

a Democratic report — having been supported by all the Democrats of the committee and only 3 out of 8 Republicans—Senator Aldrich moved that a Democrat, Senator Tillman, be designated to present the report to the Senate. His motion was adopted, and on the 26th Senator Tillman presented the report and gave notice that he would move to consider the bill as soon as the Statehood bill should have passed the Senate, or before that time should he think there was unusual delay. He also gave notice that he would ask for a vote on the bill as soon as possible. The debate was opened on the 28th by Senator Foraker with a speech in opposition to the bill.

The Statehood bill.

It was decided by the Senate on the 27th that the Statehood bill (p. 765), providing for the creation of one State of Indian Territory and Oklahoma and another of Arizona and New Mexico shall come to a vote on the 9th of March.

Senator La Follette's work.

Senator La Follette of Wisconsin made his maiden speech in the Senate (p. 674) on the 27th. It related to a bill for the sale of the lands of the five civilized tribes in Indian Territory, and was in support of an amendment proposed by himself providing that no railroad company shall acquire any right, title or interest in asphalt or coal lands, and that the deeds of sale shall contain the specific provision that no railroad corporation or any officer or stockholder in any railroad or corporation engaged in transporting coal shall own or control any of the mineral lands. The amendment also provides that no person, firm or corporation shall acquire by purchase or otherwise more than 3,000 acres of these coal and asphalt lands. The same kind of question has been raised by Senator Tillman (p. 765) with regard to the railroads of Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Senator La Follette had previously in committee exposed a job in this Indian land sale bill. According to the Washington dispatches the reservations of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians comprise 350,000 acres of the finest coal land in this country. Of

these acres 107,000 are now under lease. An amendment for the sale of the lands was introduced in the Senate. The significance of its wording escaped detection until Senator La Follette brought it out. Under it a board of three commissioners would appraise the value of these lands, one commissioner to be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, another by the holders of the leases and the third by these two, the Indians having no voice in naming any member. Mr. La Follette did not object so strenuously to this as to a provision in the amendment which ordered the Commission not to consider any increase in the value of the lands caused by improvements or developments by the lessees. He construed that to mean that the lands were to be appraised at their valuation at the time the leases were made. At present the Indians are receiving 8 per cent. royalty upon their coal lands, and upon this basis every acre of land is worth \$300, giving the total reservation a value, according to Senator Clark of Montana, a member of the committee, of \$105,000,000. But under the restrictions imposed in the amendment it is estimated that the Commission would place a value of less than \$10 an acre upon the land. In consequence of Senator La Follette's objection this objectionable feature has been changed.

Another instance of Senator La Follette's work in the Senate is his pending bill prohibiting public officers from asking, accepting or using any free pass, frank or privilege for transportation of any person or property, or the transmission of any messages. The bill applies to any political committee and its members or employes and to candidates as well as incumbents of public offices. He has also introduced a bill requiring committees of all political parties in Presidential and Congressional elections to account to the Secretary of Commerce and Labor for all moneys expended, and to prohibit corporations from directly or indirectly contributing money to any political committee or candidate.

The divorce-law congress.

Proceedings at the divorce-law

congress, which opened in Washington on the 19th (p. 782), have not been as intelligibly reported as the importance of the subject demands, but the congress appears to have decided, first, that recommendations for Federal legislation would be impracticable; and, second, that the resolutions of the congress be referred to the committee on resolutions, with instructions to embody them in a statute to be submitted eventually as a uniform statute on the law of divorce to all the States and Territories of the United States, and that when this shall have been accomplished Governor Pennypacker be informed of the fact so that he may reconvene the congress for considering the proposed statute. Several resolutions for the reform of divorce laws in the States were adopted.

The possible coal strike.

No conclusion regarding the impending strike of coal miners (p. 766) has been reached, although the dispatches of the week indicate the possibility of its being avoided. According to prior arrangement, representatives of the anthracite mines met a committee of the miners on the 15th at New York. After some discussion an agreed statement was issued which described the proceedings and announced that—

it was concluded that the miners and mine operators should each appoint a committee to represent them in the future in reference to the matter, the committees to consist of seven each. The following gentlemen were appointed to represent the miners: John Mitchell, John Fahy, George Hurtell, W. H. Dettrey, John P. Gallagher, T. D. Nicholls, John T. Dempsey; and the following to represent the mine operators: Messrs. Baer, Truesdale, Kerr, Willcox, Williams, Thomas and Calk. The understanding was that after the committees terminated their work they should report to the committee of the whole. An adjournment was then had with the understanding that the committees would arrange for further meetings.

No further meetings are reported. From Pittsburg on the 27th, however, it was reported that President Corey of the United States Steel Corporation and George Gould, representing immense interests in the West and Southwest, have positively ordered Francis L. Robbins, president of