

reported officially that "the country on the east coast, between Rolmrock and Georgetown, was apparently struck and devastated in a similar manner to St. Pierre," all living things within that radius having probably been destroyed. Dead to the number of 1,000 had been found and buried, and probably 1,600 persons all told had been killed, including "the managers and owners of estates with their families and several of the better class of people." There were 160 persons in the Georgetown hospital, of whom 6 might recover. The governor found the details of the catastrophe "too harrowing to describe." From other dispatches it appears that a heavy explosion occurred at the volcano Soufriere on the 5th, and that on the 8th two craters belched forth smoke and stones and poured down the sides of the mountain six streams of molten lava. The entire northern end of the island is described as cut off from the southern end by an enormous lava river.

Farther northward in this chain of islands which separates the Atlantic ocean from the Caribbean sea, a deadly eruption of political instead of physical origin is in progress. This outbreak is in the Negro republic of Haiti, the western neighbor of San Domingo, where a revolution was last week reported (p. 72) to have overturned the government. By the constitution of Haiti, the executive authority of the republic is vested in a president elected for seven years. Since 1896 the president has been Gen. Tiresias Simon Sam, a Negro of full blood, nearly 70 years of age, whose family history blends prominently with the history of the republic. Early in March the development of a revolutionary conspiracy was reported, but no indication of its cause appears except in so far as it may have been against President Sam personally. To counteract the revolutionary movement several persons charged with conspiracy were imprisoned on the 19th of March, among them being two of the most prominent men in the republic, Supreme Court Justice Bourjolly and Gen. Destouche. To escape these wholesale arrests large numbers of Haytiens sought refuge in Jamaica. Early in April, nevertheless, the revolutionary movement had advanced to the stage of civil war on the south coast, where a body of revolutionists under Gen. Baptiste attacked and captured Jacmel on the 5th and released the state prisoners incarcerated there.

Gen. Baptiste retired the next day to the mountains, taking with him all the arms and ammunition he could obtain; but he was pursued by government troops, his force was overcome in battle at Fonds Melon, near Jacmel, and being himself captured he was immediately shot. At this point there was a lull in Haytien news. But on the 8th of Maya dispatch from Port-au-Prince, the capital of the republic, announced the resignation of President Sam, but gave no reason for it. Congress met on the 12th to fill the presidential vacancy. The legislative chambers were packed with troops which the government refused to remove, explaining that they were necessary for the protection of the congress in its deliberations. The cry of "revolution" and "to arms" was then raised from the floor and the body dissolved in confusion, street fighting following immediately. Several factions were trying to get into power, and ex-President Boisrond Canal succeeded in getting possession of the arsenal and control of the troops and within 24 hours had set up a provisional government; but he has not yet got what the dispatches call "control of the situation." On the 13th the dispatches ignored his government and reported that Gen. Firman, formerly Haytien minister to France, was marching on Port-au-Prince, having been put forward as president by the north and northwest; while on the 14th they stated that the admiral of the Haytien fleet had declared for Gen. Firman and was about to put the fleet at his disposal. A battle was at this time imminent. Ex-President Sam has embarked for France, and all his political prisoners have been released and his exiles are returning.

Cuba, the larger western neighbor of Haiti, is in readiness for the limited independence to be conferred upon her (p. 72). The president-elect, Gen. Palma, terminated a tour of the island on the 11th at Havana. Upon his arrival the Cuban flag was raised over Moro Castle by Gen. Wood. The house of representatives has agreed upon its credentials and is prepared for business when the United States shall have given the signal on the 20th. It is reported from Washington that the state department has decided that the government will not announce the birth of the Cuban republic by proclamation, but will send identical notices to all United States ambassadors and ministers abroad

that "the military occupation by the United States of the island has ceased and that Gen. Palma has been duly installed at the head of a new government of the island of Cuba." According to the same reports, there will be no invitation on the part of the United States to the nations to recognize the new republic, but it is expected that they will take notice themselves of the fact that the United States has recognized it by sending to the island a minister resident and staff of legation and consuls, and it is not doubted that this example will be followed.

In the United States itself, the most important news of the week is the beginning of another great anthracite coal miners' strike (see vol. iii., p. 472)—involving in round numbers 150,000 miners. These miners were represented in a convention at Shamokin, Pa., on the 18th of March last by 600 delegates from districts 1, 7 and 9 of the United Mine Workers of America. President John Mitchell, of the general organization, presided. The convention had been called to deliberate upon the refusal of the anthracite coal operators to confer with the officers of the union on subjects relating to the interests of the workmen. It adopted resolutions on the 20th demanding an eight-hour day and the recognition of miners' committees; and on the 24th it declared for a strike to take effect on a day to be fixed by the district executive boards, provided a final effort at arbitration with the operators through the reconciliation committee of the industrial department of the National Civic Federation, of which Senator Hanna is chairman, proved unavailing.

Messages were accordingly sent to Senator Hanna, and he called a meeting for the 26th. After hearing the miners on that day, the committee appointed a subcommittee of three, with Mr. Hanna as chairman, to get into communication with the operators. Presidents of four of the coal-carrying roads consequently met with the principal committee and the miners' representatives the following day, when it was agreed that no strike should be declared for 30 days. Negotiations proceeded slowly, but on the 3d of May Mr. Mitchell published a statement declaring that—the members of our executive committee and the Civic Federation have done their utmost to bring about a settlement with the operators. It has been found utterly useless. The railway presidents have rejected every re-

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.