

tle whether unionism is to stand or fall.

It was nearly a week, however, before the call for a general strike appeared. On the 8th it was sent to the Amalgamated association's vice presidents of all the districts in which there are mills owned and operated by the steel trust, and to the officials of the constituent organizations in the mills. Following is the text of the strike call:

Brethren: The officials of the United States steel trust have refused to recognize as union men those who are now striking for the right to organize. The executive board has authorized me to issue a call upon all Amalgamated and other union men in name and heart to join in the movement to fight for labor's rights. We must fight or give up forever our personal liberties. You will be told that you have signed contracts, but you never agreed to surrender those contracts to the United States Steel corporation. Its officers think you were sold to them just as the mills were, contracts and all. Remember, before you agreed to any contract you took an obligation to the Amalgamated association. It now calls you to help in this hour of need. Unless the trouble is settled on or before Saturday, August 10, 1901, the mills will close when the last turn is made on that day. Brethren, this is the call to preserve our organization. We trust you and need you. Come and help us, and may right come to a just cause. Fraternalty yours.

The call bears the simple signature of T. J. Shaffer, without other official designation than the word "president." Unless, therefore, a settlement is made during the present week, which is not at all probable, the strike now estimated to comprise 50,000 men, will extend to over 200,000 after the 10th.

The industrial war in the United States has a sanguinary counterpart in two civil wars in South America—one in Venezuela and the other in Colombia. Our last report of these wars (vol. iii. p. 682) was made last winter. They appear to be raging still. The Venezuelan president, Castro, has caused a disruption in his cabinet by insisting upon recognizing the Colombian rebels as belligerents, and sending home the Colombian minister. The reason he urges is that the government in power in Colombia is responsible for irregular invasions from Colombia over the Venezuelan frontier. But Castro's secretary of

war, Senor Pulido, resisting Castro's policy on the ground that the invasions are not encouraged by the Colombian government but are carried on in defiance of it by Colombian rebels, has resigned. His successor is Senor Guerra, a well-known military leader of Venezuela. There is no further definite information, but it is inferred that the two countries are upon the eve of international war. Meanwhile, not only is the rebellion in Colombia still in progress, but that in Venezuela has revived. Its leader now is Gen. Carlos Rangel Garbiras, at one time president of the Venezuelan senate. But he raises the banner of Gen. Hernandez, under whom the rebellion against Castro was begun at the time of Castro's accession to the presidency upon the success of the rebellion of 1899, which was led by Castro and Hernandez against President Andrade (see The Public, No. 85, page 8, and vol. iii., p. 153). Gen. Garbiras having crossed the frontier from Colombia, a battle occurred on the 4th between his force (said by President Castro to be supported by 22 battalions of Colombian troops), and the Venezuelan army. President Castro claims a victory. About the same time a series of engagements was reported to have taken place in May between the Colombian rebels and Colombian troops. All the reports on this entire subject are vague, and until further news is received no clear explanation of the situation is possible. The indefinite news is due in part to a Venezuelan censorship, Castro having proclaimed military law throughout Venezuela.

No news of permanent value, other than the foregoing, is reported through the regular news channels; but the socialist papers give extended reports of the socialist convention at Indianapolis, which closed its sessions on the 1st. These reports do not differ materially from the one appearing in these columns last week, which closed with the proceedings of the 31st. On the 1st the unification resolution was adopted. It is as follows:

Resolved, That the social democratic party, with headquarters at Springfield, Mass.; the social democratic party, with headquarters at Chicago; the socialist party of the state of Texas; the socialist parties of the states of Kentucky, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska, hereby surrender their separate and independent existence and

merge and amalgamate into one organization.

The name of the unified party is the "Socialist Party." It amalgamates all the socialist parties of the country except the Socialist Labor party, which is the original organization.

NEWS NOTES.

—Rear Admiral Henry L. Howison has been appointed to the place on the Schley court of inquiry made vacant by the request (p. 265) of Rear Admiral Kimberly to be excused.

—Dowager Empress Frederick of Germany, eldest child of Queen Victoria of England, and mother of the emperor of Germany, died at Cronberg on the 5th, at the age of 60 years.

—The Iowa republican convention, held at Cedar Rapids on the 7th, nominated A. B. Cummins, of Des Moines, for governor—860 to 780. His nomination was a defeat for the faction hitherto dominating the party.

—The British house of lords decided on the 5th, in a case on appeal before it, that a boycott by a labor organization against an employer to compel the dismissal of a nonunion employe is actionable because its object is not to benefit organized workmen, but to injure a nonunionist.

—Admirers of Herbert S. Bigelow, pastor of the Vine Street Congregational church, Cincinnati, and a lecturer and orator of distinguished ability and national reputation, are organizing a fund to place his services more freely at the disposal of the radical democracy. A pledge of \$100 for every additional \$100 raised has been secured to start with.

MISCELLANY

ABOLISH MONOPOLY.

Why hesitate? Ye are full-bearded men.
With God-implanted will, and courage, if
Ye dare but show it. Never yet was will
But found some way or means to work it
out,
Nor e'er did fortune frown on him who
dared.

Shall we in presence of this grievous
wrong,
In this supremest moment of all time,
Stand trembling, cowering, when with one
bold stroke
These groaning millions might be ever
free?
And that one stroke, so just, so greatly
good,
So level with the happiness of man,
That all the angels will applaud the deed.
—E. R. Taylor.

THE LARGEST SHIP IN THE WORLD.

To say that she is 700 feet long, with a beam of 75 feet