

rate of \$1.50; but upon examination they appear to involve a deduction from the proposed ten per cent. increase by the amount of the proposed reduction in the price of powder. To ascertain the sentiment of the strikers regarding these offers, and also to enable them to decide for themselves, the officers of the United Mine Workers of America, under whose authority the strike was begun, have called a delegate convention of the strikers to meet at Scranton on the 12th, with one delegate to each 100 strikers as the basis of representation. This is a new departure in strike methods. As President Mitchell said in a speech to an immense mass meeting of strikers on the 9th at Shamokin—

Every other strike that has taken place in the anthracite region has been declared off by your officers. Heretofore when men went on strike they remained out for a time and then the chief executive or the executive board declared the strike off without consulting the wishes of the strikers. I want to say, as I have said before, that this strike will never end until the miners, through delegates in convention, end it for themselves. We have called a convention, and you men are invited to send delegates there. You are invited to pass judgment on the operators' proposition. If you believe that they act in good faith; if you believe ten per cent. to be enough; if you believe that they will pay the ten per cent. for a year, then you must decide whether to return to work. On the other hand, if you reject the offer and continue on strike, John Mitchell will be there to help you do it. I do not expect that this one strike will eradicate all the wrongs from which you suffer. I do not believe that the accumulation of 40 years of injustice can be wiped out at once, but I do believe that you have established an organization here that, with each succeeding year, will give you improved conditions of employment.

Another feature of the labor situation is the continued resumption (see page 407) of work by steel and metal mills, after periods of idleness; at a general reduction of wages. The wage reduction in most mills averages 20 per cent. Among the plants so to resume during the current week were the American Tin Plate company, of Pittsburgh, which employs 35,000 men; also the Susquehanna Iron and Steel company, and some of the mills of the Illinois Steel company's plant at Joliet. In the iron plants owned by the Reading company,

which controls the Philadelphia & Reading Railway company, and the Reading Coal and Iron company, the wages of puddlers has been reduced from four dollars per ton to three dollars. Yet the annual report of this company, just published, makes the most profitable showing of recent years. After paying all expenses and demands there remains an undivided surplus of \$1,938,000. The revenue from coal alone is 12 per cent. larger than that of the previous year.

Except as these evidences of depression in connection with the labor interests of the country have their bearing, nothing of importance is to be noted in American politics for the week, beyond the concluding proceedings of the convention of democratic clubs at Indianapolis, the opening of which was reported last week. The great day of the convention was the 4th, when Mr. Bryan spoke. He was followed by Bourke Cockran, Mr. Stevenson, and Bishop Turner, the colored minister to Liberia under Grant. Gov. McMillin, of Tennessee, presided, and the following permanent officers were elected: President, W. R. Hearst; secretary, Max T. Ihmsen; treasurer, Marcus Daly.

In England the parliamentary voting mentioned last week is still in progress, and the number of votes thus far cast is enormously in excess of the number at the last preceding general election, 1895. On the 6th the Tories had polled 4 per cent. and the liberals 29 per cent. more than their respective votes of that year. Among the great liberals reelected is John Morley, who defeated a "liberal-jingo" adversary in Scotland with a vote of 3,960 to 2,390. Out of the 670 seats to be filled the polling is now (October 10) complete for 562, with the following results:

Ministerialists .....	357
Opposition .....	205
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>562</b>

And still the fighting goes on in the Transvaal. There are skirmishes daily. On the 8th a London dispatch told of the retreat of a body of 4,000 to 5,000 Boers from Pilgrim's Rest, near the Portuguese border; and one from Aliwal North, Cape Colony, reported the Boer general Dewet to be in the Orange Free State about 70 miles north of that place. The lat-

ter dispatch was confirmed by the Associated Press from London on the 10th, which quoted from the London Times a report of a three days' fight, October 5 and 7 both inclusive, with Gen. Dewet and his force of 1,000 men and five guns in the Orange Free State mountains near Vredefort. According to the Times, Dewet was dislodged and his force demoralized and dispersed.

The presbytery of the Dutch Reformed church, in session at Cape Town on the 5th, adopted a resolution, by a vote of 23 to 4, which strongly condemns the British policy in South Africa.

In the Philippines as well as South Africa the war goes on, the Americans finding it even more difficult to subjugate the Filipinos than do the British to subjugate the Boers. Confirmation has been received of the capture reported last week of Capt. Shields's command by the Filipinos on the island of Marinduque, but details are still lacking. Reinforcements consisting of 12 full companies of infantry were sent to Marinduque by Gen. MacArthur on the 4th, under Gen. Hare, with orders, says MacArthur in his official report, "to push operations until insurrection is stamped out absolutely." This was in addition to the two companies sent out under Col. Anderson as reinforcements, with orders, as reported last week, to "move relentlessly until Shields and party were rescued."

American casualties since July 1, 1898, inclusive of all current official reports given out in detail at Washington to October 10, 1900, are as follows:

Deaths to May 16, 1900 (see page 91) .....	1,847
Killed reported since May 16, 1900..	84
Deaths from wounds, disease and accidents reported since May 16, 1900 .....	441
<b>Total deaths since July 1, 1898...</b>	<b>2,372</b>
Wounded .....	2,290
Captured .....	10
<b>Total casualties since July 1, 1898.</b>	<b>4,672</b>
Total casualties reported last week .....	4,633
Total deaths reported last week..	2,339

Substantial progress appears to have been made with the Chinese question. On the 2d a Chinese edict, issued on the 25th of last month at Tai Yuen, capital of the province of

Shansi, was published at Peking in the name of the emperor. It decrees the stripping of Prince Tuan and Prince Chung of the insignia of their rank, and their consignment with Kang Yi, Chao Shu Chiao and four others to a board of deliberation to decide on their punishment. Prince Tuan is the father of the recently selected heir apparent to the throne, and is said to be the supreme chief of the Boxers. Kang Yi is grand secretary of the empire, and Chao Shu Chiao is president of the board of punishments. The edict concludes with the hope that the punishment of these ministers for betrayal of their trust may be accepted as a proper atonement.

The German government made the foregoing Chinese edict the basis on the 2d of a diplomatic note to the powers, published on the 4th, in which, after referring to the edict as "the first sign toward a practical basis for the reestablishment of an orderly state of things in China," it was proposed—

that the powers come to an agreement to instruct their diplomatic representatives in China to examine and give their opinion on the following points: (1) Whether the list contained in the edict of persons to be punished is sufficient and correct. (2) Whether the punishments proposed meet the case. (3) In what way the powers can control the carrying out of the penalties imposed.

This note is regarded as a substitute for that given out September 18 and published at page 378.

To the German note quoted from above, the United States replied on the 3d in a note given out on the 4th, in which it was explained that the American government is disposed to regard the Chinese edict—

as a proof of the desire of the imperial Chinese government to satisfy the reasonable demands of the foreign powers for the injury and outrage which their legations and their nationals have suffered at the hands of evil-disposed persons in China; although it has been thought well, in view of the vagueness of the edict in regard to the punishment which some of the implicated persons are to receive to signify to the Chinese minister the president's view that it would be most regrettable if Prince Tuan, who appears from the concurring testimony of the legations in Peking to have been one of the foremost in the proceedings complained of, should escape such full measure of exemplary punishment as the facts warrant, or

if Kang-Yi and Chao-Shu-Chiao should receive other than their just deserts. With a view to forming a judgment on these points, the United States minister in Peking has been instructed to report whether the edict completely names the persons deserving chastisement; whether punishments proposed accord with the gravity of the crimes committed, and in what manner the United States and the other powers are to be assured that satisfactory punishment is to be inflicted. It is hoped that Mr. Conger's replies to these interrogatories will confirm the government of the United States in the opinion which it now shares with the imperial German government that the edict in question is an important initial step in the direction of peace and order in China.

Great Britain also is understood to have accepted Germany's latest proposal.

The French programme—not based upon the Chinese edict, however—and in which Russia concurs, is as follows:

(1) The punishment of the principal culprits, who will be designated by the representatives of the powers at Peking. (2) The maintenance of the prohibition of the import of arms. (3) Equitable indemnities to states, societies and individuals. (4) The formation of a permanent guard for Peking legations. (5) The dismantlement of the fortifications. (6) Military occupation of two or three points on the road from Tientsin to Peking, which would thus be always open to the legations wishing to go to the sea or to forces proceeding to Peking from the sea.

Notwithstanding these negotiations, there are fitful reports of actual fighting in China. One dispatch this week tells of an attempt by the Chinese fleet in Formosa strait to engage a Russian armored cruiser, and another describes a battle between a German force and 8,000 Chinese on the 5th a few miles south of Tientsin.

Count von Walderssee, the German field marshal, whom the powers have agreed to accept as commander in chief of the allies in China, has arrived at Peking and assumed command.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—John P. Crichton-Stuart, marquis of Bute, died at his seat in Ayreshire on the 9th from paralysis. He was 73 years old.

—Telegraphic communication between Alaska and the outside world was opened on the 3d by a line which extends from Seattle to Skaguay.

—Parliamentary elections through-

out Canada will take place on November 7, the dominion parliament having been dissolved by a proclamation of the cabinet on the 9th.

—Four persons were killed during the political riots which took place in Guayama, Porto Rico, on the 8th, between members of the two recently formed federal and republican parties.

—The Chicago Teachers' federation, in the name of Miss Catherine Goggin, on the 8th brought a mandamus suit to enforce the assessment of the capital stock of several great semi-public corporations of the city for taxation. The amount heretofore untaxed exceeds \$200,000,000.

—Gov. Pingree, of Michigan, on the 5th issued a call for a special session of the legislature of that state which convened on the 10th, for the purpose of enacting a new law to regulate taxation and to consider the question of the repeal of special charters to railroad and other corporations.

—Political interest in Hawaii has been aroused by the nominations, on September 26 as delegates in congress of Sam Parker by the republican party, which represents the moneyed interests in the islands, and of Prince David Kawanakoa by the democrats, who represent the native home rule element.

—In his comic play, "A Modern Robinson Crusoe," with which Roland Reed is starring, Sydney Rosenfeld has succeeded in putting upon the stage a genuinely dramatic, yet economically sound, representation of the elementary principles of political economy. His dramatic materials are conventional, while his economic method is new; and the lesson loses no force in the succession of funny incidents which characterize the performance from the start. Though the play is not exactly a Henry George lecture—it is no lecture at all, but teaches by incident and not by precept—it would nevertheless be highly appreciated by George if he were alive.

—The noonday and evening meetings of the Henry George Bryan and Stevenson club of Chicago have proved exceedingly popular. During the past week many prominent speakers from all sections of the country have addressed the club, among them being ex-Gov. Hogg, of Texas; James R. Sovereign, of Arkansas; F. A. Hood, of Chattanooga, Tenn.; W. H. Berry, of Chester, Pa.; Capt. W. P. Black, Clarence Darrow, James R. Todd, Congressman George P. Foster, W. J. Strong, Louis F. Post, John Z. White, Herman Kuehn, Edward Osgood Brown, H. L. Bliss, George A. Schilling, F. H. Wenworth, Charles H. Mitchell, and others, of Chicago. The meetings will be continued until the day preceding the election.

—Arrangements have been completed for a summer school in radical econom-