

classes belonging to the state, emancipation of the executive power from the senate, his monarchy was so little at variance with democracy, that democracy on the contrary only attained its completion and fulfillment by means of that monarchy.

Whenever, therefore, "Caesarism" be spoken as reproach, let not the reproach rest upon the great name which fate and future events caused to be taken in vain.

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NEWS

The steel strike is not yet settled. Neither is it more aggressive. Judged from the press reports, it hovers over the commercial world like a cloud, which may dissipate without commotion or may burst into a terrific storm.

At our last report (p. 249) J. Pierpont Morgan, the head center of the trust, had given out a newspaper interview declaring that he would make no compromise; and Mr. Shaffer, the strike leader (p. 242), had threatened to hold the republican party responsible to the labor vote of the country for the consequences of the conflict. After that, Mr. Joseph Bishop, secretary of the Ohio board of arbitration, was authorized by the strikers to request Senator Hanna to present their case to Mr. Morgan. This was not done, however, until M. M. Garland, a former president of the Amalgamated association, who now holds a federal office at Pittsburgh, had tried to effect a settlement and failed. Whether in consequence of the appeal to Mr. Hanna or not, but certainly upon overtures from Mr. Morgan, through Col. Harvey, Morgan's manager of the Harper publications, a secret meeting took place in New York on the 27th between President Shaffer and Secretary Williams, of the strikers, and high officials of the steel trust, supposed to include Morgan, Schwab and Garv. The press thereupon reported circumstantial rumors of a settlement. One paper specified the terms, with probable accuracy, as follows:

(1) Mills that were nonunion on July 1 to continue so; (2) the trust not to sign the union scale for nonunion mills; (3) the trust, however, to pay the union scale in nonunion mills; (4) all mills to be open to union and nonunion men alike; (5)

the trust not to interfere with individuals wishing to join the union.

Two days after the conference a telegraphic notice summoning the national committee to meet at Pittsburgh on the 30th was sent out from headquarters. The object of this meeting was to determine whether the terms outlined at the New York conference should be accepted or the strike be continued. When the committee assembled on the 30th strong opposition to the terms formulated at New York developed. By way of compromise it was agreed to propose the elimination of five plants, which were nonunion on July 1 but have since been organized, from the nonunion category. Morgan replied on the 31st rejecting this proposal.

For the purpose of meeting the strike, steps have been taken by the steel trust to import southern negroes to take the strikers' places, and 300 were brought to a Chicago suburb on the 25th under employment by the Latrobe Steel and Coupler works. Residents of the suburb made vehement protests against this move, and the negroes were returned. They themselves participated by representatives in the local indignation meeting. One of the representatives, Henry Taylor, made the following statement to the meeting:

There is not a man in our party who will work at Melrose Park under a gun or in another man's place. We don't want to fill strikers' places and we won't work under guard. We were hired at Birmingham by a colored man named H. R. Bell, from Melrose Park. He told us there was no trouble at the works and no strike threatened, but that there was a scarcity of workmen. We were getting from \$1.25 to \$1.50 a day there, and he told us the least paid laborers here was two dollars a day. We were all to get that.

The objections to the importation of these negroes appears to have been wholly industrial, and not racial.

At one time the garment makers' strike in New York, mentioned last week (p. 249), was reported as settled. It had been, so far as two of the parties to the conflict were concerned. The manufacturers had agreed with the strikers upon their demand for union conditions and higher wages, but the contractors, or "sweaters," refused to unite in the agreement unless the manufacturers would bear the burden of the higher wages, and this the

manufacturers refused to do. The strike is consequently still unsettled.

Labor difficulties are reflected in party politics through the meeting at Indianapolis, on the 29th, of the two factions of the Social Democratic party. This convention was called (vol. iii, p. 665) for the purpose of harmonizing all branches of socialism in American politics. There are three: the Socialist Labor party, which is the original political organization; the Springfield branch of the social democracy, so called because its headquarters are at Springfield, Mass., and the Chicago branch of the social democracy, so called because its headquarters are at Chicago. The first branch refuses to harmonize, and is not represented at the Indianapolis convention. The third, under the leadership of Mr. Debs, clings to the primary object in forming the social democracy, namely, the principle of opportunism or of taking advantage of opportunities as they arise to give socialism a foothold in legislation. The Springfield branch is not opportunist. It tends toward the policy of eliminating from the party demands all half-way measures and concentrating its energies upon the complete revolutionary programme of socialism. Upon the assembling of the convention George D. Herron was chairman of the day on the 29th, and J. F. Carey, of Massachusetts, on the 30th. Owing to press statements that Eugene V. Debs had been "turned down" by the convention in its vote on a question of order on the 29th, a vote of confidence in him was adopted on the 30th. Max Hayes, of Cleveland, was chairman of the day on the 31st, when the really vital question of the conference came up for decision—the question eliminating from the platform of last year its opportunist demands. The convention decided against doing so. It also added to the platform a series of demands proposed by Dr. Herron, the principal clauses of which as reported by the press are as follows:

(1) The public ownership of all means of transportation and communication and all other public utilities, as well as of all industries controlled by monopolies, trusts and combines. No part of the revenue of such industries to be applied to the reduction of taxes on property of the capitalist class, but to be applied wholly to the increase of wages and shortening of the hours of labor of the employes, to the improvement of

the service and diminishing the rates to the consumers. (2) The progressive reduction of the hours of labor, the increase of wages in order to decrease the share of the capitalist and increase the share of the workingman in the product of labor. (3) State or national insurance of working people in case of accidents, lack of employment, sickness and want in old age; the funds to be collected from the revenue of the capitalist class.

On the same day it was decided that in every state and territory in which there is one central organization of the party this organization, and not the national, shall govern in local affairs.

The only other item of American political news relates to the bolting democratic convention of Ohio, called (p. 236) to meet on the 31st. Its failure was assured almost from the start. Not only did Mr. Bryan advise against it, but Gen. Isaac R. Sherwood, of Toledo, one of the most prominent admirers of Bryan and champions of free silver in the state, who had been depended upon to be the bolting candidate for governor, formally announced on the 27th that he was not in sympathy with the movement. The convention met at Columbus, pursuant to the call. It was so sparsely attended that it met in a hotel bedroom. When it adopted the name of "Progressive Democratic party," one delegate bolted. A full state ticket was nominated, with Dr. Rudolph Reemelin, of Cincinnati, as candidate for governor; but Dr. Reemelin is reported as having declined. The leading spirit of the convention was G. A. Groot, a Cleveland lawyer.

In the field of national as distinguished from party politics, we are able to record the establishment of free trade between the American crown colony of Puerto Rico and the American states. Pursuant to the act of congress (Foraker act) of April 12, 1900 (No. 105 of The Public, p. 5), and the petition of the colonial government of Puerto Rico (p. 217), President McKinley issued his proclamation on the 25th, the anniversary of the American occupation of the island, setting forth the facts which, under the Foraker act, put an end to the tariff. He declares:

that a civil government for Puerto Rico has been organized in accordance with the provisions of the said

act of congress; and . . . that the legislative assembly of Puerto Rico has enacted and put into operation a system of local taxation to meet the necessities of the government of Puerto Rico.

As the Foraker act provides that when a system of local taxation to meet the necessities of the colonial government shall have been put into operation in Puerto Rico, tariff duties shall no longer be imposed, this proclamation formally makes known the establishment of free trade between the states and the colony. The immediate result was a great shipment of goods to Puerto Rico, so large as to crowd the capacity of the carrying companies.

Another matter of national politics not partisan, but one of a much less satisfactory character, is the distribution of public lands in Oklahoma to private parties by a lottery. On the 7th President McKinley proclaimed the 6th of August as the date for opening these lands to settlement. His proclamation further declared that between July 10 and 26 persons wishing to acquire holdings must register their qualifications to make homestead entries, and that the order of entry should be determined by lot, at public drawing, to begin at El Reno July 29. The rush for registration was great from the first registration day. At the end of the second day 15,000 had registered, and on the last day of registration the total number ran up to 165,865. Yet there were only 13,000 homesteads to be assigned. On the 29th the drawing began. The choicest claims, to the number of 1,000, were then awarded by the verdict of the lottery wheel. They ranged in value from \$40,000 down to \$2,000. On the second day, the 30th, a larger number of prizes was drawn—3,500. Though not so valuable they were worth far more than the \$1.25 an acre, which these land prize winners must uniformly pay.

The drought, of which we wrote briefly last week (p. 249), was broken on the 28th, when heavy rains watered the western corn belt. The weekly crop bulletin of the agricultural department at Washington, issued on the 30th, published this account of the extraordinary heat and its termination:

Intense heat prevailed during the greater part of the week throughout the central valleys, but the tempera-

tures during the last three days were more moderate. Good rains have fallen over a large part of the drought area in the Mississippi and upper Missouri valleys, but drought conditions have become more serious in the Ohio valley and Tennessee, where the week has been rainless, except in a few localities. In the Atlantic coast districts the weather conditions have been generally favorable, except over portions of the Carolinas and Virginia, where rain is now needed. The conditions were also favorable on the Pacific coast. Recent rains have improved late corn in portions of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri, but the early crop was practically ruined before the rains came. In Iowa the crop has sustained less injury than in the before mentioned states, and the rainfall has been copious and well distributed. In the great corn states east of the Mississippi river, except over northern Illinois, drought and excessive heat have continued with disastrous effects upon corn, which is now in a critical condition. In Michigan and generally throughout the middle Atlantic states and New England the corn crop is in fine condition.

Besides the above mentioned matters there is no definite news of the week, of historical value, except the appointment, at the request of Rear Admiral Schley (p. 250), of a court of inquiry to investigate his conduct in the Spanish war. The court as at first announced consisted of Admiral George Dewey, president; Rear Admiral Lewis A. Kimberly and Rear Admiral Andrew E. K. Benham. Admiral Kimberly has asked to be excused, and another officer will be appointed in his place. None, however, has yet been named. Capt. S. C. Lemly, the law officer of the navy department, is appointed judge advocate. In appointing the court, the department directed it to "inquire thoroughly into all the circumstances," but specifically to report its conclusions upon the following points:

1. Admiral Schley's conduct in the Santiago campaign;
- (2) his movements off Cienfuegos;
- (3) the reasons for his going from there to Santiago;
- (4) the movements of the "flying squadron" off Santiago;
- (5) Schley's "disobedience" of department orders;
- (6) the question of coaling the "flying squadron";
- (7) the question of destroying the Spanish cruiser Colon at the entrance to Santiago harbor in May, 1898;
- (8) the question of withdrawing the "flying squadron" from Santiago harbor to a distance at sea at night;
- (9) Schley's turning movement during the naval battle of July 3, 1898; and
- (10) the propriety of Schley's conduct in connec-