

bill declaring the necessity, providing fully and in detail the occasions, modes, conditions and agencies for said appropriation that will fully and completely exhaust the power of Congress in that regard.

Mr. Jenkins is described as a good constitutional lawyer, and as explaining his resolution by saying:

I am calling attention to a power that I believe exists and should be developed. It is one of the sovereign inherent rights of the government. The situation is not as favorable for the exercise of that power as during last September, but conditions are much worse. Coal is a necessary of life. The people cannot obtain it and are suffering greatly for the want of it. Therefore, it is within the power of Congress in such a case to declare that an exigency has arisen for the exercise of the power of eminent domain, and this declaration is not open to inquiry by the courts. It is not the price of coal that creates the exigency, but the fact that the people cannot obtain it, and, that conditions are growing worse daily. Hence, it becomes the duty of the government to exercise this attribute of sovereignty and relieve the distress not by buying coal for the people, but by providing that they can buy it. This is the first time in history this nation could justly exercise that right of control. Unquestionably the power exists, as certainly as the exigency is present.

An extraordinary and startling effect of this coal famine is the willingness it has revealed among classes of people not usually accounted lawless to confiscate private property. A marked instance is reported from Arcola, Ill. In this town on the 10th a train load of coal, 16 cars in all, bound for Chicago, was lawlessly seized by a mob of 1,000 of the inhabitants and distributed in one-ton lots. An account was kept, and the leaders of the mob announce their intention of paying for the coal they confiscated when proof of ownership is made. The leaders of this mob were the pastors of the Presbyterian and the Methodist churches, two bank presidents, and other prominent citizens, besides a policeman. They notified the station agent that they wanted the coal and had the money to pay for it. He telegraphed for instructions and was ordered not to sell. The mob thereupon confiscated the property. The mayor is quoted as justifying the lawless act. A similar breach of the law was committed on the 10th by Armour & Co., the great Chicago packing house, which confiscated 150 tons on the way to the Chicago water

works. Similar lawless attacks upon property rights in coal are reported from other points.

Proceedings before the anthracite-strike commission of arbitration (p. 634) reached a point on the 9th where the nonunion men, having presented 150 witnesses, closed their case. The tendency of the testimony was to show that nonunion miners had been intimidated, and that a reign of lawlessness and terror existed in the anthracite region during the strike. Whether these outrages were connected with the miners' organization does not appear; but a short colloquy occurred on the 8th between President Mitchell and Judge Gray, chairman of the commission, in which the former resented a remark of the latter that seemed to imply that the miners' organization was responsible for the lawlessness. When the nonunion case had closed, the Delaware & Hudson company began offering testimony. It concluded on the 13th, and the Erie followed.

In civic affairs in the United States the most important event of the week is the adoption by the charter convention of Chicago of the final form for a proposed constitutional amendment (pp. 473, 586, 600), permitting a reorganization of the city government. The proposed amendment, to be the thirty-fourth section of the fourth article of the State constitution, would empower the legislature to enact a charter for Chicago. The general nature of the charter so authorized is described with extended particularity in the proposed amendment. One of its many clauses provides that it cannot take effect until "consented to by a majority of the legal voters of said city, voting on the question at any election, general, municipal or special;" nor can any special law affecting specially any part of the city and based upon the amendment take effect until "consented to by a majority of the legal voters of such part of said city, voting on the question at any election, general, municipal or special." The charter convention did not pass the proposed amendment until legal opinions had been submitted to it showing that it would not interfere with the adoption of the policy of municipal ownership of public utilities. Before adjourning, the convention resolved itself into a permanent body for securing the passage of the pro-

posed amendment by the legislature and its submission to the people.

Distinct progress has now been made in the settlement of the Venezuelan conflict (p. 632) with the creditor powers of Europe. The Venezuelan government, while regarding the demands of the powers as unjust and humiliating, was reported on the 9th to have acknowledged the necessity of yielding to superior force; and on the 11th, the American minister to Venezuela, Mr. Bowen, embarked for home to act as the representative of the Venezuelan government in arranging at Washington for the proposed arbitration. He was attended to the railway station in Caracas by President Castro and his cabinet.

Further victories by Castro over the revolutionists are reported. One was secured at the port of Tucacoas, 40 miles from Porto Cabello, the port having been recaptured from the revolutionists as the result of an hour's battle, after having been held by them for four months and used as a point for smuggling in arms and ammunition from Curacao. A second victory was achieved near Coro, where a small force of rebels was routed. The third was probably the most important. The battle took place at Cumana on the 4th, 5th and 6th. After a fight of seven hours on the last day, the rebels were driven from the field, leaving 200 prisoners and a large quantity of rifles and ammunition behind them. This fight was witnessed from nine British cruisers in the bay.

The uprising in Morocco (p. 633) would appear from the more or less trustworthy dispatches to be gaining ground over the sultan. A battle outside of Fez was reported to have occurred on the 7th and the sultan's troops to have been defeated. He was even said to have abandoned Fez, after losing his war minister and strongest adviser, Menebbi, who was killed in the battle. Moreover, serious fighting was understood to have taken place within a short distance of Tangier. But later dispatches contradict the reported death of Menebbi, and report a strengthening of the sultan's position.

NEWS NOTES.

—The German reichstag resumed its sessions on the 13th after the holiday recess.

—The legislature of Idaho has elected Weldon B. Heyburn, Republican, as the pro-