

Papers with that title invariably represent country people of leisure—not hoboes, but people whose leisure is elegant. Like the hobo, they live in the sweat of other men's faces, but their requirements demand more sweat. Working farmers are not country gentlemen within the connotation of such papers. It is peculiarly appropriate, therefore, that a satirical speech such as we have described, which pretends to advocate a system that would perpetuate the power of farmers of farmers over farmers of farms, should purport to have been delivered by the editor of a "Country Gentleman."

NEWS

The report of the arbitration commission appointed by President Roosevelt to inquire into the merits of the anthracite coal strike, announced last week (p. 793), has now been published. It occupies 87 printed pages and is signed by all the members of the commission. Following is the commission's own summary of the award it makes:

1. That an increase of 10 per cent over and above the rates paid in the month of April, 1902, be paid to all contract miners for cutting coal, yardage, and other work for which standard rates or allowances existed at that time, from and after Nov. 1, 1902, and during the life of this award. The amount of increase under the award due for work done between Nov. 1, 1902, and April 1, 1903, to be paid on or before June 1, 1903.

2. That engineers who are employed in hoisting water shall have an increase of 10 per cent on their earnings between Nov. 1, 1902, and April 1, 1903; and from and after April 1, 1903, and during the life of the award they shall have eight-hour shifts, with the same pay which was effective in April, 1902, and where they are now working eight-hour shifts the eight-hour shifts shall have an increase of 10 per cent in the wages effective in the several positions in April, 1902.

That hoisting engineers and other engineers and pumpmen, other than those employed in hoisting water, who are employed in positions which are manned continually, shall have an increase of 10 per cent in their earnings between Nov. 1, 1902, and April 1, 1903, to be paid on or before June 1, 1903; and from and after April 1, 1903, and during the life of the award they shall have an increase of 5 per cent in the rates of wages effective in the several positions in April, 1902, and in addition

they shall be relieved from duty Sundays, without loss of pay, by a man provided by the employer to relieve them during the hours of the day shift.

That firemen shall have an increase of 10 per cent in their earnings between November, 1902, and April 1, 1903, to be paid on or before June 3, 1903, and from and after April 1, 1903, and during the life of the award they shall have eight-hour shifts, with the same wages per day, week or month as were paid in each position in April, 1902. All employes or company men other than those for whom the commission makes special awards shall be paid an increase of 10 per cent between Nov. 1, 1902, and April 1, 1903, to be paid on or before June 1, 1903, and from and after April 1, 1903, and during the life of this award they shall be paid on the basis of a nine-hour day, receiving therefor the same wages as were paid in April, 1902, for a ten-hour day. Overtime in excess of nine hours in any day to be paid at a proportionate rate per hour.

3. During the life of this award the present methods of payment for coal mined shall be adhered to unless changed by mutual agreement.

In all of the above awards it is provided that allowances like those made shall be paid to the legal representatives of such employes as may have died since Nov. 1, 1902.

4. Any difficulty or disagreement arising under this award, either as to its interpretation or application, or in any way growing out of the relations of the employers and employed, which cannot be settled or adjusted by consultation between the superintendent or manager of the mine or mines and the miner or miners directly interested, or is of a scope too large to be settled or adjusted, shall be referred to a permanent joint committee, to be called a board of conciliation, to consist of six persons, appointed as hereinafter provided. That is to say, if there shall be a division of the whole region into three districts, in each of which there shall exist an organization representing a majority of the mine workers of such district, one of said board of conciliation shall be appointed by each of said organizations and three other persons shall be appointed by the operators, the operators in each of said districts appointing one person.

The board of conciliation thus constituted shall take, up and consider any question referred to it as aforesaid, hearing both parties to the controversy and such evidence as may be laid before it by either party; and any award made by a majority of such board of conciliation shall be final and binding on all parties. If, however, the said board is unable to decide any question submitted or point related thereto, that question or point shall be referred to an umpire, to be appointed, at the request of said board, by one of the circuit judges of the Third judicial cir-

cuit of the United States, whose decision shall be final and binding in the premises.

The membership of said board shall at all times be kept complete, either the operators' or miners' organizations having the right at any time when a controversy is not pending to change their representation thereon.

At all hearings before said board the parties may be represented by such person or persons as they may respectively select.

No suspension of work shall take place, by lockout or strike, pending the adjudication of any matter so taken up for adjustment.

5. Whenever requested by a majority of the contract miners of any colliery, check weighmen or check docking bosses, or both, shall be employed. The wages of said check weighmen and check docking bosses shall be fixed, collected and paid by the miners in such manner as the said miners shall by a majority vote elect, and when requested by a majority of said miners the operators shall pay the wages fixed for check weighmen and check docking bosses out of deductions made proportionately from the earnings of the said miners, on such basis as the majority of said miners shall determine.

6. Mine cars shall be distributed among miners who are at work as uniformly and as equitably as possible, and there shall be no concerted effort on the part of the miners or mine workers of any colliery or collieries to limit the output of the mines or to detract from the quality of the work performed unless such limitation of output be in conformity with an agreement between an operator or operators and an organization representing a majority of said miners in his or their employment.

7. In all cases where miners are paid by the car the increase awarded to the contract miners is based on the cars in use, the topping required and the rates paid per car which were in force April 1, 1902. Any increase in the size of the car or in the topping required shall be accompanied by a proportionate increase in the rate paid per car.

8. The following sliding scale of wages shall become effective April 1, 1903, and shall affect all miners and mineworkers included in the awards of the commission. The wages fixed in the awards shall be the basis of and the minimum under the sliding scale.

For each increase of 5 cents in the average price of white ash coal of sizes above pea coal, sold at or near New York, between Perth Amboy and Edgewater, and reported to the bureau of anthracite coal statistics, above \$4.50 a ton f. o. b., the employes shall have an increase of 1 per cent. in their compensation, which shall continue until a change in the average of said coal works a reduction or an increase in said additional compensation hereun-

der; but the rate of compensation shall in no case be less than that fixed in the award. That is, when the price of coal reaches \$4.55 a ton the compensation will be increased 1 per cent., to continue until the price falls below \$4.50 a ton, when the 1 per cent. increase will cease, or until the price reaches \$4.60 a ton, when an additional 1 per cent. will be added, and so on.

These average prices shall be computed monthly by an accountant or commission named by one of the circuit judges of the third judicial district of the United States and paid by the coal operators such compensation as the appointing judge may fix, which compensation shall be distributed among the operators in proportion to the tonnage of each mine.

In order that the basis may be laid for the successful working of the sliding scale provided herein it is also adjudged and awarded: That all coal operating companies file at once with the United States commissioner of labor a certified statement of the rates of compensation paid in each occupation known in their companies, as they existed April 1, 1902.

9. No person shall be refused employment or in any way discriminated against because of membership or non-membership in any labor organization, and there shall be no discrimination against or interference with any employe who is not a member of any labor organization by members of such organization.

10. All contract miners shall be required to furnish within a reasonable time before each pay day a statement of the amount of money due from them to their laborers, and such sums shall be deducted from the amount due the contract miner and paid directly to each laborer by the company. All employes when paid shall be furnished with an itemized statement of account.

11. The awards herein made shall continue in force until March 31, 1906; and any employe, or group of employes, violating any of the provisions thereof shall be subject to reasonable discipline by the employer; and further, the violation of any provision of these awards, either by employer or employes, shall not invalidate any of the provisions thereof.

It is generally conceded that the award is a victory for the strikers. All the employes get an increase of wages, or a reduction of hours, or both; and the conciliation plan is substantially what Mitchell proposed to the operators, and they rejected. Comparing the demands with the award, Walter Wellman, the Washington correspondent whose observations are usually acute and his reports exceptionally accurate, writes

in the Chicago Record-Herald as follows:

Though the men demanded a 20 per cent. increase of wages, it is well known they never expected a greater increase than 10 per cent. or a corresponding reduction of hours. During the efforts to settle the strike last summer Mr. Mitchell more than once proposed to accept a 10 per cent. increase. It is known beyond peradventure that if the railway companies had been willing to make a settlement last Spring, before the strike was ended or had been long under way, they could have secured peace with a 5 per cent. advance and recognition of the union. They were not willing to make any concessions, no matter how small, and refused to arbitrate. The terms which they now secure after all the losses of the battle are less favorable than they could have secured had they taken up the question of a settlement in a businesslike way nearly a year ago. All the mine workers asked was an agreement for a year. Under the terms of the award the companies are bound for three years from the end of this month, and must pay out a very large sum of money in a lump to give the miners the 10 per cent. increase dating from Nov. 1 last.

Another industrial decision of general interest and importance is embraced in the news of the week. It relates to the meat packing trust and was rendered on the 20th by the Supreme Court of Missouri. This decision is made against five of the largest packing houses in the world—The Armour Packing company, Cudahy Packing company, Hammond Packing company, Swift & Co., and Schwarzhild and Sulzberger, all having branch establishments in Missouri. Proceedings against these establishments were begun in Missouri about a year ago upon charges of conspiring to maintain prices, and thereby violating the anti-trust laws of that State. The charges are now sustained by the Supreme Court, and each of the defendants is fined \$5,000, to be paid within 30 days. In case of failure to pay, the defaulting concern will be forbidden to do business any longer in Missouri. The decision was made by a unanimous court.

Along with the news of the Missouri decision against the meat packing trust, come reports of the organization of the National Packing company, under the incorporation laws of New Jersey. It was incorporated on the 18th (pp. 52, 231), with a cap-

ital stock of \$15,000,000, for the purpose of doing business in Chicago, where the principal office is to be. This corporation has acquired control of the following subsidiary companies: Omaha Packing company, Omaha; Hammond Packing company, St. Joseph and Omaha; G. H. Hammond company, Chicago; Hutchinson Packing company, Hutchinson, Kan.; Anglo-American Provision company, Chicago; United Dressed Beef company, New York; Fowler Packing company, Kansas City. The directors of the blanket company are: J. Ogden Armour, P. A. Valentine, G. F. Swift, L. F. Swift, E. F. Swift, Edward Morris, Ira N. Morris, Arthur Meeker and Kenneth K. McLaren. According to a Chicago report, this new company will centralize the management of its scattered plants, which will be operated in thorough harmony with the larger concerns that have long dominated the meat trade; and when the time comes for a combination of these houses, it will be found that the formation of the National will have cleared the way materially for the accomplishment of that end.

As agreed (p. 792), the Senate came to a vote on the 19th upon the question of ratifying the Cuban reciprocity treaty; and, as amended, the treaty was ratified by a vote of 50 to 16, whereupon the Senate adjourned sine die.

Under this treaty manufactures of iron and steel, cotton goods, whiskies, fish, pottery, and all articles of glass except window glass, would be admitted into Cuba at a reduction of 25 per cent. from the established tariff rates there. Butter, window glass, malt liquors in bottles, musical instruments, tobacco wrappers, cutlery, pasteboard, boots and shoes, common soap, and nearly all wines would get a reduction of 30 per cent. Knit goods and other manufactures of cotton, cheese, woolen goods, fruit, glucose, watches, silk manufactures and rice, would be entitled to a reduction of 40 per cent. On the other side, Cuban sugar, tobacco, and some other products would be admitted into the United States at a reduction of 20 per cent. from the Dingley tariff rates. But, as stated last week, in consequence of the Bacon amendment, intended to recognize the right of the lower house of Congress to participate in revenue measures.