in such manner as the council may direct. To secure the bonds the city is authorized to execute a trust deed or mortgage conveying the street railway property to be acquired for the benefit of the bondholders. The bill provides for foreclosing in default of the payment of interest or principal as in the case of other trust deeds or mortgages. It is provided that no bonds shall be issued until authorized by the legal voters of the city, to whom the proposition shall be submitted at a general or special election. Another section of the bill authorizes the city owning a street railway to lease it to any private corporation, and prescribes the conditions of the lease. Still another section authorizes the mayor to appoint, subject to the confirmation of the city council, a street railway commissioner or commissioner to manage and control the street railways owned and operated by the city. Provision is made that all agents and employes engaged in the operation of the street railways shall be subject to the civil service laws in force in the city. Eight hours are made a day's work. All work done in connection with the street railway exceeding \$500 in cost is required to be let to the lowest bidder, but the council is authorized by a two-thirds vote to do the work by day labor.

NEWS NOTES.

—Thomas B. Reed, former speaker of the House of Representatives, died at Washington on the 7th.

—The Rev. Thos. F. McGrady, a Catholic priest of Bellevue, Ky., and a socialist writer, has announced his retirement from the church.

—Thomas Nast, American consul general at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and once famous as a cartoonist, died at Guayaquil of yellow fever on the 7th.

—According to the official reports the vote in Colorado on the Bucklin amendment (p. 548) was as follows:

	For.	Against.
1st section (home rule).....	32,710	72,370
2nd section (legislative power).....	31,527	69,341

—Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer, for many years president of Wellesley College and more recently dean of graduate women in the University of Chicago, died suddenly in Paris on the 6th.

—The annual meeting of the industrial department of the National Civic Federation was held in New York on the 8th. Mayor Low made an address of welcome, and Senator Hanna, as chairman, called the meeting to order.

—By a typographical error in this department last week (p. 553), "Siam" was turned into "Spain" in an item in which it was intended to say that "the gold standard has been adopted by Siam and the mints closed to the free coinage of silver."

—General parliamentary elections took place in New Zealand late in November. One of the prominent members to be returned is George Fowlds. He was elected to the late parliament in spite of his being a well known single tax man; this time he was elected as a declared single tax candidate.

—Frederick W. Job, for the last eighteen months chairman of the Illinois board of arbitration, resigned that office on the 8th, to accept the secretaryship of the Employers' Association of Chicago, a combination of employers recently formed for the purpose of dealing directly with employes through its secretary.

—The National Reciprocity league met at Detroit on the 10th, when it was addressed by Gov. Cummins, of Iowa, author of "the Iowa idea." There were several other speakers, including John Charlton, for many years a member of the Canadian parliament, who spoke on reciprocity from the Canadian point of view.

—The Socialist candidate for mayor of Brockton, Mass., Charles H. Coulter, was elected at the recent municipal elections by a vote of 4,367 to 3,267 for the Republican candidate, and 533 for the Democratic. The Socialists also elected three out of the seven aldermen, and two out of the three members of the school committee. One of the latter is a woman.

—The mayor of Denver and eleven aldermen of Denver, arrested on the 18th of November (p. 522) for contempt of court in extending a street car franchise against an injunction, were sentenced by Judge John I. Mullins on the 6th to imprisonment in the county jail without the alternative of a fine. Time was allowed to perfect an appeal to the Supreme Court of the State.

—Distress in London among the unskilled poor is reported by cable to be

keener than it has been for ten years. Thousands of unemployed men are walking the streets, their families starving; and relief measures, though liberally taken, serve but to show how widespread and acute is the pinch of extreme poverty. The Board of Trade returns estimate that not less than 500,000 people are thus suffering throughout the United Kingdom. The proportion of skilled men without employment also is steadily growing.

PRESS OPINIONS.

ANTHRACITE REVELATIONS.

Chicago Evening Post (Rep.), Dec. 10.—If this is a specimen of the best of "Christian" management in the anthracite fields, what may we look for among the others? Truly, "it is enough" to warrant the present investigation, the miners' union, anything and everything the men can do, legally, to better conditions which would have made the old slaveholders of the South blush.

THE LATE SPEAKER REED.

Johnstown (Pa.) Daily Democrat (Dem.), Dec. 9.—Thomas Brackett Reed missed the opportunity to be really great when he broke with his conscience rather than break with his party. He was profoundly at variance from his party when it set out upon its wild career of imperialism. He lost no opportunity to puncture the false pretense with which McKinley and Hay and the rest sought to cloak their betrayal of a trust and their usurpation of power. He tore the mask of hypocrisy from the canting evangelism which thundered its message with 13-inch guns and which wrote its gospel of liberty in the blood of the little brown men who had listened unwisely to its pious professions. But when it came to the rub, Mr. Reed was not equal to the call upon his courage and his patriotism.

Duluth News Tribune (Rep.), Dec. 8.—The character of Thomas B. Reed had many admirable features. He never posed or pretended. His integrity was above suspicion, and it was never claimed that he had used his great power for private ends.

THE SOCIALIST PARTY.

Milwaukee Daily News (Dem.), Dec. 9.—The assumption that the Socialist party appeals alone to the foreign born voters is hardly borne out by the election returns, although it is quite true that until recently the socialist propaganda in the United States has been carried on largely by German socialists. Since the party has taken the aggressive and occupied the field left vacant by the Populist party, it has drawn within its membership all classes and conditions of men—one of its most conspicuous champions being a millionaire and a Harvard graduate.

Pittsburg Post (Dem.), Dec. 7.—In the United States allusion is made to the increase of votes developed by socialists at the recent election. The fact is probably nothing more than an exhibition of the tendency of the protesting voter to voice his objections to existing conditions, and of the idea that the great parties do not proffer means of amelioration. It is not to be feared that substantial strength will be attained.

NEGRO DISFRANCHISEMENT.

The Commoner (Dem.), Dec. 5.—The Courier-Journal warns the President against attempting to pass the Crumpacker bill which would lessen the suffrage of the South where the blacks have been excluded by suffrage qualifications. The